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25 January 1984

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MAURITANIA

NEW EMPHASIS ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL TRAINING PLEDGED

Nouakchott CHAAB in French 19 Dec 83 pp 2,3

/ [Interview with Higher Education Minister Athie Hamatt; date and place not specified]

[Text] In the exclusive interview he granted us, the Minister for Higher Education and Civil Service gave us the latest news on the government's efforts to foster and develop our higher education. He deals at once with very important questions having to do with assigning priorities and with closer, more direct linkage that must be established between training and employment.

Question: The fourth 5-year Plan underscores the need for reorienting our educational system so as to remedy the shortage of cadres and skilled manpower. What is the trouble? Doesn't the training available now always meet that requirement?

Answer: Training cadres and skilled workers is indeed a priority in our national development plan, and my department is working at it with all the determination we can muster. An analysis of our present educational system, however, is needed if we are to put our finger on the difficulties we currently encounter in our quest for a training policy better attuned to our real needs.

Despite all efforts to put it right, our educational system is still turning out too many bachelors of literature and not enough bachelors of science, particularly not enough graduates in mathematics and technology. The cadre shortage, though, is most acute in the ranks of engineer and scientific cadres. This means that it is time to reorient our educational system so as to provide our country with more cadres as needed for its development. To this end, a number of measures have already been taken in my department to encourage students to take the priority courses, but must such training continues to be taken abroad, owing to the absence of adequate training facilities here at home.

I must say that there are still some very real difficulties in the way of further upgrading of our training to meet our needs, but

I hasten to add that efforts are under way to seek out and look at any and all practical solutions that would be compatible with the current situation here.

Question: We are still dependent on foreign schools for technical training for most of our cadres. What structures will we be getting to remedy our shortfall in the area of technical and scientific training?

Answer: As for technical and vocational training, the Ministry for Higher Education, Cadre Training, and Civil Service, in compliance with the guidelines given us by the National Directorate, has made considerable effort over the past few years to meet the nation's crucial shortage of competent technical cadres at the middle and upper levels.

To this end, our training structures have been the object of special attention:

1. The Technical Academies and High Schools (LCTs) enrolled, in scholastic year 1983-1984, 1,101 students, 687 of them in the High Schools (Collèges) and 414 in the Academies (Lycées).

The number of Mauritanian professors has risen from two in 1980 to 12 in 1983.

These figures reflect the continuing expansion of this establishment, which each year swells the labor market with 130 highly skilled workers holding the Vocational Aptitude Certificate (CAP) in various and sundry disciplines.

2. The Mamadou Touré Vocational Training Center (CFPMT), at the opening of the 1983-1984 scholastic year had an enrolment of 114 trainees, plus ten instructors, seven of them foreigners and three of them Mauritanians.

3. The Center for Vocational Training and Skill Enhancement (CFPP) had, as of September 1983, 120 trainees: each year, it makes 100 to 180 skilled workers available to employers.

As for the experts, CFPP has 17 of them, of whom thirteen are Mauritanians and four are foreigners.

4. The Center for Advanced Technical Instruction (CSET) is an institute of higher technical learning which trains cadres to qualify for the Higher Technician Degree (BTS), and as Professors of Technical Instruction (PET).

At the beginning of this university term (1983-1984) it had an enrolment of 61 students, 25 of whom will have completed their training in June 1984.

The CSET currently has a faculty of nine professors, two of whom are Mauritians.

It should be noted that the accent is not placed solely on training here in Mauritania, but also and above all on Mauritanian instructors and professors.

5. The National School for Administrative, Commercial, and Social Training (ENFACOS) this year enrolled 365 students, 200 of them in their second year and 155 of them in their first year.

Each year, ENFACOS provides our government with 120 to 180 graduates.

The faculty consists of 28 permanent professors, In addition to these, there are some important projects under consideration:

1. The National Polytechnical Institute (INPT), an institute for higher education. Studies on this project are well advanced.

2. The National School for Hydraulic and Agricultural Cadres (ENCHA).

The search for funding is already under way.

3. Regionalization of technical training at Nouadhibou, with establishment in that city of a technical training high school planned for 1985.

In view of the foregoing, training here in Mauritania is still one of the priorities at the Ministry for Higher Education, Cadre Training, and Civil Service.

The outlook for the future is such that if we maintain our current orientation we can confidently say that by the year 2000, Mauritania will be able to meet 75 percent of its current needs for technical cadres right here at home.

Mauritanian schools for scientific and technical training are still both few and new when weighed against the mission assigned them. The Nouakchott Higher Normal School of course provides scientific instruction in some of these sections, but the goal is to provide our secondary education system with Mauritanian faculties.

The Higher Center for Technical Education (CSET), opened in November 1981, trains advanced maintenance technicians and future technical training cadres, but the student body and faculty are both very small. Other national establishments also provide mid-level scientific and technical instruction, but, for the time being, only in a few fields. These data explain in part the deficit you mention, but some other factors must also be cited, particularly

the high cost of setting up, staffing, and operating a school for technical and scientific education. Studies have been conducted and solutions are still being sought that will provide our country with these structures, in particular with its Polytechnic Institute, planning for which is still very much in the fore, and with scientific and technical faculties within our university.

Question: Our country is still making enormous sacrifices to train cadres. And yet, we find a good many students who have completed their studies but are still looking for jobs.

How do you explain this situation? And what measures have been taken to deal with it?

Answer: This all too real situation is often the result of poor coordination between training and requirements. The phenomenon itself is far from new, and a great many countries are experiencing this deplorable state of things, some of them to a far more severe degree than we are, and I don't believe there are many countries in the world that have successfully solved this huge problem of our times. My department is particularly sensitive to the situation and everything possible will be done to rectify it.

It should be emphasized that increasing numbers of cadres trained by the state are moving into fields other than the Civil Service.

The other areas of our country's business are involved as well.

I would point out, however, that measures to clarify the position of Mauritanian and foreign staff personnel working for our various government departments are now under way and will help us find new job opportunities for more Mauritanian cadres; add to this the fact that cadres not already recruited for one or another administrative body were the object of a proposal by the Civil Service to ministerial departments which might be in need of their skills. All departments, of course, have tight budgets; but each time a funded position falls vacant for whatever reason, the user ministry will, when equally suitable candidates offer, give preference to the Mauritanian-trained cadre proposed by the Civil Service.

Question: The plan for Nouakchott University is already 2 years old. What is your department considering as a way out of this interim situation?

Answer: You are right: the plan for Nouakchott University is indeed 2 years old; it dates back to November 1981 and the opening of the School of Letters and Human Sciences and the School of Juridical and Economic Sciences. Both those faculties

are still temporarily housed in premises belonging to ENS, ENA, and ISERI. What we have there is indeed a temporary situation, pending the time when the University's own infrastructures and facilities are in place. Technical studies are under way to get them ready. and the findings of those studies will shortly be submitted to the providers of funding and to the various sources of financing.

Question: There has been talk of changing the student grant system. Some reports say that they may be reduced or even abolished. What is really going on here?

Answer: In March 1983 the Department set up a commission to conduct a study of the procedures for granting scholarships, in view of the sharp increase in the number of bachelors'-degree-holders and of the present socio-economic situation.

I should like to stipulate that there has never been any a priori idea of reducing the current levels of scholarship grants, much less of doing away with them. What we are doing is looking for the most appropriate criteria for granting them, so as to reduce the present excessively high cost of higher education in our country. It is worth noting, however, that no country in the world systematically grants a scholarship to every freshman who matriculates in the baccalaureate program, and that fact ought to be brought home to everybody.

Question: A number of measures have been taken to improve our central government (spot inspections, time cards, decentralization, etc.). What results have these measures produced?

Answer: The transfer of authority in matters of personnel management to the employing ministries, which occurred in 1980 under Ordinances 18814, 25 January 1980, and 10012, same date (for Customs people), has enabled the employing ministries to process their current personnel requirements (promotions, leave, dismissals, transfers, retirement) much more expeditiously, and also to take effective charge of their staff personnel.

The ministry people put in charge of personnel management, over the years from 1980 to the present, have gained experience, with the help of the explanations, comments, and supervision exercised by the Civil Service Directorate over all actions they initiate.

b) Spot inspections, time cards, and administrative controls now in place in every department are designed to cut down on absenteeism; their effectiveness can be measured by the constancy and rigor with which the various administrations apply them. The penalties that can be invoked for infringement of these rules should motivate government officials and agents to seek greater awareness of what is truly at stake, to wit: a higher level of professional consciousness.

My department is doing everything it can to make sure that these measures will all be enforced with the requisite firmness and will yield the expected fruits.

It will be a long-term task, because it involves teaching people to think and act from the state's point of view.

Question: The National Directorate has encouraged workers and employers to organize. What sort of relations do you anticipate between the Mauritanian Workers' Union (MTM) and General Federation of Mauritian Employers (CGEM) on the other and your department and these two power centers?

Answer: Relations between the two groups must be those of concerted and complementary efforts toward development. Workers' interests and those of employers are interdependent, and not necessarily contradictory. The kind of relations my department has with UTM is defined by the laws establishing the consulting bodies, on which the UTM is represented, such as the disciplinary council for officials, the administrative arbitration commissions on promotion in grade for officials, and group promotions for auxiliary agents, etc...

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CSO: 4519/71

MAURITANIA

FAMINE EMERGENCY, RELIEF PLANS DESCRIBED

Nouakchott CHAAB in French 28-29 Nov 83 pp 3-4

[Interview with Maj Sheik Sid'Ahmed Ould Babamine, chairman for life, Supreme Military Council of Mauritania (CMSM); date and place not specified]

[Text] In an exclusive interview with CHAAB, Maj Sheik Sid'Ahmed Ould Babamine spelled out the plan for action by the National Commission for Aid to Drought-Stricken Populations (CNAPES), and the scope of the task before it.

He laid equal emphasis on the means to be mobilized for this plan, and on the role to be played in this dire emergency by the Mass Education Structures (MES).

CHAAB: Mr Chairman for Life, what are the major thrusts of the emergency program, and what are its priorities?

Maj. Sheik Sid'Ahmed Ould Babamine: Before starting to work on an emergency plan, CNAPES deemed it advisable first to conduct an in-depth analysis of the situation brought on by the drought which has prevailed for several years in our country, intensifying considerably in 1983.

From that analysis, the following essential findings emerged:

- total rainfall measured over the whole country in 1983 came to a scant third of the normal annual precipitation.
- This dearth of rain came on the heels of a 1982 winter season marked both by the paucity of rainfall and by a massive plague of locusts' descending on pastureland and crops.
- The deterioration-- not to say destruction -- of the ecosystem, the sharp decline in farm production, and the decline of the cattle herds are the grim results of the persistent drought that besets the country now.

After reviewing its repercussions on all sectors of the nation, and after taking inventory of available resources, the National Commission drew up an emergency plan for action which will very shortly be submitted to the proper national authorities.

The major areas for action selected are agriculture, cattle-raising, environmental protection, hydraulic power, assuring the food supply, and the health of the affected populations.

The plan calls for the following, among other measures:

- Protection for farmlands and purchase of seed and equipment for truck farming.
- Veterinary aid to cattle-raisers and assistance in obtaining forage for the cattle;
- Conservation and protection of ground vegetation by opening and maintaining firebreaks in the areas set aside for grazing (Gorgol, Guidimakha, Southern Hodhs), and stepped up reforestation activity on the part of local communities;
- Provision of wells and waterholes to open the way to use of grazing lands lacking water supplies, meeting the people's food requirements, and completion of agro-pastoral projects by local communities;
- Protection for public health by intensified activity on the part of existing services and by formation of special emergency intervention teams to work at the regional level;
- Making adequate food supplies available to communities that have run short of food or have no money to buy it, in quantities sufficient to forestall any worsening of the health and nutritional situation.

CHAAB: Just what material means has the CNAPES available?

Maj Sheik Sid'Ahmed O. Babamine: Every bit of material and human means available at the national, regional, and local levels will be mobilized to fight the consequences of the drought.

These means, which are of course limited, will nevertheless suffice to provide a footing for what we do. Without active mobilization of our national resources, even massive outside aid would be wholly ineffectual.

Even so, owing to the limited nature of these resources and to the particular gravity of the situation, the Military Committee for National Safety found that an appeal for international solidarity was an overriding necessity.

CHAAB: We have noticed that the cattle-raisers are selling their stock at prices far below any possible competition and that they are doing so in the face of appeals from government officials designed to reassure the cattlemen. What measures do you plan to take to deal with this dangerous situation?

Maj. Sheik Sid'Ahmed Ould Babamine: The National Commission has in fact found that there is a strong tendency right now on the part of cattlemen to sell off their stock. This trend may prove very dangerous in the long term, in that it reflects a prevailing lack of confidence in the future -- not to say fear of the future -- among them.

It is time to point out that the emergency plan worked out by the National Commission calls for a series of moves designed to avoid excessive losses of livestock during 1984. These moves center on three essential concerns:

- Upgrading existing pasturelands in the Gorgol, Guidimaka, and Southern Hodhs, specifically by providing new watering holes in those areas most lacking in them;

- Protecting the health of herds by means of vaccination and veterinary medical treatment;

- Providing feed for herds insofar as humanly possible.

The state of uneasiness -- not to say panic -- to which you call our attention is quite understandable, but not really justified. It would be better, on the contrary, if the cattlemen, while culling their oversized and unproductive herds, were to turn confidently toward a breeding pattern that would take into consideration both the criterion of economic profitability and the limited nature of our grazing resources.

CHAAB: All those generous contributions that have been offered by wealthy citizens ... Who is handling those? Is it the CNAPES or the Food Safety Commissariat (CSA)?

Maj. Sheik Sid'Ahmed Ould Babamine: A great many citizens have demonstrated their sympathy for the drought-stricken populations.

In this area, the Food Security Commissariat has received a large share of these gifts and contributions. In fact, this gives me the chance to congratulate all those who have done their part in this great national solidarity movement. Utilization of the funds thus obtained will be handled by the national leadership.

CHAAB: What role will the Mass Education Structures play in the emergency aid program for the drought-stricken populations and in the new economic development projects?

Maj Sheik Sid'Ahmed Ould Babamine: The basic goal of the Mass Education Structures is to motivate the affected populations to play an active role in the economic, social, and cultural development program.

The battle against the consequences of the drought implies an active contribution by the affected people and hence calls on the mobilization and organizational potential of the Mass Education Structures.

Whether their expertise is called upon to help in regrouping populations, in agricultural production, in environmental protection, in efficient utilization of water resources, or in public health, the people are called upon to display a high level of national awareness, enthusiasm for useful work, and an ingrained spirit of discipline and organization. The role of the Mass Education Structures is to show local populations the way to acquisition of these qualities and to demonstrating them in practical, everyday action, responsibly performed.

In this connection, it is perhaps helpful to point out that the SEMs play a crucial role both at the National Commission level and in the regional commissions set up under CNAPES.

CHAAB: The CNAPES is now in the process of developing an emergency rescue plan for the Rif. Is there also a middle- and long-term plan for overall action?

Maj Sheik Sid'Ahmed Ould Babamine: The National Commission's primary role is to develop and implement an emergency plan that will enable us to cope with the situation facing us now.

Nevertheless, it has not failed to point out that we must also take a more serious look at the future.

To this end, it has submitted a set of recommendations aimed -- within the context of our defined national orientation -- at a gradual breakout from the present situation and at pushing the nation's overall development, allowing at all times for this ongoing phenomenon of drought in our region.

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CSO: 4519/70

MAURITANIA

PROTECTIONIST MEASURES DESIGNED TO SHELTER INFANT INDUSTRIES

Nouakchott CHAAB in French 28-29 Nov 83 pp 5-6

[Interview with Industry and Mines Minister LtCol Anne Amadou Babaly ; date and place not specified]

[Excerpts] CHAAB: A number of industrial installations are now operational and are making a broad range of products available to the public. Others are in the planning stages. What does the overall picture of the industrial sector look like?

LtCol Anne Amadou Babaly: It looks good, and it is destined to grow and diversify. Twenty industrial plants in Nouakchott and Nouadhibou are already in production and supplying the market with a number of varied products:

Potted meats, chemical products, metal objects, etc.

Four more plants will be opening within the next few months: they will be turning out candies and sweets, household gadgets, cosmetic products, and farm implements.

The introduction of locally made articles into the Mauritanian market is currently running into competition with foreign products and our easily passable borders invite smuggling and dampen the development spirit we are striving to foster in this vital sector of the national economy.

For the time being, some steps have been taken to contain this already grave situation. These protectionist measures take into due account the bilateral and multilateral agreements that bind our country with its friends and neighbors.

I shall seize this occasion to remind producers and consumers alike that protection is not a synonym for monopoly, much less a lifetime grant of exclusive territorial rights; it is, rather, a tool that enables the government to step in when occasion demands and provide the necessary support for industrial activity in fighting and winning this all-out war against abusive imports.

CHAAB: There is a lot of talk currently about indications that there may be oil in our country. Is there any truth in these reports?

LtCol Anne Amadou Babaly: Mauritania has two sedimentary basins, both of them interesting from the oil-pro prospector's point of view. One is the onshore Taoudeni basin, and the other is the coastal basin off Senegal and Mauritania.

The Taoudeni basin, which is difficult to get to, is not attracting much attention just yet.

At the Senegal-Mauritania basin, however, interest runs high and there is intensive exploration going on there, under several oil companies.

In 1979, the Department of Mines, with the help of the French Petroleum Institute's Office of Industrial Studies and Cooperation, undertook a summary survey of the oil potential of our basins, which was then made available to the oil companies.

When that survey appeared, the oil companies evinced keen interest in this country, particularly in our offshore fields.

In practical terms, this has already led to our signing two oil research contracts, one with Mobil and one with OXOCO.

Mobil: This company has conducted seismic soundings offshore and an aeromagnetic survey of the entire concession zone. The venerable age of the mother rock, the presence of good, thick-walled reservoirs -- according to the geophysical diagrams -- provide the necessary conditions for hydrocarbon accumulations. Interpretations of the seismic sections and structural maps confirm the potential promise first afforded by the large anticlinal (domed) structures discovered.

In 1983, this same company ran a seismic survey of 1,200 kilometers, in order to get more detailed data as to the structures revealed by the earlier geophysical surveys. Interpretation of the findings of this survey is expected in October or November. The results of this detailed survey will decide whether the drilling rigs go up or the whole notion is scrapped.

Oxoco has completed a gravimetric survey begun in the second quarter of 1983, and the data generated by that survey are now being processed.

In addition to these two companies with which we have contracts, other negotiations are in the very advanced stages, particularly with the American ARCO Company, to which the cabinet has given its approval for a contract which should be signed sometime this year.

Amoco: They are still studying documents having to do with the northern portion of our offshore basin, and will be making recommendations as soon as the study is complete.

As you can see, the oil companies are really interested in our coastal basin. Those which have already completed their explorations in our country have found traces of oil in several of their wells. Hydrocarbons, though, are unstable. They form first, and they flow in various directions before they begin to accumulate. This explains why you can sometimes find what are called residual traces, meaning that at some point during their centuries of flow they came through this spot: but where did they accumulate? This is the tricky question the oil companies are trying to answer.

You can find all the requisite favorable conditions for the formation of an old field, but until a well has proved that the oil is there, or at least that the indications point to its being there, you cannot say you have found oil.

For the moment, we can only be gratified at the number of companies busily at work in our country, despite the crisis that has hit all the oil companies and led most of them to suspend their exploration operations, if not to abandon them altogether.

Research operations are now well under way, in compliance with the terms of the contracts we have signed with these companies.

My department has done everything it can to get this research going again and to monitor its progress, which tends to come in fits and starts, and whose results can be known only upon completion of all the scheduled geophysical and geological work.

CHAAB: The CMSN as asked for establishment of a geological survey of the entire national territory.

What results has your department come up with in mineral research?

LtCol Anne Amadou Babaly: Your question covers two different aspects of the matter:

-- As for the geological mapping conducted on the CMSN's recommendation, the Mauritanian Geological Office (OMRG), which is our agent on the ground, has prepared a plan for a geological map on a scale of 1/200,000, covering the entire national territory. This project has been submitted to the Arab Mineral Resource Organization (OARM), of which we are a founding member, which has approved and recommended it for financing from Arab and international sources.

The department is pursuing other contacts in view of mobilizing the requisite funding. Noteworthy in this connection is the fact that the Directorate of Mines and Geology has the complete geological map of the country, a complete set of aerial photographs at 1/50,000, as well as geological map coverage at 1/200,000 scale for most of the zones believed to contain valuable minerals.

2. As for mineral research, we can say that the country is now covered by research concession areas for phosphates, iron, and copper.

Phosphates

Work during the last fiscal year (1981-1982) revealed a major phosphate deposit with reserves estimated at 100 million tons or thereabouts, with an average content of 21 percent of P_2O_5 .

In view of these encouraging findings, combining all the favorable technical conditions as well as a geographically perfect position at the Botat beds (28 kilometers from the river), which takes care of the problems of getting the phosphate out and, even more important, ready access to water, which as a rule constitute a serious handicap for our mineral development. The Directorate of Mines and Geology has drafted a summary of the various research projects which includes proposals and recommendations for the development of this resource. A preliminary feasibility study has been undertaken and will be completed around the end of November 1983. Work on the ground has continued in view of gathering the remaining data needed for the feasibility studies.

Iron

Research in the Tasiast Range by the National Industrial and Mining Company (SNIM) is continuing (concession area 27). Mineralurgical tests are under way at SNIM's laboratory at Zoueratt to determine the ore's suitability for enrichment.

Copper

SNIM has been instructed to conduct copper exploration in the priority zone granted it by the state-SAMIN agreement. A letter of recall has been sent to the Director General of SAMIN, and a meeting will be held jointly by the Directorate of Mines and Geology and SAMIN to discuss this problem.

Aside from these concessions, there was uranium exploration going on in the northern part of the country on concessions 22 and 26, granted in 1974 to Minatome in association with Tokyo Uranium Development.

An initial airborne geophysical survey was conducted in 1975 to identify zones displaying radioactive anomalies.

A geological survey was completed in 1976, after investigating all the radioactive anomalies detected in the airborne survey.

All this work was suspended from 1976 to 1980 because of the war. It was resumed in 1981, centering on exploring and understanding the geology of the likely zones.

The work was to continue in 1982 in aerial prospecting to select priority targets, but the consortium, of which Minatome was manager, is experiencing difficulties owing to the state of the world economy, on the one hand, and on the other to the withdrawal of one of its partners and to the pessimistic forecasts as to the uranium market, which led it to abandon its concessions.

As for the region's uranium resources, completion of the work undertaken in 1982 is needed to make any technical and/or economic decision. This situation leaves no possibility open other than putting together a new consortium including SNIM and Arab partners, such as Arab Mining Company, which has already indicated its interest by sending an expert mission to Mauritania in late 1983 to gather information as to this strategic substance.

The Directorate of Mines and Geology, with SNIM, has prepared a technical file on the work done on these concession tracts for uranium prospecting, which will be presented by a joint mission to the Arab partners before the end of this year.

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SUDAN

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT DISCUSSES APPROACHES TO FOREIGN, DOMESTIC THREATS

London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 27 Nov 83 pp 1, 4

[Interview with First Vice President Maj Gen 'Umar al-Tayyib by Muhammad Ahmad Hashim: "We Warn Ethiopia against Playing with Fire; We Caused a Secessionist Scheme in Bahr al-Ghazal To Fail"]

[Text] In a special comprehensive conversation he held with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Maj Gen Muhammad 'Umar al-Tayyib, the first vice president of the Sudan and chief of the State Security Agency, revealed the details of the recent disturbances which took place in the Bahr al-Ghazal region of the southern Sudan, the sweeping attack the rebels made which the Sudanese forces repelled, the case of the kidnapping of the British, French and Pakistani hostages in the Jonglei area, the relationship between that and the communist schemes in the southern Sudan, and the aid, training and arms provided in the rebels' camps in Ethiopia, where the John Garang group received about \$6 million and 40 tons of weapons to make their large attack on Malwal last Friday at dawn.

He spoke about the Ethiopian role in this scheme and Sudanese diplomatic attempts to distance Ethiopia from carrying this scheme out. He pointed out that relations between the two countries are on the brink of collapse, portending a struggle between the two countries which will threaten the security of the Red Sea and the Horn of Africa.

Maj Gen 'Umar, in his discussion, revealed the dimensions of the relations between the kidnapping incidents, the attack, and the movements of the political opposition abroad. He presented the details of the sabotage schemes which had been devised for the capital. Herewith is the text of the interview:

[Question] In the past few days, developments of the utmost significance have been disclosed in the southern Sudan. When did the first signs of these developments appear?

[Answer] The fact is that they appeared a long time ago. We have been monitoring and observing them. Their signs began after the summit conference held in Aden in August 1981. We felt that a strategy had started to manifest

itself in the area whose goal was to oppose the firm, strong relationship which had developed at exceptional speed between the Sudan and Ethiopia, and we drew the attention of our Ethiopian brothers.

It is worth pointing out that the president of Ethiopia, Mengistu, personally shared my opinion that the enemies would not leave us alone, and recently the strategy has started actively to direct itself toward the southern Sudan.

[Question] Why the southern Sudan specifically?

[Answer] Concentration began to be directed toward the southern Sudan after many attempts in the northern Sudan had failed, as you have learned from the statements the minister of information has broadcast. They started to direct themselves toward the southern Sudan on thinking of it as representing a weak spot in our national security or strategy for numerous reasons. As you know, they started exploiting people there and what is known as Anya Nya Two, the number two rebels, started to take form. They carried out acts of armed theft and robbery against the citizens, taking their cattle, violently attacking them and coming up against commercial caravans going from one place to another.

[Question] Have specific elements been seized and investigated?

[Answer] Our agencies have been active and they have seized many arms and explosives and much ammunition. We seized a number of these elements and started investigating them, and they have given us much information without trouble. As you point out, during my visit to the south the week before last to inaugurate the Bahr al-Ghazal People's Assembly and my visit there to Raga in the west of the region and Uwayl in the east, I verified from the committee on security and the citizens there that there were about 700 students who belonged to the Dinka who had been asked to go to Ethiopia to study, mostly to enroll in training camps, under attractive financial incentives. It happened that after this information arrived the forces blocked them and made them go back, fortunately before they could cross the borders. Documents such as letters and so forth were found in their possession.

[Question] What is your reaction toward this situation?

[Answer] In reality, this conduct made us angry with the Ethiopians, because we had been acting out of good, sincere intentions and had been trying to help them solve their problems. I wrote them that it saddened me that a friendly neighboring country was committing such a hostile action, and warned them against playing with fire. I know that Libya is behind them, and behind them is the Soviet Union.

A Picture of Conditions

[Question] What is the current picture of political and security conditions in the area of the disturbances?

[Answer] The fact of the matter is that frankly there are camps or pockets in the Shadu area, a rough area surrounded by water on all sides in the Province of Bahr al-Ghazal. Although the recent period was rainy, the Sudanese armed forces conducted large operations which stopped the rebels and broke their momentum, and they have started to provide the citizens with great protection. However, let us not forget, either, that there is great aid and training in arms and equipment which are all coming from the direction of Ethiopia.

For some reason, Libya is working most assiduously in this scheme. All opposition persons, and some who are not Sudanese, but indeed are mercenaries from the Cameroons, Chad and Central Africa, have been active, and in this regard I would like to reveal a fact, which is that when the Libyan forces were present in Chad there was a scheme to split the Darfur Region in the western Sudan off and declare it a government and await support from Libya. However, we moved diplomatically and swiftly, and put an end to the problem with the Libyan forces' departure from Chad. This scheme started to crop up once again in the eastern Sudan, and the aim of the movement now is for the al-Nasir and Akobo-Malwal region to be split off and to form a government there, from which they will continue their movements.

[Question] What is the size of these groups?

[Answer] All the information that is available to us is that they are actually now in the thousands, and the reference here to 700 students is sufficient. As is the case in Libya, through the enticement of Sudanese by taking them for purposes of employment, and then putting them in camps, this is the reason which everyone who has been seized has acknowledged, because they basically did not intend to enroll in enemy camps; rather, they were just coerced.

[Question] Who are the elements who were discovered?

[Answer] I would like to say that these are communist movements and that we have information that there are about 22 southerners who were taken in 1980 to enroll in the political school in Ethiopia, to be graduated as communist personnel. According to the information, seven southerners have graduated so far and they who have come back to the Sudan and started operating. The recent disturbances underline this fact, for the reason that John Garang, who is an experienced communist, recently moved to Ethiopia. Here one must point out that our brothers the southerners believe, according to their ideas, that they are not communists; as one of them told me, "We do not know anything except these cattle, and we ask you to protect us from the communists."

Secondly, these rebels wanted first of all to turn it into a matter of a dispute between the north and the south, but Libya rejected that and demanded that they unite with the northern political opposition. It enticed them with money, offering then \$6 million and 40 tons of weapons, medical equipment and radio communications. In addition to that, they have Cuban experts.

The Political Opposition

[Question] Is there a relationship between the rebels and some political opposition forces?

[Answer] Yes, there is contact and coordination, because there is evidence that these matters were carried out through timing. The two Britishers were kidnapped at about 0830 hours in the morning and on the same day at 1130 hours the Frenchmen and the Pakistanis were kidnapped from Jonglei. The following day, at 0400 hours in the morning, the sweeping attack on Malwal took place, and on the same day a statement was issued in London by the opposition, the Ahmad Zayn al-'Abidin group, which the Kuwaiti papers quoted as saying that they were calling for a political strike. This shows the degree of coordination and joint action. We had also, in the recent period, been observing the development of the process of the movement of equipment and the movement of individuals from Libya to Addis Ababa, to the point where there were special forces that were transferred about a week or 10 days before the operation in order to participate.

Not only that, but we have information that trained personnel have been given high-level training, have started to be active in various African capitals, with the objective of providing camouflage, and by now have reached Central Africa. We contacted our brothers in Central Africa and drew their attention to the fact that these people were preparing to infiltrate into the Sudan from the west in order to cause destruction in Khartoum. Their target was the American embassy, the Chevron company offices, the general command of the armed forces, the power stations, and water, with the goal of causing fear and panic.

This activity of theirs started to assume severe form after I felt that the early signs of prosperity would begin to appear with the start of the executive program, the oil exploitation activity at the end of 1985, and the completion of excavation of the Jonglei Canal the same year as well.

Freeing the Hostages

[Question] How were the hostages freed?

[Answer] I would like to point out that our armed forces are in good condition. As you know, one of the most difficult things is to free hostages. Even some major countries have failed in this. However, we in the Sudan have succeeded more than once. Our efforts were crowned with success in the Buma operation, then the release of the Britishers, and finally the French and the Pakistanis. This last operation was not easy; it cost us more than the Buma operation did, because the area is large, and we were afraid that they would take the hostages and go into Ethiopia with them. We carried out an operation with three groups of forces, which of course cost us a great deal since we used planes and helicopters in the course of it. After the rebels felt that they had been surrounded from all sides, they surrendered.

Islamic Law

[Question] What is the connection between the recent disturbances and the issue of Islamic law?

[Answer] They wanted to use this issue, because it is a sensitive matter and they sought to create confusion over a war of crusades with it. That is not at issue with us, and logic holds that this way of thinking is wrong, because as I have said it is a communist scheme in which Moslems and Christians are equal. Confirming this position of mine was the papal delegation I met at the beginning of the week, because we all, Moslems and Christians, are in the same boat. I believe that if the rebels had succeeded they would have burned churches down before mosques. The papal delegation directed the priests in the south to be alert and to realize that these provocations have nothing to do with religion.

[Question] Let us go back again to Ethiopian-Sudanese relations in the context of the conflict.

[Answer] Our brothers in Ethiopia, much as we explained to them and much as the joint committees dealt with it, deny this issue, however much we referred to Libya and the issue of training, although we know the details about these camps and their personnel and movements. In spite of our abilities, we [sic] are not friends concerned with the Sudan and its safety. They offer aid, and this Ethiopian position prompts me to be pessimistic that the relationship between us and Ethiopia will not improve, because our brothers there have become the victims of false information from Libya and the Soviets and from their embassy in Khartoum, which has worked tirelessly to devote attention to tactical matters and not the strategic ones which would serve the interests of the two countries, and also to deceive President Mengistu on the part of the Ethiopian officials, in order to impose their agreement and their failure in Eritrea and in Tigre, from the first to the seventh campaign, on the Sudan.

The Ethiopians lost. We were silent and bore it, and our indication of what was going on [was rejected] on their part on grounds that it was weakness. The proof of that is what passed between Mengistu and the Sudanese deputy foreign minister, Hashim 'Uthman, when the former rejected the facts Hashim 'Uthman presented and replied by saying that Ethiopia was a country with deep roots and that it considered that sort of charge defamatory.

Eritrea and the Crisis

[Question] What are the implications of the Eritrean problem as far as relations between the Sudan and Ethiopia are concerned?

[Answer] In my view, the Eritrean issue has had a negative and positive effect on the Sudan, socially and economically and in terms of security. Arms have infiltrated and ended up in the midst of our tribes. We have tried to help the Ethiopians solve this problem politically; a military solution is not feasible. We have an example in the southern Sudan. At the beginning there was a mutual understanding in this context, but after a while this

understanding started to change, and they accused us of trying to unify the Eritreans. This is true. We had tried to unify them; what for? So that they would be prepared to solve the problem politically, so that they would spare us from it. We would not have unified them for the sake of combat and war against the government in Addis Ababa. We then stopped after signs had been received from Ethiopia that did not encourage us to continue in this context. I would like to stress that however much Ethiopia might shut its eyes or claim that the case of Eritrea is not a problem, it is a problem, will remain one, and will be solved only by political means. The Sudan would be happy to have it solved by political means. The Sudan absolutely does not export problems. It is a cause of sadness that when we started to proceed with relations with Ethiopia, we were not compelled or forced, and there were no rebel camps in Ethiopia, just from the premise of the policy of good neighborliness. However, we are surprised to find that there are armed camps.

No Intention of Military Activity

[Question] Does any tendency exist to strike out at these camps inside Ethiopia?

[Answer] We have no tendency or intention to carry out a military action against these camps and strike at them within the borders of Ethiopia. This is not one of our principles; rather, we have continued to work within the diplomatic and political framework and to cling to it, and to act judiciously. We are not in a hurry; we have not even informed the Organization of African Unity. We are not seeking to develop what is going on and if they wish it, we assuredly have friends who will stand by our side. I repeat that we do not want to strike at the rebels' bases inside Ethiopia although we know of their locations and their training areas; we just ask Ethiopia to stop this activity.

[Question] To what extent will these developments have an effect on the Horn of Africa and Red Sea security?

[Answer] Our geographic and strategic location has a great effect on security in the Red Sea and the Horn of Africa. If security and stability between Ethiopia and the Sudan are lacking, that will emphatically affect this region. In spite of our concern not to interfere in other people's affairs, it is Ethiopia now which has started to interfere, believing that it is carrying out this activity indirectly without appearing in the picture; it is using others and serving other strategies. This is unfortunate. I am afraid that what is going on may develop in a way that will draw us into the framework of the struggle among major strategies in the negative and positive senses. Just as Soviet strategy is active in this field, so also is American strategy. Let me repeat my warning again to the Ethiopians against playing with fire; they themselves will be the victims of that.

[Question] The deteriorating Libyan-Sudanese relations: how can one save them?

[Answer] I would like to point out that it is unfortunate that our relations with a neighboring Arab, Moslem country such as Libya should be cut off. We did not start this, and Libya has played an influential part in the bad relations between us and Ethiopia, which had reached a high point after President Numayri's visit to Addis Ababa where he was given a reception we will never forget, and Mengistu visited the Sudan also, and was greeted with the same reception and warmth.

However, the Libyans tried and used their money, and this led to the breakdown in these relations. They have played a large role in the course of events, and their strategy and their personal enmity toward President Numayri and this country is well known. The events of 1976 are well known to us, and we do not want to mention them again.

[Question] What are the Sudan's conditions for improving these relations?

[Answer] We do not have any conditions. All we want is for Libya to draw back from its position, for Libya to change its strategy and stop its enmity, as it feels that it has acted wrongly with the Sudan which, in difficult circumstances, needs every form of help from every Arab and every Moslem. Now, however, we have gone beyond this; whether they know it or not is not important, and they must not forget that the Sudan once upon a time defended Libya itself in Tubruq and Benghazi.

We are not taking any initiatives for our part to restore relations with them or improve them, because we were not a cause of this deterioration. Let me stress that there now is a complete lack of trust between us and them over the activities of infiltrating hostile elements, explosives and weapons into Sudanese territory that are being carried out. How can we trust a country which exports problems, each time we receive an assassination list, starting with the president and vice president on down to the last person in the political and military leadership? This is a distressing matter, but we can tolerate it and we put our trust in God and in the people, the homogeneous internal front and the armed forces.

Purifying the Air

[Question] How do you view Sudanese activities to clear the air in the Arab context?

[Answer] Our relations are firm and as old as history. They are distinctive relations, and President Numayri and His Majesty King Fahd are in total harmony over their strategy, whether that entails action to bring the Arabs together, or concerns Arab, African and international issues. There is contact and consultation and we in the Sudan are greatly amazed with what His Majesty King Fahd and his aides and ministers are doing as far as their policies and initiatives for bringing the Arabs together, their initiatives in Lebanon and the solution to the Palestinian problem are concerned. We support all these movements and stand alongside them; that is activity that benefits people. The froth is in vain, and what benefits people remains on the ground.

FADI AFRAM INTERVIEWED ON INTERNAL POLITICAL SITUATION

Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 23 Nov 83 p 22

/Interview with Fadi Afram, the leader of the Lebanese Forces, by Gaby Abu 'Atamah: "Fadi Afram: 'The Soviet Danger Threatens the Whole Arab World, If 'Arafat Falls''"; date and place not specified

/Text While President Amin al-Jumayyil is intending to visit Syria for the first time since he was elected president of the republic and while Minister Khaddam is holding talks in Beirut, Fadi Afram, the commander of the Lebanese Forces, thinks that the goal of the Syrian military campaign is to bring down the regime and create a new political order in Lebanon which would be under its tutelage. In order to achieve this goal, Syria, its Palestinian allies, and local political forces had to return to West Beirut by means of the mountain. However, the Lebanese Forces thwarted this plan and stopped the march of the Syrian military campaign toward the capital.

Mr Fadi Afram thinks that the war in Lebanon is not over yet. Rather, it will go on for a long time, since it is linked to the struggle of the two giants in the Lebanese arena. He does not rule out a military confrontation between Washington and Moscow, but "it will be by proxy. That is, it will take place via Israel and Syria. This might reflect in a negative manner on the situation in Lebanon. We mean a conflict among the Lebanese, for all the sects want the war to end and reject both partition and division."

These subjects and others, which form the backbone of the Lebanese crisis, were discussed by Mr Fadi Afram, the commander of the Lebanese Forces, with AL-SIYASAH. He spoke with great clarity and forthrightness. The text of the interview follows:

/Question How can the Geneva Conference be evaluated? Did the participants in the dialogue reach any positive result with regard to ending the Lebanese crisis?

/Answer Our position on the Geneva Conference has been clear from the start. This conference was imposed by Syria after the military victory it achieved on the ground, following the partial Israeli withdrawal from the mountain. In achieving this victory, Syria used local forces sympathetic to it, such as the Palestinian forces, Abu Musa's group, of course, the forces of the Progressive

Socialist Party, headed by Walid Junblatt, and other forces from the Druze hills, not to mention the Iranian forces which entered the area of the Lebanese Biqa' more than a year ago.

The commander of the Lebanese Forces added: By means of the dialogue, Syria tried to use its military victory in the calculation of the political gains it can obtain in Lebanon. Of course, it vetoed the participation of some Lebanese political personalities in this dialogue and rejected the attendance of Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan and Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies Kamil al-'As'ad, since it thought they would not accept its conditions.

Mr Afram continued: This is how the Geneva Conference was held. In this way, these negotiations were imposed on the president of the Lebanese republic, Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil, who used to reject just such a dialogue. However, the political pressure exerted on him by an Arab country and the United States forced him to accept the principle of dialogue, because Washington's only concern was to stop the fighting so that it would not develop militarily into combat with Syria.

The Geneva Conference was not the dialogue which is needed among the Lebanese, for our position as Lebanese forces and the position of the Lebanese Front focused on the need to withdraw all the foreign forces before a dialogue could begin. Therefore, what happened in Geneva was a big scenario which did not lead to the desired result. It will not satisfy the need the Lebanese have for stability and peace. However, the positive thing produced by this conference was the personal rapprochement which occurred among the participants in the dialogue, in the presence of the Syrian representative, Minister 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam. But then one must record yet another positive result: the unanimous recognition by all the conference participants of the president of the republic, Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil. Of course, such recognition had not been there before.

/Question/ Do you agree to the definition of Lebanon's identity issued by the Geneva Conference?

/Answer/ The result which the conference reached in this regard, which was that Lebanon was Arab in terms of its allegiance and identity, might make things more complex, especially if the Lebanese state begins to apply the literal contents of the text with respect to culture and education.

Mr Fadi Afram added: Lebanon is a unique kind of country. Its identity ought never to be defined by a single definition like Arabism, because Lebanon is a network of civilizations which are thousands of years old. Consequently, this network cannot be defined as Arab. If it is so defined, then the distinguishing qualities and special characteristics of Lebanon will be lost. Lebanon will lose its identity and civilization. This country called Lebanon will no longer be the place we and all the Arabs know. Moreover, with its current, unique structure, Lebanon can serve the Arabs and Arabism much more than if it were an Arab country. Of course, defining its identity could upset a large group of Lebanese--I mean the Christians--given the experiences they have had from 1943 to the present. If we look at things from an anthropological and historical point of view, we find that Lebanon, as it is currently constituted, is not an Arab country.

/Question/ In your opinion, what does Syria want from Lebanon? What does Israel want?

/Answer/ All of us know that Syria has never recognized the existence of Lebanon. It has never accepted the existence on its borders of a state which is not under its political, and perhaps its military, control. It has never accepted the idea of a political decision being made in Lebanon without Syrian approval. Since 1943, whenever Lebanon has tried to rid itself of this control, there have been problems.

The commander of the Lebanese Forces thinks that Syria would not hesitate to establish a "Greater Syria" for a single instant, if it could gain control of the land. It has tried to realize this kind of project many times since 1975, but the resistance of the Lebanese, especially the Lebanese Forces, frustrated it and made Syria stay in only a part of Lebanon's territory (the Biqa' and the north). Afram said: Thus, I doubt that Syria will withdraw from this part of Lebanon, through either negotiations or dialogue. It will stay no matter what sacrifices that costs. The difficulty lies in creating the appropriate formula for the withdrawal of the Syrian forces from all of Lebanon's territory, for Syria has political and military goals on the ground. The Israeli invasion of Lebanon created a new political situation in this country. This situation brought the Phalange Party to power. That is, it gave the party the presidency of the republic. Syria has rejected this in the past and rejects it now. Therefore, the goal of the Syrian military campaign against Lebanon was to bring down the regime and establish an alternate one under Syria's complete tutelage. Damascus wants to control the political order in Lebanon, if it cannot control the land. It wants to impose a regime pleasing to it in this way.

Mr Afram continued: Given this Syrian view toward Lebanon, the United States promised President Amin al-Jumayyil that it would assure the stability of this regime, no matter how hard Syria tried to topple it or produce a new Lebanese Government loyal to itself in order to thwart the fateful decisions which could be taken. If former President Rashid Karami returned to power, the country would go back to the situation of 1975, since no political decisions would be made and the army would be forbidden to act. The Lebanese Army has strongly defended the legitimate authorities because of the political decision which was made by the government. If this political decisionmaking ability disappeared, then the Lebanese Forces, which resisted for 9 years, would continue to do so until its goals and those of all Lebanese have been achieved.

As for the second portion of the question, concerning what Israel wants from Lebanon, Israel entered Lebanon in order to achieve two goals: security for a distance of 45 kilometers from its northern borders, which is the area it is present in now, and a political goal, which caused Israel to reach Beirut in order to attack the Palestinian organizations and compel Syria's forces to withdraw from the capital and its environs. Israel wanted to install a new government in Lebanon which would sign a peace treaty and establish normal relations with it. However, this did not happen. Therefore, Israel decided to achieve only its security goal and set up tactical relations with all the Lebanese sects, in order to use them for certain purposes.

After the bombing of the headquarters of the military governor in the city of Sur in South Lebanon and the battle of the mountain and after Walid Junblatt broke the promises he had made to Israel not to bring any Palestinians into the mountain, Israel re-evaluated its policy in Lebanon, having left the political machinations to the United States of America.

/Question/ Syria stipulates that the 17 May agreement for withdrawal from Lebanon must be canceled. On the other hand, Israel insists that this agreement for withdrawal from the South be ratified. How is it possible to reconcile these two conditions in order to assure Lebanon's best interest?

/Answer/ It is absolutely impossible to reconcile these two conditions, for Syria wants to make political use of its military victories. In order for Lebanon to be able to overcome this dilemma, it must change the military balance on the ground, because in my belief that is the only solution, since negotiations with Syria would be easier.

The question which must be answered now, given these factors, is what party or power can change the military balance. Of course, no state or military power is ready to die in place of the Lebanese. Therefore, the Lebanese Army must undertake this task. This can only occur after the army has obtained sufficient support. This cannot be done in a month or two, but will take 2 years. If the army can again liberate the mountain, then the military balance will change decisively. Then the political negotiations will be turned about in Lebanon's favor.

/Question/ Some give you the responsibility for the displacement, destruction and killing that have happened in Lebanon. They say that if it were not for the Lebanese Forces, the battle would not have occurred. How do you respond to this charge?

/Answer/ I do not even accept the accusation, because the Lebanese Forces were not in the mountain before June 1982. Neither was there a free, Christian presence in these areas, although the numerical majority of the population in the mountain, which is to say the Shuf and 'Alayh, is Christian. However, the alliance formed by the late Kamal Junblatt, the Palestinian organizations, and Syria in 1975 has led to Junblatti control of the mountain. The fate of all those who rejected this control or disagreed with Kamal Junblatt (the father of Walid Junblatt) was expulsion or death. The best proof of that is offered by the Christian town of al-Damur, whose population was expelled after an attack by Junblatt, the Palestinians and the Syrians. Moreover, after Kamal Junblatt was assassinated, almost 400 Christians in the Shuf region were killed. They were not killed for a reason, but because they were Christians. Therefore, the vast majority of Christians in the mountain fled their homes. The Christians benefited after the Israeli invasion and returned to their homes and jobs. Of course, some acts of revenge and vengeance took place. The problem began. This is what led the Lebanese Forces to send regular troops to the region in order to maintain security and put a stop to these acts of revenge.

Mr Fadi Afram continued: In light of these problems, the Syrian forces benefited by worsening the conflict between the Christians and Druze and making it seem

like a sectarian matter. Israel also benefited by putting pressure on President Amin al-Jumayyil and convincing him to sign the 17 May agreement. Thus, Israel's and Syria's interests coincided, until the partial Israeli withdrawal from the mountain began. At that point, the Lebanese Forces were ready to withdraw and turn their positions over to the Lebanese Army. Moreover, there was an agreement between ourselves and the state to the effect that the army would be sent into the mountain. However, this agreement was not implemented. This made it necessary for the Lebanese Forces to confront the advancing military hosts in order to delay the attack and keep these forces from reaching Suq al-Gharb on their way down to al-Shuwayfat and the southern suburb of Beirut because the goal of these Syrian, Palestinian and Iranian hosts, as well as of Junblatt's minority, was to bring down the regime. However, the defensive position which the Lebanese Forces took thwarted their plan.

/Question/ You have announced your readiness to turn the province of al-Kharub over to the army. The province is a Christian-Islamic area. Up until now, it still has not been turned over, and the battles are continuing. How do you reply to this?

/Answer/ We decided to withdraw from al-Kharub and turn our positions over to the Lebanese Army, but the army's capabilities do not permit it to deploy there. Therefore, we cannot leave this region, because past experience makes it necessary for us to maintain such a presence in order to defend the Christian villages, thereby preventing any new bombings. Moreover, if the Lebanese forces withdrew from the province of al-Kharub, Junblatt's forces might gain control of it, descend to the coast, thereby cutting the roads to the south and creating a new and very dangerous situation. The Progressive Socialist Party has rejected the idea of sending the army into the area, just as it has rejected any presence for the legitimate authorities, even for the internal security forces. This is a fact known to all.

/Question/ Information exists according to which either a direct or a proxy conflict between the United States and the Soviet Union will occur on Lebanese soil. What is your opinion?

/Answer/ A confrontation between the two giants is definitely going on. We have begun to feel it every day, whether it comes in the form of something between Syria and Israel or is expressed by the American aircraft which circle above the Syrian artillery in the Biqa' and the mountain. The war between Washington and Moscow is continuing in this region by means of orbital satellites. The struggle today is between NATO, which is present on the Lebanese coast, and the Warsaw Pact, which is present in Syria and the Lebanese Biqa'. We in Lebanon are paying the price, because we are defending the free world. However, the increasing military pressure is intended to demonstrate political power. This does not mean that military confrontation is absent from the area, for if Israel feels that Syria has begun to pose a threat to its security, it will not hesitate to strike a cruel blow at the Syrian forces.

/Question/ Is the United States serious about assuring the sovereignty and independence of Lebanon?

/Answer/ I trust that America is serious this time, for after the headquarters of the Marines was blown up in Beirut and about 250 of them were killed, Washington decided to stay in Lebanon. Moreover, the Lebanese regime has a firm guarantee and there is firm support for the Lebanese Army. We did not expect this, but how far can America go?

/Question/ What is your view on the formula for a new Lebanon? Will it be united, partitioned, divided into cantons, or devoid of political centralization?

/Answer/ If Lebanon splinters, that means that this country will have ended and ceased to exist, for areas of influence might arise which Syria and Israel would divide. A small Christian area incapable of surviving economically in the long run would be left over. Therefore, I say that Lebanon must cover a piece of land 10,452 square kilometers in extent, it being stipulated that we will search for a new formula giving all Lebanon's sects all the guarantees they require. Therefore, the Lebanese must confer among themselves without any foreign presence or influence. At that point, I assure you we will agree on "the Lebanon we want."

As for Mr Walid Junblatt, who has set up a kind of civil administration in the mountain, he has benefited from Syria's plan and Israel's plan in order to create an area under his control. However, Druze resentment against Walid Junblatt has begun to appear, because he has not achieved a thing with his recent steps. Houses have been destroyed and the Druze have been made refugees. There is no way out of the mountain to Beirut or the coast. Its only gateway is Syria.

/Question/ In your opinion, what is the solution?

/Answer/ There must be a comprehensive security solution carried out by the army which will reassure the Christians in the mountain. There is no Christian-Druze problem. Nor is there a dispute between these two sects. The problem is with Junblatt's leadership. The Druze sect considers Lebanon its country, in the last analysis, as do the Christians.

/Question/ What is your view of the war among the Palestinians going on in North Lebanon?

/Answer/ You mean the Syrian-Palestinian war. Therefore, I say that Syria wants to grasp the Palestinian card, just as it is trying to grasp the Lebanese card. Syria refuses to let Yasir 'Arafat make any political move, especially after Abu 'Ammar began to use his political cards to move closer to the United States in order to create a political entity for the PLO. He did this outside framework of Syrian diplomacy. This angered Damascus and made it decide to liquidate 'Arafat.

In my opinion, if Syria succeeds in liquidating 'Arafat's PLO, a new Palestinian situation will emerge which will be totally submissive to Syria. Therefore, Damascus wants to become the key power in the region by grasping the Palestinian and Lebanese cards. Thus, the Soviet Union, which supports the Syrian regime, is creating a direct danger for the Arab world. Therefore, the Arab states

must become aware of the seriousness of the situation and realize the threat which Syria poses to the Arab regimes, especially if 'Arafat is eliminated. In the face of this Soviet backing, the United States has begun to make political contacts with Syria. However, these contacts will be useless in the aftermath of the terrorist operation which was carried out against the Marine headquarters.

/Question/ Has the Lebanese war ended, or are we still far from the end?

/Answer/ Unfortunately, the war is not Lebanese. Rather, it is a regional-international war imposed upon us from the outside. The end of the war is tied to Syria's actions and to actions taken against Syria. Lebanon is an arena for the conflict between the two giants. Either Washington and Moscow will agree and the war will end, or it will continue as their conflicts do. This will take a long time, especially since the problems of the world are reflected negatively on Lebanon.

However, in reality all the Lebanese sects want this situation to end. Another fact is that no dispute exists among the Lebanese.

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CSO: 4404/185

DECREE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE STRUCTURE

Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 13 Oct 83 p 8-9, 12

[Article: "Text of Legislative Decree No 102 Concerning National Defense; News: Merging Legislative Decree No 10 by Transferring All Powers to Army Commander in New Decree"]

[Text] Legislative decree No 102 concerning national defense was issued yesterday.

But what is new in the decree?

Legislative decree No 10, issued on 24 February 1983, has been merged with the new decree in accordance with article 4 of section 1. What is worth noting is that implementation of legislative decree No 10 requires the transfer of all powers to the army commander, to the exclusion of the military council. Legislative decree No 10, issued provisionally, thus becomes permanent by virtue of its merger in the new decree.

It is also to be noted that the General Directorate for Administration has been replaced by the General Directorate for Administrative Control. The conclusion of [arms] deals has now been entrusted, in accordance with article 18 of section 3, to this directorate which is tied to the army commander.

This decree has also added the provision of seeking the opinion of the army commander on the appointment of the heads of the other defense agencies.

The decree introduces the chairmanship of the military council which now belongs to the minister of defense, i.e., to the political authority.

Whereas the appointments were within the powers of the military council and the Council of Ministers, they have been now entrusted altogether to the army commander in accordance with paragraph 4 of article 49 of chapter 4.

To put it briefly, the present decree abolishes all the amendments and executive decrees introduced into the preceding decree. It has deputed the agencies introduced by the preceding decree but entrusted the powers concerning these agencies to the army commander, in addition to his powers as stipulated by decree No 10. Following is the text of the decree as published in the Official Gazette:

The president of the republic,

In accordance with the constitution;

In accordance with law No 36/82 of 17 November 1982 (empowering the government to issue legislative decrees);

In accordance with law No 10/83 of 21 May 1983 (extending enactment of the provisions of law No 36/82 of 17 November 1982);

After consulting with the State Consultative Council (opinion No 261/83, dated 25 June 1983);

On the recommendation of the minister of national defense and after the approval of the Council of Ministers on 16 September 1983;

Decrees the following:

Section One

Definition of National Defense

Chapter One

General Rules

Article 1. National defense seeks to strengthen the state's abilities and to enhance its capabilities to resist any attack against the homeland's soil and any aggression aimed against it and to insure the state's sovereignty and the citizens' safety.

The armed forces may be utilized in the developmental and social spheres, provided that such utilization does not impede their fundamental tasks. Such utilization shall be determined by a decree issued on the recommendation of the minister of defense and the minister concerned.

What is meant by the armed forces is: The army, the internal security forces, the public security forces and, generally, other workers in the public directorates, agencies and municipalities who carry arms by virtue of their jobs.

Article 2:

1. If the homeland, any part of its territories or sectors or any group of its population is exposed to danger, then the following can be declared:

A. A state of full or partial alert to curtail the exposure of the population or of vital installations to danger and to insure the operations for mobilization and for the use of the armed forces.

B. A state of general or partial mobilization to carry out all or some of the predetermined plans.

2. The abovementioned measures shall be declared by decrees adopted by the Council of Ministers with the finalization of the Higher Defense Council.

3. These decrees may include special provisions seeking to:

A. Impose control on the sources of energy and regulate their distribution.

B. Impose control on raw materials, industrial production and food supplies and regulate import, storage, export and distribution.

C. Regulate and control transportation, movement, transport and communications.

D. Impound persons and properties and impose services on legal-status and real persons. In this case, the constitutional and legal provisions pertaining to the declaration of a state of emergency shall be observed.

Article 3. If the country is exposed to the dangers specified in article 1 of legislative decree No 52 of 5 August 1968, a state of emergency or a military zone shall be declared and the authorities concerned shall exercise the powers stipulated in the said legislative decree.

Article 4. If an area or several areas of the state are subjected to acts that undermine their safety or interests, the army shall be entrusted with safeguarding security in this area or these areas in enactment of legislative decree No 10 of 24 February 1983 and shall exercise the powers stipulated in the said legislative decree.

Chapter Two

General Organizations of National Defense

Article 5. The army shall be placed under the control of the president of the republic who shall exercise his powers in accordance with the provisions stipulated in the constitution and the laws in force.

Article 6. The Council of Ministers shall determine the general defense policy and define its objectives.

Article 7:

1. A Higher Defense Council shall be formed and shall be comprised of:

The president of the republic, chairman.

The prime minister, deputy chairman.

The minister of defense, member.

The minister of foreign affairs, member.

The minister of finance, member.

The minister of interior, member.

The minister of economy, member.

2. The chairman of the Higher Defense Council may summon to the council meetings any individual he wishes and whose presence is dictated by the nature of the council activities.

3. The army commander shall attend the Higher Defense Council meetings in an advisory capacity.

4. The secretary general of the abovementioned Higher Defense Council who is mentioned in article 10 below shall undertake the duties of this council's secretariat.

Article 8.

1. The Higher Defense Council shall determine the measures necessary to implement the defense policy defined by the Council of Ministers. The Higher Defense Council decisions shall remain confidential and the council shall devote special attention to the defense mobilization dealing with the following fundamental issues:

A. Military service and compulsory conscription.

B. Educational mobilization.

C. Mobilization of the economic activity with its various agricultural, industrial, financial and commercial branches.

D. General mobilization of the state and of the citizens, especially of the civil defense.

E. Mobilization of the guidance and awareness activities.

2. The Higher Defense Council shall distribute the defense tasks among the ministries and agencies concerned, shall issue the necessary instructions and directives concerning these tasks and shall follow up on their implementation.

Article 9:

1. The Higher Defense Council shall be summoned to convene by its chairman.

2. The council chairman shall present the issues necessitating convocation of the council for discussion and for adoption of the proper decision.

Article 10:

1. The deputy chairman of the Higher Defense Council shall attend to the implementation of the council decisions.
2. A general secretariat of the Higher Defense Council shall be attached and directly tied to the council deputy chairman to attend to the council's tasks. This secretariat shall:
 - A. Gather information from the agencies concerned.
 - B. Prepare the files it is entrusted to prepare and the studies needed by the Higher Defense Council.
 - C. Convey the Higher Defense Council's decisions to the agencies concerned.
 - D. Familiarize the Higher Defense Council with the progress of implementation of the decisions adopted.
3. The cadre of the Higher Defense Council's general secretariat, the appointment requirements, the work rules and the personnel's powers and responsibilities shall be defined in a decree adopted by the Council of Ministers after consultation with the State Consultative Council.
4. The Higher Defense Council's general secretariat shall be headed by an army officer on active duty who holds the rank of colonel or a higher rank and who has not been previously put in the reserve. He shall be appointed by a decree adopted by the Council of Ministers on the recommendation of the prime minister and the minister of national defense.

Article 11. Each minister shall be responsible for the defense and security tasks concerning his ministry. He shall take the measures pertaining to these tasks and shall attend to their implementation.

Article 12. The responsibility of maintaining internal security shall rest with the minister of interior who shall observe the provisions stipulated in the special laws. On a decree adopted by the Council of Ministers, the minister of national defense may be assigned to insure military equipment and training courses for the benefit of the Ministry of Interior.

Article 13. The borders of the governorates shall be considered the borders of the military districts. As for the military district in accordance with the concept of legislative decree No 52 of 5 August 1967, it is the part of the territories declared and defined in accordance with the said decree.

Article 14. The defense sectors shall be appointed and schedules and tasks shall be defined in special directives issued by the army command in accordance with the defense plans.

Chapter Three

Organization of Ministry of National Defense

Article 15. The Ministry of National Defense shall be subject to the authority of the minister of national defense who will be responsible for implementing all its tasks.

Article 16. The Ministry of National Defense shall consist of:

The army.

The General Inspectorate.

The General Directorate of Administrative Control.

Article 17:

1. A military chamber shall be established at the office of the minister of national defense and shall be headed by an officer with the rank of colonel or above. The chamber shall include:

A secretariat.

A public relations and information department.

A department for the Lebanese military attaches abroad.

A department for legal affairs and military judiciary.

A Veteran's Administration.

2. Military magistrates shall be appointed on a decision by the minister of national defense on the recommendation of the army commander.

Article 18:

1. The General Inspectorate shall be headed by an officer with the rank of colonel or a higher rank who shall be appointed by a decree on the recommendation of the minister of national defense after consultation with the army commander. The head of this directorate shall be directly responsible to the minister. The General Directorate shall undertake the following tasks:

A. Inspecting all military equipment and centers.

B. Insuring implementation of the laws and regulations and execution of the orders and directives.

C. Making the proposals necessary for work progress in the Ministry of National Defense.

2. The General Directorate of Administrative Control shall be headed by an officer with the rank of colonel or a higher rank who is appointed by a decree on the recommendation of the minister of national defense after consultation with the army commander. The head of this directorate shall be tied directly to the minister. The General Directorate of Administrative Control shall undertake the following tasks:

- A. Legal supervision of the administrative activities of the Ministry of National Defense.
- B. Following up on preparation of the draft budget of the Ministry of National Defense.
- C. Exercise the power of post-accounting over equipment and activities.
- D. Make the proposals necessary for the progress of administrative activities.

Article 19:

- 1. The cadre of the General Inspectorate, of the General Directorate for Administrative Control and of the Military Chamber, the requirements for appointment to these agencies, the work regulations and the powers and responsibilities of their employees shall be defined in a decree adopted by the Council of Ministers after consultation with the State Consultative Council.
- 2. The vacant positions in the General Inspectorate, the General Directorate of Administrative Control and the Military Chamber shall be filled in accordance with the cadres specified by a decision issued by the minister of national defense after consultation with the army commander.
- 3. Regulations involving the army, the General Inspectorate and the General Directorate of Administrative Control shall be defined in accordance with directives issued by the minister of national defense.

Article 20. The army shall include ground, air and naval forces merged under the command of the army commander.

Article 21:

- 1. The army structure, its cadres, its work regulations and the powers and responsibilities of the commanders and heads [of agencies] shall be defined by a decree adopted by the Council of Ministers on the recommendation of the minister of national defense and after consultation with the army commander and the State Consultative Council.
- 2. Army regulations and standing instructions for whose issuance this legislative decree contains no provisions shall be defined in decisions issued by the minister of national defense on the recommendation of the army commander and the approval of the Military Council.

Article 22: Appointment of army commander:

The army commander shall be appointed on a decree issued by the Council of Ministers, on the recommendation of the minister of national defense, from among certified staff officers who have not been previously put on reserve.

The army commander shall have the rank of general, shall be called "the general in command of the army" and shall be tied directly to the minister of national defense.

Article 23. Tasks of the army commander:

1. The army commander shall prepare the army, command it and manage it to carry out its military and security tasks and shall secure the army's various requirements and the services it needs.
2. The army commander shall exercise the same administrative and financial powers exercised by a general director in the general directorates.

Article 24. Appointment of the chief of staff:

The chief of staff shall be appointed on a decree adopted by the Council of Ministers on the recommendation of the minister of national defense and the approval of the army commander. He shall be chosen from among the certified staff officers who have not been put on reserve.

On a decree adopted by the Council of Ministers, any other provisions notwithstanding, the chief of staff may be promoted up to the rank of major general and be given the seniority he needs to exercise his right of command over the Ministry of Defense officers.

Article 25. The tasks of the chief of staff:

1. He shall assist the army commander in shouldering his responsibilities and carrying out his duties.
2. He shall be the chief advisor to the army commander. In this capacity, he shall express his opinion on all transactions referred to the army commander for a decision.
3. He shall deputize for the army commander in case of the latter's absence and shall exercise the commander's duties and powers throughout the period of the commander's absence.

Article 26. The Military Council:

1. The Military Council shall be comprised of:

The minister of national defense, chairman.

The army commander, deputy chairman.

The chief of staff, member.

The inspector general, member.

The general director of the Administrative Control, member.

The secretary general of the Higher Defense Council, member.

A general officer appointed for a period of 2 years by a decree issued on the recommendation of the minister of national defense after consultation with the army commander, member.

2. The council chairman may invite whomever he deems fit to attend the council meetings.

3. The council chairman shall entrust one of the members to carry out the duties of secretary general.

Article 27. The Military Council shall:

A. Ratify the general plan and the program to prepare the forces for the tasks entrusted to them and shall present the plan and program to the Higher Defense Council.

B. Express its opinion on the regulations concerning the nomination of officers for promotion to the ranks of brigadier general and major general during the month of November of every year, prepare draft decisions to register officers on the list of promotions to the ranks of brigadier general and major general and shall offer the list to the minister of national defense annually before 1 December.

C. Approve the lists nominating officers for promotion to the rank of major, lieutenant colonel and colonel.

D. Approve the formations for district, division and brigade commanders, for commanders of the air and naval forces and commanders of the military institutes on the recommendation of the army commander.

E. Approve army regulations and standing directives for whose issuance no provision is contained in this legislative decree.

F. Approve the directives regulating the relationship between the army command and each of the General Directorate for Administrative Control and the General Inspectorate.

G. Approve the additional enlistment requirements stipulated in provision 3 of article 30 of this legislative decree.

H. Approve the special promotions stipulated in articles 41 and 48 of this legislative decree and grant seniority for promotion purposes.

I. Approve the penalties specified in provision 1 of article 63 of this legislative decree.

J. Approve appointment of the investigation committee provided for in article 65 of this legislative decree.

K. Approve the lists of those who pass the examination for admission to the Military College.

L. Express opinion on the issues presented to it by the minister of national defense.

Article 28. Upon declaration of the state of emergency or of military zones or during periods in which the army is assigned to maintain security in cases beyond those specified in article 4 of this legislative decree, the Council of Ministers may transfer all or part of the powers of the Military Council to the army commander.

Section Two

General Rules for Military

Chapter One

Enlistment and Appointment

Article 29. The military are the enlisted and conscripted elements during their service period and the reserves during the period of their recall.

The enlisted are the officers, noncommissioned officers and rank and file in the active service.

The conscripts are those who are subject to the military service law.

The reserves are those subject to the reserve law.

Article 30. Enlistment and its requirements:

1. The enlistment of noncommissioned officers and of rank and file shall be accepted on a decision by the army commander within the limits of the vacant positions and of the appropriations in the budget.

2. It is conditional that the volunteer be:

- A. A Lebanese citizen for 10 years at least.

- B. Not less than 18 years of age and not more than 25 years upon his confirmation in the service. In special cases determined by the minister of national defense on the recommendation of the army commander, the age limit may be raised by 30 years.

- C. Of sound body and strong physique.

D. Not convicted of a felony or attempted felony of any kind, of a disgraceful misdemeanor or attempted misdemeanor or sentenced to a prison term of more than 6 months. These provisions shall apply to rehabilitated persons and to persons benefiting from amnesty (general or special amnesty).

The following shall be considered disgraceful misdemeanors:

Theft, fraud, betrayal of trust, embezzlement, graft, rape, intimidation, forgery, use of forged materials, crimes violating the public morals specified in section seven of the general penal code, issuing rubber checks, false testimony, false oath and crimes connected with drugs.

3. The minister of national defense may, on a decision he issues upon the recommendation of the army commander, impose additional requirements insofar as qualifications are concerned on applicants for enlistment in some of the army corps, cadres and institutes.

Article 31. Enlistment contract:

1. Excluding the special cases specified in this legislative decree, enlisted men shall be appointed in the army in accordance with a contract for a duration ranging from 3-10 years.

2. The enlistment contract shall be signed by the army commander and the applicant concerned.

3. Immediately upon signing his enlistment contract, the recruit shall be considered a private under training for a maximum period of 1 year during which he shall be subject to military laws and regulations. He shall not be entitled to void his enlistment contract except for reasons approved by the army command.

4. If a soldier under training is not confirmed by the recruit confirmation committee, he shall be discharged without any compensation. But if the 1-year period lapses without the committee examining his case, he shall be considered confirmed by law and the period he has spent as a soldier under training shall be calculated as part of his service for the purpose of retirement, provided that retirement deductions are taken from the salary for the period.

5. If a soldier under training suffers from an accident or develops an ailment unrelated to the service, he shall be discharged after being treated for 3 months. If the accident or the ailment emanates from the service, he shall be subject to the provisions governing disability.

Article 32. The enlistment and appointment of specialized enlisted men, technicians and technologists:

1. The types and cadres of specialists, technicians and technologists for the various categories and ranks, the requirements for their enlistment and appointment, their training, their salaries, their compensation, the requirements for their promotion, the termination of their service and their earned

rights, such as retirement and severance compensation, shall be defined in a decree issued by the Council of Ministers on the recommendation of the minister of national defense with the finalization of the army commander and after consultation with the Consultative State Council.

Article 33:

1. Any other provision notwithstanding, the enlistment contract for specialized air force cadets shall be for a period of 15 years, including the study period, with the rank of officer.
2. The minister of national defense may, on the recommendation of the army commander, cancel the enlistment contract of the cadets mentioned in the first paragraph of this article who are proven to be unfit for service in the air force.
3. The cadets mentioned in the above paragraph shall be given the option of being discharged from service in the army or of continuing the service in other branches compatible with their qualifications. In the latter case, the enlistment contract shall be voided and a new enlistment contract shall be organized for the cadets in accordance with the provisions of article 31 of this legislative decree.

Article 34. Enrollment in the military institutes:

Any other provision notwithstanding, the requirements for the enrollment and appointment of students, including cadets, in the military institutes and their actual enrollment and appointment shall be stated in decrees issued by the minister of national defense on the recommendation of the army commander.

Article 35. Appointment of Officers:

1. Officers shall be appointed by decree issued on the recommendation of the minister of national defense.
2. Lieutenants shall be appointed from among:
 - A. Students of the War College who have acquired the degree qualifying them for the rank of lieutenant after their final examinations.
 - B. Cadets and cadets, first class, after passing a qualification examination for the rank of lieutenant in their specialization.
 - C. Warrant officers and warrant officers, first class, after passing a qualification examination for the rank of lieutenant in their specialization. This shall be for an interim period ending on 1 July 1984.

Chapter Two

Order of Ranks and Right of Command

Article 36. Order of ranks of Rank and File and Noncommissioned officers;

1. Rank and file: Private, private first class, lance corporal and corporal.
2. Noncommissioned officers: Sergeant, first sergeant, staff sergeant, warrant officer, cadet and cadet first class.

Article 37. Right of command for noncommissioned officers and rank and file.

1. Each noncommissioned officer shall have the right of command over those below him in rank. If the rank is equal, the right of command shall belong to the noncommissioned officer with seniority in the rank. If seniority in the rank is equal, the right of command shall belong to the noncommissioned officer with the seniority in the preceding rank. If seniority in promotion to the rank of corporal is equal, the right of command shall belong to the corporal with seniority in promotion to the rank of lance corporal.
2. A corporal shall have the right of command over privates, first class, privates and corporals over whom he has seniority in the rank. In case of equal seniority, then the right of command shall belong to the corporal promoted to the rank of private, first class, ahead of the others. Else, the right of command shall belong to the corporal with seniority in the service.
3. When the rank of reserves and enlisted men is equal, the right of command shall belong to the corporal with seniority in active service in the rank.

Article 38. Order of Ranks for Officers:

The order of ranks for the officers shall be as follows:

1. Support officers: Lieutenant, first lieutenant and captain.
2. Command officers: Major, lieutenant colonel and colonel.
3. General officers: Brigadier general, major general and general. The rank of general shall be reserved for the army commander solely.

Article 39. Officers' right of command:

1. Each officer shall have the right of command over those below him in rank.
2. When the rank is equal, the right of command shall belong to the officer with seniority in the rank. When seniority in the rank is equal, the order of names in the decree for promotion to the rank shall be used as the basis.
3. When both rank and seniority are equal for enlisted officers and reserve officers summoned to resume the service, the right of command shall belong to the officer with longer seniority in active service in the rank.

Chapter Three

Promotion

Article 40. Promotion is the upward movement from one rank to another.

Article 41. Promotion of noncommissioned officers and enlisted men:

1. A private may not be promoted to the rank of private, first class, before completing 1 year in the service. The ratio of privates, first class, may not exceed 25 percent the basic number of privates and privates, first class.
2. Promotion to the rank of lance corporal may not take place before the completion of 2 years in the service.
3. A lance corporal may not be promoted to the rank of corporal before completing 1 year in the service with the rank of lance corporal. The ratio of corporals may not exceed 25 percent the basic [total] number of lance corporals and corporals.
4. Promotion to the ranks of sergeant through cadet, first class, may not take place unless the candidate has spent 2 years in the preceding rank provided that seniority in the service for both lance corporal and corporal be counted for the purpose of promotion to the rank of sergeant.
5. Noncommissioned officers and the rank and file may not be promoted unless they meet the legal requirements specified in special bylaws issued on a decision by the army commander.
6. The immediate superiors shall prepare promotions lists for noncommissioned officers and enlisted men and the lists shall be presented upward according to the chain of command to the army commander for a decision.
7. The promotion of enlisted men and noncommissioned officers shall take place by selection and on a decision by the army commander.
8. Excluded from the provisions of this article shall be the War College cadets and the students of the Noncommissioned Officers School who shall be subject in their promotion to the special regulations governing each of these two institutes.
9. The promotion regulations notwithstanding, noncommissioned officers and enlisted men shall, even if they have reached the legal retirement age, be given special promotions if it is proven that they have performed brilliant acts during military operations, in operations to maintain security or in internal armed clashes. Such promotion shall be awarded on a decision by the minister of national defense upon the recommendation of the army commander. Any other provisions notwithstanding, the army commander shall be empowered to promote to a higher rank of noncommissioned officer or an enlisted man martyred under any of the abovementioned circumstances. The volunteer shall be considered as having been martyred in the rank to which he is promoted.
10. A Cadet, first class, shall be given a special promotion to the rank of lieutenant in any of the cases specified in the above provision 9. This shall be done in accordance with the rules governing the promotion of officers.

11. Noncommissioned officers and enlisted men may not be promoted after being retired for reaching the legal age unless they are summoned to resume the service or unless they perform outstanding acts of valor. In this case, they shall benefit from the legal age set for the new rank.

Article 42. Promotion of Officers:

1. Officers shall be promoted within the limits of vacant positions and of the appropriations allocated in the budget, provided that the name of the candidate is included in the promotion list. As for the War College and the other army schools for specialists and technicians, they shall be subject in their promotions to their special regulations which are issued on a decision by the minister of national defense upon the recommendation of the army commander, provided that the promotion in these institutes does not exceed the rank of first sergeant in the ground forces corps and the rank of cadet, first class, in the air and naval forces and provided that the candidate for promotion has completed the 3d year of his studies if the study period exceeds 3 years.

2. The period spent in the rank of warrant officer shall be calculated, in accordance with the stipulations of provisions 1 of this article, as seniority in the rank of lieutenant for the purpose of promotion and of collecting the differential in salary. As for the period spent in (years of study) after promotion to the rank of cadet, first class, it shall not be calculated for the purpose of seniority in the rank of officer or for collecting a salary differential.

3. In selecting the candidate for promotion, his seniority in the rank and in the service, his qualifications, his general, occupational and behavioral abilities and the evaluation of his superiors shall be taken into consideration.

4. The promotion of officers shall be issued in a decree on the recommendation of the minister of national defense.

5. The names of the candidates shall be arranged in the promotion list according to the order of their seniority in the rank and the promotion itself shall be given according to this order. But in arranging the order of names on the promotion list, priority may be given to those distinguished by their services.

Article 43. A lieutenant shall be promoted to the rank of first lieutenant:

By selection after 3 years in the rank.

By seniority after 4 years in the rank.

Article 44:

1. Promotion to the rank of captain, colonel or major general shall take place by selection after the candidate spends at least 4 years in the rank immediately below by 31 December of the nomination year.

2. Promotion to the rank of major, lieutenant colonel and brigadier general shall take place by selection after the candidate spends at least 5 years in the rank immediately below by 31 December of the nomination year.

Article 45:

1. Promotion from the rank of captain to the rank of major and from the rank of lieutenant colonel to the rank of colonel shall not take place unless the candidate passes an examination at the end of a training course. This examination shall be known as the promotion qualification [exam]. In case a candidate fails the said examination twice, he shall, by law, be retired with the rank immediately above his rank with a seniority of 1 year in this rank for the purpose of calculating his pension salary.

2. In case an officer is not promoted to the rank of lieutenant colonel through the rank of major general after three consecutive nominations, he may be retired upon his request. The retiree's rights shall be then calculated on the basis of the salary he is entitled to if he were promoted to the rank immediately above the rank he holds and the step immediately above the step he has. He shall benefit from retirement compensation and benefits due the rank on whose basis his rights are settled.

3. In case an officer is not promoted to the rank of lieutenant colonel through the rank of major general after four consecutive nominations, he shall be retired by law and his rights shall be settled on the basis of the salary to which he would be entitled if he were promoted to the rank immediately above his rank, with a year added to his seniority for the purpose of determining the base of his new salary. He shall also benefit from retirement compensation and benefits due the rank on whose basis his rights are settled.

4. Any officer with the rank of major general who has spent 7 years in this rank shall be retired by law.

5. The pension salary or the severance pay to which the retired officer is entitled shall be paid in accordance with paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 regardless of the officer's seniority in the service.

6. Paragraphs 2 and 3 of this article shall be applied as of 1 January 1984.

Article 46. The ratio of officers promoted from the ranks of the noncommissioned officers to the total number of officers set in the army cadre, stipulated in article 21 of this legislative decree, shall be defined in a decree issued on the recommendation of the minister of national defense and the approval of the army commander.

Article 47. Giving seniority for promotion:

1. An officer may be given for the purpose of promotion a seniority ranging from 3 months to 2 years in appreciation for outstanding acts performed during military operations, operations to maintain security or internal armed clashes.

2. Seniority for promotion shall be given in accordance with a decree issued on the recommendation of the minister of national defense upon the finalization of the army commander and the approval of the Military Council.

Article 48. Rules for Promotion of Officers:

1. Officers shall be nominated for promotion once a year during the month of November.

The nomination list must include all the officers meeting the nomination requirements.

2. Excluded from the stipulations of provision 1 of this article shall be the students of military schools and other schools for specialists, technicians and lieutenants nominated for promotion to the rank of first lieutenant. Students shall be promoted to the rank of lieutenant in accordance with the regulations of their institutes and to the rank of first lieutenant in accordance with the provisions of article 43 of this legislative decree.

3. Before 1 December of each year, the army commander shall present to the minister of national defense draft decisions with the names of the officers listed for promotion to the rank of colonel.

4. During the month of December of each year, the minister of national defense shall issue and circulate a decision with the names of the officers listed for promotion to the rank of colonel in accordance with the draft decisions mentioned in provision 3 of this article.

5. During the month of December of each year, the minister of national defense shall issue and circulate a decree with the names of officers listed for promotion to the rank of major general in accordance with the draft decisions mentioned in paragraph B of article 27 of this legislative decree.

6. The decrees promoting officers to the rank of captain through the rank of major general shall be issued on 1 December and 1 July of each year. The names of the officers shall be arranged in these decrees according to military ranks, taking into consideration the stipulations of paragraph 5 of article 42 of this legislative decree.

7. Officers may not be promoted after being retired for reaching the legal age unless they are recalled to the service and unless they perform outstanding acts of valor. In this case, they shall benefit from the legal age set for the new rank.

8. Any other provision notwithstanding, an officer martyred during operations to maintain security or in internal armed clashes shall be promoted to a higher rank and shall be considered as martyred in the rank to which he is promoted.

Chapter Four

Promotions

Article 49:

1. The periods for commands and for bureaucratic jobs shall be set at 3 years renewable for 1 year in special cases. The army command shall take this principle into consideration when issuing its appointments.
2. Excluded from the stipulation of provision 1 of this article shall be:
 - A. The general in command of the army.
 - B. The chief of staff.
 - C. Specialists, technicians and technologists whose categories are defined in accordance with a decision by the minister of national defense.
3. The military job may not be combined with any ministerial position. If a volunteer is assigned a ministerial post, his right to return to his [military] position upon the end of his term in the ministry may be retained.
4. Appointments to and from the general secretariat of the Higher Defense Council, the General Inspectorate, the General Directorate for Administrative Control and the Military Chamber at the office of the minister of national defense shall be made on a decision by the minister on the recommendation of the army commander. Appointments to the other military positions shall be made on a decision by the army commander based on the approval of the Chief of Staff, excluding the appointments specified in paragraph D of article 27 of this legislative decree.
5. Appointments from and to the general secretariat of the Higher Defense Council shall be subject to the approval of the deputy chairman of the Higher Defense Council.

Chapter Five

Positions of Volunteers

Article 50. The officer's rank is his property and he shall not lose it or be stripped of it except in the cases stated in the law.

Article 51. An officer shall be in one of the following positions:

1. Active service: This is the position of an officer performing his job, an officer who is sick at home or in a hospital and an officer absent on permission, on leave, on a mission or in captivity.
2. Separation from the service: This is the position of an officer removed from his job temporarily or finally for a disciplinary reason.

3. Disability: An officer shall be considered on disability when he cannot perform his duty for health reasons in accordance with a decision by the medical investigation committee. The disability may be temporary or final.

4. Resignation: It is the position whereby the officer ends his service at his written request and with the approval of his resignation by a decree.

5. Retirement: An officer shall be considered retired:

1. When discharged from the service upon his request after completing at least 25 years in the service, including the period spent in the position of temporary disability.

B. When discharged for reaching the legal age, provided that his service is for no less than 25 years.

Article 52. The status of the officer in any of these positions shall be determined by a decree issued on the recommendation of the minister of national defense.

Article 53. An officer in the status of temporary separation from the service or the status of temporary disability shall be considered a part of his cadre. The minister of national defense may, on the recommendation of the army commander, recall him if the interest of the service dictates such a recall or if improvement develops in the officer's conduct or health.

Article 54. The actual discharge age and settlement of pension pay:

1. The age recorded in the first enlistment contract on the basis of the identity papers shown to the enlistment committee which approved the (authenticity of the papers) shall be considered the actual age [basis] for discharge from the service and settling the pension salary.

2. The actual age for the volunteers who were in the service on 19 January 1955 shall be considered the age recorded in accordance with the 1932 census and what followed, including the amendments introduced to the census prior to 1 August 1945 in accordance with the laws in force, provided that the Ministry of National Defense was notified of the amendments within a maximum of 1 year of the date of their issuance. No amendment or recommendation made following this date shall be taken into consideration, regardless of whether issued by the arbitral judiciary or the litigative judiciary.

3. Age shall be calculated as of the day of birth recorded in the civil identity card. If the date of birth is unknown, a military man shall be considered as having been born on 1 January of the year affixed to his birth certificate.

4. In calculating pension and severance pay, the services performed by the volunteers while they were under the legal age shall be counted if the services were performed between 2 September 1939 and 21 July 1945.

Article 55. Postponement of discharge:

The discharging of a volunteer shall be postponed, even if he reaches the legal age, in the following cases:

1. Undetermined disability. In this case, he shall remain in his previous capacity until the medical committee issues its decisions.
2. By decree of the minister of national defense issued upon the recommendation of the army commander in cases of war, of declaration of a state of emergency or when the army is assigned to maintain security.

Article 56. Discharge of officers.

While taking the provisions of article 55 of this legislative decree into consideration, an officer shall be discharged by law upon reaching the legal age or serving for the number of years specified below:

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Level Age</u>	<u>Maximum Active Service</u>
Lieutenant	50	34
First lieutenant	51	35
Captain	52	36
Major	53	37
Lieutenant colonel	54	38
Colonel	56	40
Brigadier general	58	42
Major general	59	43
General	59	43

Article 57. Discharge of noncommissioned officers and enlisted men:

While taking into consideration the provisions of article 55 of this legislative decree, noncommissioned officers and enlisted men shall be discharged by the army commander in the following cases:

1. By law: When they reach the legal age, which is:
 - A. For noncommissioned officers: 48 years.
 - B. For enlisted men: 45 years.
2. Upon recommendation: When completing the legal period that entitles them to a pension salary, namely 18 years.

This period may be reduced to 15 years for who are in the service on the date on which this legislative decree goes into force in case they have reached the legal age before completing 18 years in the service.

3. At their request: Upon completing their enlistment contract and not wishing to renew it.

4. For health reasons: If their health condition does not permit them to continue service. This shall be done on a decision by the medical investigation committee.

5. Upon completion of the enlistment contract if the army commander does not agree to renew it.

6. By expulsion:

A. If a court sentence is issued against them calling for expulsion.

B. For disciplinary reasons in accordance with a decision issued by the minister of national defense and based on the opinion of the investigation committee stipulated in article 65 of this legislative decree.

Chapter Six

General Discipline

Article 58. Prohibited Activities:

The military in the active service shall, under the penalty of the laws and regulations in force, be prohibited from:

1. Belonging to parties, unions and associations.
2. Attending political, partisan or unionist meetings.
3. Publishing articles, giving lectures or making statements to the media before obtaining prior permission from the minister of national defense.
4. Engaging in any hired activity for pay outside the Ministry of National Defense.
5. Staging work strikes or instigating for them.
6. Organizing or signing collective petitions on any issue whatsoever.
7. Engaging in activities that violate public morals and ethics.

Article 59. Awards:

The awards shall be defined as follows:

1. Verbal congratulations.
2. Written congratulations.
3. Award leave.
4. Financial awards (for noncommissioned officers and enlisted men).

5. Commendation.
6. Medals.
7. Granting seniority for the purpose of promotion in accordance with article 47 of this legislative decree.
8. Special promotion in accordance with articles 47 and 48 of this legislative decree.

Article 60. Leave:

1. Volunteers shall be given a 30-day leave with full pay for every year they spend in the service. This leave may be increased in special cases to 45 days with full pay by the army commander as a reward for distinguished service.
2. Volunteers shall be given a special leave with full pay for a period of 7 days in case of the death of a parent, a child, a brother or a sister and for 4 days for other family reasons.
3. A volunteer may, upon his request, be given leave without pay for a period of 3 months renewable only once and counted as separation from the service.
4. The leave duration may be reduced or cancelled for those whose service is unsatisfactory.

Article 61. Volunteers violating military laws and regulations shall, in addition to the penalties imposed on them by military courts, be subject to disciplinary penalties. The volunteer shall not be prosecuted legally if the offense is exempted by the minister of national defense on the recommendation of the army commander.

Article 62. The disciplinary penalties are:

1. Verbal notice.
2. Written notice.
3. Reprimand.
4. Confinement for a maximum period of 15 days.
5. Reduction or cancellation of leave.
6. Detention for a maximum period of 60 days.
7. Detention for a maximum period of 60 days with salary deduction.
8. Detention in stockade for a maximum period of 60 days.
9. Disciplinary transfer.

10. Dispatch to the disciplinary detachments.
11. Delay of promotion.
12. Elimination from the promotion list.
13. Temporary separation from the service.
14. Final separation from the service.
15. Disciplinary retirement.
16. Demotion.
17. Loss of rank.
18. Disciplinary discharge.
19. Total or partial financial penalty for the loss or destruction of equipment.

Article 63. The decree concerning the general discipline statute for volunteers shall take the following rules into consideration:

1. The penalties specified in paragraphs 11, 12, 15, 16, 17 and 18 of the above article 62 shall apply to noncommissioned officers and enlisted men in accordance with a decree issued by the minister of national defense with the approval of the Military Council, based on the investigation committee's report.
2. The penalties specified in paragraphs 13-18 of article 62 shall be applied to officers in accordance with a decree issued on the recommendation of the minister of national defense, based on the decision of the Disciplinary Council.

Article 64. The salary deductions made because of penalties shall revert to the treasury as revenues.

Article 65. Investigation committee:

The minister of national defense shall, on a decree he issues upon the recommendation of the Military Council, appoint at the beginning of each year a committee comprised of three officers and called the Investigation Committee.

Article 66:

1. The Disciplinary Council shall be formed, on a decree issued upon the recommendation of the minister of national defense, of two members with the rank of colonel and above. It shall be headed by a warrant officer and the government shall be represented in it by an officer called the government commissioner in the Disciplinary Council.
2. The Disciplinary Council shall examine flagrant behavioral violations whose penalties are specified in the second paragraph of the above article 63.

3. The Disciplinary Council shall issue decisions of a judicial nature that are subject to appeal to the Military Court of Cassation within a period of 15 days as of the date of notification.

4. The method of the referral of a case to the Disciplinary Council and the rules of litigation before the council shall be defined by a decree issued by the Council of Ministers after consultation with the State Consultative Council.

Chapter Seven

Training

Article 67:

1. The type and rules of training inside the country shall be defined by the army commander in accordance with standing directives within the following framework:

A. Basic training for all the military upon their enlistment.

B. Complementary training in each specialization.

2. The type of academic and training courses abroad and the requirements of selection to such courses shall be determined by the minister of national defense upon the recommendation of the army commander and according to the army's needs.

3. The nomination of officers for higher academic courses abroad (higher staff, military supervisory and similar courses) shall be subject to an examination whose rules and requirements are set at the beginning of each year by the minister of national defense on the recommendation of the army commander.

Section Three

Administration and Accounting

Chapter One

Medical Care and Treatment

Article 68. The following shall benefit from free medical care and treatment:

1. The military, including retired military who are entitled to a pension salary but who have collected severance pay, along with the members of their families they still support.

2. The families of volunteers martyred in the service or deceased while in or because of the service, regardless of the duration of their service.

3. The families of volunteers who die as a result of a sickness or an accident not related to the service, provided that they have spent in the service the number of years that entitle them to a pension.

4. Each member of the families noted in the above paragraphs 2 and 3 must meet the conditions established legally for entitlement to pension pay.

5. Volunteers whom it has been decided to place on final disability for health reasons attributed to the service, provided that treatment include only the cases resulting from wounds and ailments that dictated the status of disability.

Chapter Two

Salaries and Compensation for Various Positions of Volunteers

Article 69:

1. The salaries of the volunteers are set by the laws in force.

As for compensation, it shall be set in accordance with a decree issued by the Council of Ministers.

2. The manner of the payment and settlement of salaries, compensation and benefits shall be defined in directives issued by the minister of national defense at the recommendation of the army commander.

Article 70. Active service: The volunteer shall collect his full salary and the compensation and benefits complementing the salary.

Article 71. Recuperation: The volunteer shall collect the active service pay for a maximum period of 3 months.

Article 72. Disability:

1. Temporary disability: Disability for 1 year renewable for another year.

A. Disability attributed to the service: The volunteer shall collect active duty pay and full compensation and benefits complementing it.

B. Disability not attributed to the service: The volunteer shall collect one-half the salary and full compensation and benefits complementing it.

C. This salary shall be subject to retirement deductions for the entire salary, to income tax deductions and revenue stamps for the salary collected.

2. Final disability: The volunteer's retirement rights or severance pay shall be settled in accordance with the provisions of this legislative decree.

Article 73: Separation from the service (for officers only):

1. Temporary separation (for a maximum period of 2 years):

The officer shall collect one-third the salary and full compensation and benefits complementing the salary. This salary shall not be subject to retirement deductions but is subject to income tax and revenue stamp deductions.

Final separation from the service: The officer's retirement rights or severance pay shall be settled in accordance with the provisions of this legislative decree.

Article 74. Absence:

1. Legitimate absence: It is the absence resulting from uncontrollable conditions for a period of 1 year during which the absentee shall collect his salary. After the lapse of the year, it shall be up to the Council of Ministers to decide the absentee's status on the recommendation of the minister of national defense.

2. Illegal absence: The volunteer's salary shall be suspended as of the beginning of the month following his absence and until the date (on which he is brought back, if he does not return voluntarily).

Article 75. Missing:

If a volunteer is missing during the [period of] service or because of it and if no news is received as to whether he is dead or alive, the beneficiary shall collect the full salary for a period of 2 years.

On a decree issued upon the recommendation of the minister of national defense, this period may be renewed up to 10 years maximum.

Article 76. Resignation:

The volunteer shall be paid severance pay or retirement. If he is not entitled to retirement, he shall be repaid the retirement deductions taken out of his salary.

Article 77. Retirement:

The volunteer shall collect his dues in accordance with the provisions of this legislative decree.

Article 78. Compensations during a state of emergency or of war:

In case a state of emergency or of war is declared, the volunteer shall be paid a compensation [allowance] equal to the pay of 1 month, as well as full compensation and benefits complementing the salary:

1. Every time a general state of emergency or state of war is declared. This paragraph shall apply to all volunteers in active service in the Lebanese territories.

2. Every time a partial state of emergency is declared in a certain district, compensation shall be paid to the volunteers present in this area.

3. The same compensation shall be paid to the reserves resuming their service 1 month after resumption of the service.

4. The same compensation shall be paid to civilians and volunteers working in the Ministry of National Defense in case they are kept in their positions because they are needed.

Chapter Three

Retirement Salaries and Severance Pay

Article 79. Calculation of the retirement salary:

The retirement salary shall be settled on the basis of one out of 45 parts of the salary of the final month in the service subject to retirement deductions for each year of service.

However, an officer retired by law before 1970 for reaching the legal age and a noncommissioned officer who has served 28 years or more without reaching the top salary [of their rank] shall have their retirement dues settled on the basis of the salary immediately above their salary upon their retirement. If an officer or a noncommissioned officer is retired without having completed a full year in the top step of his rank, his retirement dues shall be settled on the basis of the salary subject to tax deductions in the final month of his service.

Only those discharged between 29 June 1963 and 1 January 1970 shall benefit from the stipulations of the second paragraph of this article.

Article 80. Elements of retirement salary and severance pay:

1. The following elements shall be included in calculating the retirement salary or the severance pay: The number of years in active service, benefits and additions.

2. The supplements added to the years of active service are:

A. Double the duration of the active service performed in an area of military operations during war or in first degree operations to maintain security during the time of war or of peace.

B. Double the period of active services performed outside the area of military operations during war and during second degree operations to maintain security in times of war and peace.

C. One-half the period of active services performed in the frontlines during a truce or during third degree operations to maintain security in times of peace and war.

D. An addition equalling 3 days for every hour of military flight by the air force military and by air force cadets, provided that the total of these additions does not exceed 18 months for every year of active service. Only one-half of this addition will be calculated when collecting severance pay.

The additions specified in paragraph D shall be calculated in full for the purpose of settling the pension salary within the maximum limit set in article 82 of this legislative decree. Only one-half the additions shall be calculated when calculating severance pay.

E. An addition equalling 3 months for every year of active service in time of peace on a naval unit in Lebanon or abroad.

F. An addition for specialized officers equalling the number of years spent in academic studies and specialized studies paid for by the officers themselves.

[G is missing]

H. Disability benefits which shall be given to volunteers who have gained the right to a pension if it is proven upon their retirement that their disability is the result of a wound or a sickness attributed to the service or aggravated because of it. These additions shall be calculated as follows:

One year if the degree of disability is 10 percent to 19 percent.

Two years if the degree of disability is 20-39 percent.

Three years if the disability is 40-59 percent.

Four years if the disability is 60-69 percent.

Five years if the disability is 70-79 percent.

Six years if the degree of disability is 80-89 percent.

Seven years if the disability is 90 percent or more.

3. The supplements and additions specified in provision 2 of this article shall not entitle the volunteer to a pension salary if he has not completed the minimum period set in this legislative decree while on active duty. However, the supplements and additions shall be included in calculating the severance pay, excluding the additions specified in paragraphs F, G and H which shall be included in calculating retirement only.

4. The supplements and additions shall be calculated in months only. Fractions of months, after adding up the supplements and additions to the actual services, shall be discarded. Moreover, supplements and additions exceeding 24 months per year shall also be discounted.

5. The zones, circumstances and cases entitling the volunteer to military supplements shall be determined in a decree issued on the recommendation of the minister of national defense.

Article 81. Addition of previous services:

1. The active service performed by any Lebanese military man who was under arms by 2 October 1950 in any of the armies or military organizations specified below shall be calculated for the purpose of retirement at the salary of the rank which the military individual concerned held then. The armies and military organizations concerned are:

A. The gendarmerie and the other military organizations of the countries which were under the French mandate.

B. The organizations and regular armies of the allies during the 1939-45 war.

C. These services shall be calculated only if retirement deductions were paid for them and if the military concerned was under arms on 20 June 1963.

These retirement deductions shall be calculated on the basis of the special salaries of the regional armies. As for the military supplements complementing the salary, they shall be included in the pension salary and the severance pay.

2. If a volunteer is reinstated in active service, he shall be entitled to demand the inclusion of his previous services in the calculation of his retirement salary or of his severance pay, provided that he submits a request to the effect within a maximum period of 3 months after his reinstatement in the service and that he repay the treasury the sums he collected in accordance with the provisions of this legislative decree in the following manner:

A. By deducting 15 percent of the volunteer's salary which is subject to retirement deductions if he is recalled to the service.

B. In one payment or in monthly installments over the period of the volunteer's new contract if the volunteer requests to resume his service.

3. If the volunteer is discharged anew, the following steps shall be taken:

A. If he is discharged for health reasons unrelated to the service or upon his request before the installments are paid in full, he shall be given a severance pay instead of a pension and the balance of the debt he owes shall be deducted.

B. If he is discharged by expulsion before payment of the installments in full, one-half the installments paid shall be returned to him and his dues shall be settled on the basis of his new service.

C. If he is discharged for health reasons related to the service and if he collects a pension salary, then the 15 percent shall continue to be deducted from his pension salary until full payment is made. If he collects the severance pay, the balance of the debt he owes shall be deducted.

4. If the volunteer is deceased during the service for any reason whatsoever, the stipulations of paragraph C of provisions 3 of this article shall be applied to his heirs.

Article 82. Maximum limits of pension salary:

1. The pension salaries by seniority shall be allocated within the following limits:

A. Eighty-five percent of the salary of the last month subject to retirement deductions in the service.

B. Ninety percent of the salary of the last month subject to retirement deductions in the service for actual services, including the war supplements stipulated in article 80 of this legislative decree.

C. One hundred percent of the salary of the final month subject to retirement deductions in the service for the actual services, including the war supplements and the disability additions related to the service and stipulated in paragraph H of provision 2 of article 80 of this legislative decree.

D. Excluding the disability pensions allocated in accordance with article 86 of this legislative decree, the disability pension may not exceed 100 percent the salary of the final month (in the active service).

E. A volunteer whose services have exceeded a total of 40 years, including the war supplements, shall be given in addition to his pension salary a severance pay equal to a salary of 2 months, subject to retirement deductions, for every year exceeding the 40-year limit, regardless of whether the excess is the result of active service or of supplements.

But if the disability additions noted in paragraph H of article 80 of this legislative decree are included in calculating the volunteer's services, then he shall not be entitled to the abovementioned severance pay except for every year beyond a 45-year period, regardless of whether in active service or as a result of supplements and additions.

2. Officers who have been retired and who will be retired shall, regardless of their rank, enjoy the rights specified in the chart for as long as they live.

3. The above provisions 2 shall go into effect as of the date on which this legislative decree goes into effect but shall have no retroactive effect.

4. The rights of officers benefiting from the stipulations of the above provision 2 shall be defined in the retirement committee's protocol and shall be dispensed to the officers in accordance with the rules observed in the dispensation of pension salaries.

Article 83. Amendment of the pension salary:

1. The pension salary may not be amended unless the retiree performs new services for at least a continuous and uninterrupted period of 1 year. The periods of compulsory training to which the reserves are recalled shall not be calculated for the purpose of pension amendment unless they exceed an uninterrupted period of 30 days.

2. The pension salary shall not be added to the active service salary or to its equivalent except for reserves summoned within the framework of articles 137 and 138 of the legislative decree.

3. The salary of a volunteer retired after 1 July 1974 may not be less than that of a volunteer retired before this date and benefiting from the provisions of law No 40/64, issued on 17 December 1964, if the latter is equal in seniority and rank or lower in either.

Article 84. Right to choose pension salary or severance pay:

1. Every officer discharged after gaining the right to demand a pension salary and who has spent at least 25 years in active service shall be entitled to demand within a period of 1 month after being discharged that the pension salary be replaced by the severance pay specified in article 91 of this legislative decree.

2. Any volunteer who is not an officer and who is discharged after becoming eligible for pension shall be paid this salary and shall not have the right to demand replacement of this salary by severance pay unless he is retired for reaching the legal age.

3. A volunteer who joins a state agency after being discharged shall not collect the severance pay or a pension salary. The period he has spent in the Ministry of National Defense shall be added to his subsequent service in the state.

Article 85. Types of disability pension:

1. The disability pension shall be paid to volunteers retired finally for health reasons resulting from maladies or wounds related to the service.

2. The disability pension shall be:

A. Temporary when the malady is incurable and the degree of disability is likely to increase or diminish.

B. Final when the malady is incurable and the degree of disability is determined finally within a period of 4 years of the date of discharge.

Article 86. Disability pensions and severance pay for volunteers discharged finally for health reasons shall be calculated as follows, depending on the degree of disability:

1. If the volunteer, regardless of his seniority in the service, is discharged because of an infirmity, diseases or wounds sustained in any of the following cases:

During an armed clash with an enemy, with bands or with groups undermining security;

In the wake of an attack to which he is subjected while performing his duty;

As a result of performing a spontaneous act to save the life of others;

He shall collect a disability pension equalling:

A. Sixty percent of the salary of the final month subject to retirement deductions if the degree of disability is 30-49 percent.

B. Eighty-five percent of the salary of the final month subject to retirement deductions if the degree of disability is 50-74 percent.

C. Seventy-five percent of the salary subject to retirement deductions and allocated for the top step of the rank immediately above his rank, including the steps beyond the limit, if the degree of disability is 75 percent or more. It should be noted that the pension allocated for a corporal shall be calculated on the basis of the rank of sergeant and that allocated for a cadet, first class, shall be calculated on the basis of the rank of lieutenant, provided that the salary of the rank above his rank exceeds by at least one step the salary due his rank.

D. Thirty percent of the salary of the final month that is subject to retirement deductions if the degree of disability is 20-29 percent.

E. If the degree of disability is less than 20 percent, then the volunteer discharged shall collect his severance pay plus 100 percent the equivalent of this pay.

2. If the volunteer, regardless of his seniority in the service, is discharged because of an infirmity or a disability resulting from diseases, wounds or accidents caused by the service in cases other than those specified in the first provision of this article, he shall collect a disability pension equalling:

A. One-third the salary of the final month subject to retirement deductions if the degree of disability is 30-49 percent.

B. One-half the salary of the final month subject to retirement deductions if the degree of disability is 50-74 percent.

C. Seventy-five percent the salary of the final month subject to retirement deductions if the degree of disability is more than 75 percent.

D. One-fourth the final month subject to retirement deductions if the degree of disability is 20-29 percent.

E. If the degree of disability is less than 20 percent, he shall collect severance pay plus 75 percent the equivalent of this pay.

3. If the volunteer is discharged because of an accident or a sickness unrelated to the service but aggravated because of it, his rights shall be calculated in the following manner:

A. If he has completed 15 years in the service, he shall be paid a pension salary on the basis of his services, including the 50 percent additions for disability specified in article 80 of this legislative decree.

B. If he has not completed 15 years in the service, he shall be given the severance pay due him plus 30 percent of this pay.

4. If the volunteer has completed 15 years, he shall be retired and shall benefit from the additions specified in article 80 of this legislative decree, depending on the degree of disability.

5. If the volunteer's dues after calculation in accordance with provisions 1, 2 and 3 of this article are different from his dues in accordance with provision 4 of this article, he shall be paid the bigger dues.

Article 87. Determination of temporary disability pension:

1. The temporary disability pension pay for all volunteers of various ranks shall be set for a period of 2 years, renewable once after a medical examination. The temporary pension salary shall be reviewed for the purpose of being raised or reduced at the end of each period if a change of no less than 10 percent develops in the disability.

In no case may the temporary disability pension be increased if the increase in the degree of disability results from factors other than the main cause of disability, such as old age, overexertion, immoderation, misconduct and so forth.

2. The disability pension shall be cancelled when the disability disappears or drops to a degree that does not entitle the volunteer to demand this pension. In this case, the following steps shall be taken:

A. The monies collected by the volunteer while on temporary disability shall be kept as a gained right.

B. In case the volunteer meets the requirements of fitness for military service, the authority concerned shall be empowered to reinstate him in the active service either to complete his previous contract which was suspended because of his disability or in accordance with a new contract.

C. The dues of the individual concerned (pension-severance pay) shall be calculated upon his final discharge in accordance with the laws in force and on the basis of the services completed.

D. In case he does not resume the service, the individual concerned shall be entitled to demand the severance pay or the retirement deductions in accordance with the laws in force as of the date on which his temporary disability pension is cancelled for all his services prior to the temporary disability, taking into consideration the remaining degree of disability.

E. The time the volunteer spends retired because of temporary disability shall not be considered as active service.

F. The agency authorizing payment of the temporary disability pension shall be the agency authorizing its cancellations for the reasons specified in the first provision of this article.

Article 88. Insanity, blindness and paralysis:

If a volunteer develops insanity after completing 5 or more years in the service, he shall collect a disability pension equalling one-half the salary of the final month subject to retirement deductions and the full family allowance. He shall collect an equal pension pay, regardless of the duration of his service, if he develops under circumstances unrelated to the service general paralysis, complete blindness, poor eyesight that poses the threat of complete blindness within 4 years of sustaining the injury or any similar infirmities under which the individual afflicted cannot manage his own affairs, provided that these infirmities be determined by the medical investigation committee.

Article 89. Right to choose bigger pension:

If the volunteer is entitled to the right of temporary or final disability pension and if his services entitle him to a retirement pension, he shall benefit from the bigger of the two pensions.

Article 90. Payment of allowances to retirees:

Military retirees shall collect family benefits stipulated in the laws in force.

Article 91. The right to severance pay or to retirement deductions shall arise as follows:

1. Every noncommissioned officer or private discharged from the service in accordance with the stipulations of paragraph 3 of article 57 of this legislative decree before gaining the right to demand a pension pay shall be subject to the following rules:

A. The retirement deductions taken out of his salary shall be returned to him if his active service is less than 10 years.

B. He shall be paid severance pay if his service is 10 or more years.

2. Every noncommissioned officer and private discharged from the service in accordance with the stipulations of provisions 4 and 5 of article 57 of this legislative decree shall be given severance pay, regardless of seniority in the service.

However, if he is discharged in accordance with the stipulations of provision 6 of the abovementioned article, he shall be paid only one-half his dues.

3. Every officer discharged before gaining the right to demand a pension salary shall be subject to the following rules:

A. He shall be given severance pay:

If he is discharged from the service finally in accordance with the stipulations of articles 51 and 53 of this legislative decree, except in the case of resignation, even if he has not completed 10 years in the service.

If he is an air force officer discharged from the service upon his request, provided that he has completed 12 years active service, of which at least 8 years are spent as a flight officer licensed in air force operations.

If he is a specialized officer discharged from the service upon his written request in accordance with the rules and regulations in force in the army for a minimum period of 5 years.

B. Severance pay and an additional sum of 5,000 Lebanese pounds shall be paid to:

An air force officer discharged with severance pay, provided that his active service has not reached 15 years and that a period of 18 months has lapsed since his return from an academic course abroad.

C. He shall be paid the retirement deductions in case he resigns from the army before completing 25 years of service.

Article 92. Calculation of severance pay:

Severance pay stipulated in article 91 shall be calculated on the basis of the salary of the final month in the service in the following manner:

A. A month's salary for each of the first 10 years in service.

B. A salary of 2 months for each of the years after the 10th year in the active service.

C. The additions stipulated in article 80 of this legislative decree shall be included on the following basis:

A salary of 2 months for every additional year if the period of active service is less than 10 years and if the discharge is for health reasons.

A salary of 2 months for every additional year if the period of active service is 10 years or more.

Article 93. Limits of severance pay:

Severance pay for discharge from the service shall be disbursed within the limits specified in this legislative decree.

Article 94. Transfer of the pension salaries and severance pay to families of volunteers:

Pension and severance pay shall be transferred to the families of volunteers in accordance with the general law on retirement and discharge from the service.

1. If the volunteer is killed during an armed clash with the enemy in time of war, during operations to maintain security inside the country in times of war or of peace or in an accident during an authorized flight, his family shall be paid a pension equal to the basic salary that his subject to retirement deductions and designated for the top step of the rank immediately above the volunteer's rank, including the steps beyond the limit, provided that the salary of the rank above his is at least one step higher than the salary due his rank.

2. If the volunteer is killed as a result of an attack while performing his duty or while performing a spontaneous act to save the life of others, he shall be paid a pension equal to 75 percent the salary specified in accordance with the stipulations of the first provision of this article.

If application of the stipulations of paragraph A of the forthcoming provision 4 entitles the family to better rights, then the family shall be given these rights.

3. If a volunteer dies as a result of an accident or a sickness related to the service and occurring under circumstances other than those specified in the preceding two provisions, his family shall be paid a pension equal to 50 percent the salary specified in provision 1 of this article.

4. If a volunteer dies of a sickness unrelated to the service but intensifying because of it:

A. If his services total 18 years or more, his family shall be paid the pension he would be entitled to on the day following the date of his death.

B. If his services total less than 18 years and more than 5 years, his family shall be paid a pension equalling 75 percent of the rights calculated on the basis of one part out of 45 parts of his salary for the final month before his death for each year of his service, including the war supplements.

C. If his services total less than 5 years, his family shall be paid severance pay plus a compensation equalling 100 percent the severance pay.

5. If the volunteer dies as a result of an accident or a sickness unrelated to the service:

A. If his services total 18 or more years, his family shall be paid the pension he would be entitled to on the day following the date of his death.

B. If his services are less than 18 years, his family shall be given the severance pay plus a compensation equalling 50 percent this pay.

6. If the active service of a noncommissioned officer or private totals 18 years or more, his family shall be given the pension and shall not be entitled to replace it by severance pay.

7. The heirs of an officer deceased in the service shall be entitled to X request within 3 months of the date of death replacement of the pension salary by severance pay.

8. A marriage concluded for the first time by a retired bachelor volunteer discharged from the service on a pension shall be considered a marriage concluded during the service and, consequently, the volunteer shall be entitled to collect the family costs stipulated in article 90 of this legislative decree. The family shall also be entitled to collect the pension of its [deceased] benefactor in accordance with the preceding provisions of this article.

9. In case the volunteer dies after the settlement of his pension, his family's pension pay, after deduction of the legal shares due the treasury, may not be less than the said pension.

10. The provisions of this article shall go into force as of the date of application this legislative decree to bachelor volunteers and to the families of volunteers martyred or deceased after 12 June 1956.

Article 95. Aid for the families of deceased volunteers.

In addition to the pension salary, the families of volunteers specified in the above article 94 shall be given the financial aid stated below:

1. A volunteer subject to either provision 1 or provision 2 of article 94:

A. Financial aid equal to 1 year's salary, including compensation complementing the salary of a volunteer deceased in active service.

B. His children shall be enrolled in schools at the expense of the state within the limits of the appropriations allocated in the budget for the purpose.

2. A volunteer subject to provision 3 of article 94 shall be given financial aid equalling 1 year's salary, including compensation complementing the salary of the volunteer deceased in active service.

3. A volunteer subject to provisions 4 and 5 of article 94 shall be given financial aid equalling 6 month's salary, including compensation complementing the salary of a volunteer deceased in active service.

Article 96. Parent's share of rights of martyred or deceased volunteer:

1. The parents of a martyred volunteer shall collect their share of the pension, of the severance pay or of the Aid Agency [payment], regardless of their financial or family status, if the volunteer is a bachelor or if he is married but has no children.

2. The parents of a volunteer deceased in the service or in retirement shall collect their share of the pension, the severance pay or of the Aid Agency [payment] even if they have one or more children other than the deceased son if they meet the following requirements collectively:

A. If the deceased volunteer is a bachelor or if he is married but has no children.

B. If the father is unable to work.

C. If the parents are poor.

A widowed mother shall collect her share if she is poor, regardless of the status of the family of her deceased son.

Article 97. Financial aid for father of deceased volunteer:

1. The parents of a deceased volunteer who is a bachelor or is married with no children shall, if they do not meet the requirements stipulated in article 96 for collection of the pension salary or severance pay, receive financial aid to meet the expenses of their son's funeral. This aid shall be as follows:

A. The salary of 1 year, including compensation complementing the salary of a volunteer deceased in active service, if the death has resulted from the circumstances specified in provision 1 of article 94 of this legislative decree.

B. The salary of 6 months, including compensation complementing the salary of the volunteer deceased in active service, if the death has resulted from the circumstances specified in provisions 2 and 3 of article 94 of this legislative decree.

C. The salary of 3 months, including compensation complementing the salary of the volunteer deceased in active service, if the death has resulted from the circumstances specified in provisions 4 and 5 of article 94 of this legislative decree.

2. The financial aid specified in this article shall be given to whomever pays the funeral costs, be it the father or the mother. If it is impossible for the father or the mother to collect the aid, it shall be given to the relative of the deceased military man who pays the funeral costs.

[First part of article 98 missing] equal to the salary of private, first class, depending on her choice.

Article 99. Committee for settlement of pension salaries and severance pay:

A committee for the settlement of pension salaries and severance pay shall be formed by a decree and shall be comprised of:

A command or general officer, chairman.

Two officers, members.

An official of the Ministry of Finance with the grade of department chairman or higher, member.

Chairman of the Army Retirement Bureau, member and rapporteur.

Chapter Four

Administrative and Financial Procedures

Article 100. The method of and rules for completing the administrative and financial procedures concerning the Ministry of National Defense shall be defined in a decree adopted by the Council of Ministers, taking into consideration the principles and rules stipulated in the laws and regulations in force in the state.

Section Four

Civilian Employees and Laborers

Article 101. The civilian employees in the permanent and temporary cadres, the contract workers and the laborers of the Ministry of National Defense shall be subject to the provisions governing civil servants in all matters for which there are no provisions in the laws and regulations in force in the Ministry of National Defense.

Section Five

Conscripts

Chapter One

General Rules

Definition and Goals of Conscription

Article 102. Conscription is an honor and a duty to which the Lebanese are subject in accordance with the provisions of this legislative decree and of the regulations complementing it.

Conscription includes:

Military service.

Civil service.

Developmental service.

Article 103. Conscription seeks to prepare the citizen as a combatant and to employ him to carry out military tasks in the armed forces, within the framework of national defense.

The civil service seeks to prepare the citizen and employ him to support the armed forces in all matters pertaining to internal and external defense, especially in the sphere of civil defense and in supporting the public and private sectors facilitating the tasks of the armed forces.

The developmental service seeks to prepare the citizen and to utilize him in the sphere of national defense so that he may perform his duty in the social effort to develop the various public and private sectors of general benefit inside and outside the country.

The Ministry of National Defense shall undertake the task of implementing conscription in coordination with the state ministries concerned.

Chapter Two

Flag Service Conditions, Duration and Exemptions

Article 104. Lebanese males shall be subject to obligatory service upon completing the 18th year of their age. Lebanese females shall be subject to this service when the need arises in accordance with a decree adopted by the Council of Ministers defining the conditions and spheres of their utilization.

Article 105. The duration of the service period shall be set at 18 months.

This period can be reduced in accordance with a decree adopted by the Council of Ministers on the recommendation of the minister of national defense, provided that it is not reduced below 1 year.

Whoever has actually completed the military, civil or developmental service shall be considered as having performed service duty and shall have reserve conscript status.

Conscripts shall be taken as officers, noncommissioned officers or privates in accordance with the conditions set by the Ministry of National Defense-Army Command.

Article 106. The Ministry of Interior--the General Directorate of Vital Statistics--shall send in the first month of every year to the Ministry of National Defense--the army command--lists containing the data specified by the Ministry of National Defense--the army command.

Article 107:

1. The Ministry of National Defense--the army command--shall summon those subject to service and shall notify them of the conditions for this service through the various information media.

2. Those present outside the Lebanese territories shall be notified by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates in accordance with the lists organized by the army command.

3. Every Lebanese who is living on Lebanese territories, who has completed 18 years of age and who has not been notified of obligatory military service shall report within 3 months of completing the age of 18 years to the agencies concerned with service affairs in the area in which he resides permanently so that he may be notified of the summons for obligatory service and may declare his place of permanent residence, else he shall be considered truant.

4. Every Lebanese subject to conscription and wishing to depart from the Lebanese territories to live abroad for a year or more shall, before departing, leave his address with the Ministry of National Defense--the army command--and the General Directorate of Public Security. Upon reaching the country of destination, he shall leave his address with the Lebanese consulate under whose jurisdiction he comes.

The consulates and the embassies shall supply the Ministry of National Defense--the army command--with the addresses of the individuals concerned.

Article 108:

1. A decree adopted by the Council of Ministers on the recommendation of the minister of national defense shall determine the cases in which the Lebanese is considered exempt by law from conscription and the cases that permit postponement in summoning him to the service.
2. Every Lebanese who submits a request proving that he meets the requirements for the exemption specified in the preceding provision 1 of this article shall be exempted from obligatory service finally or temporarily on a decision by the army commander.

Article 109. The summoning of a citizen to perform military service shall be postponed for a renewable period of 1 year within the conditions noted in provision 1 of the above article 108, provided that the period does not exceed the time when he reaches the age of 30 years when he shall be summoned to perform his service.

The citizen may be exempted from obligatory service finally in accordance with a decision by the army commander in the cases specified by the directives governing the implementation of this legislative decree.

Article 110. The exemption and postponement applications shall be submitted by the citizens concerned to the Ministry of National Defense--the army command.

Article 111. The postponement or exemption shall be cancelled by the army commander upon the request of the citizen concerned.

Chapter Three

Duties and Restrictions

Article 112:

1. Every Lebanese subject to service requirements and unable to prove that he has performed these requirements [presumably meaning duty] shall be denied the exercise of the following rights:

A. Election and nomination to the various organizations, councils and so forth.

B. Employment in any job or work in the public and private sectors, including contract work.

C. Engaging in any free profession.

D. Departing from the Lebanese territories.

E. Enrollment in schools and universities.

2. A priority whose conditions shall be defined in decrees adopted by the Council of Ministers shall be given to those who have completed obligatory service to join the internal security and public security [forces].

3. Excluded from the stipulations of provision 1 of this article shall be any Lebanese subject to obligatory service requirements who proves that he is exempted from the service, that his service has been postponed legally or that he is the subject of a court sentence that has dictated his nonpresence in the service.

Article 113. The laws, rules and regulations applying to volunteers [enlisted men] in accordance with this legislative decree shall apply to conscripts throughout the period of their active service.

Chapter Four

Rights and Compensations

Article 114. Throughout the period of his service, the conscript shall collect a set token monthly allowance determined in a decree issued by the Council of Ministers. The food, housing and clothing conditions shall be determined in the same manner. The army commander may grant within the limits of the available appropriations extra bonuses as an incentive for work when the conscripts are performing civil or developmental services, provided that the bonuses don't exceed 50 percent the set allowance noted above.

Article 115. Throughout the period of his service, the conscript shall benefit personally from all the rights and services enjoyed by enlisted men, excluding salary.

Article 116. During service, the conscript shall be entitled to take part in competitions or examinations organized by public departments and institutions, by independent agencies, by municipalities or by private establishments.

Article 117:

1. The salary or wages of an employee or a laborer summoned to conscription shall be suspended upon his separation from his job or work.

2. An employee or a laborer shall, by law, be reinstated in the job or work he had held before performing his service duty immediately upon his release, with the time he has spent in the service calculated for the purpose of seniority and promotion. Should the business owner delay in reinstating

him in his work, the conscript shall be entitled to the salary or wages of his job or work as of the date of his release, provided that a final decision be made on his status in accordance with the provisions of article 126 of this legislative decree.

3. Upon completing the service, the conscript may be transferred upon his request to the active service as a volunteer in the same rank and in accordance with conditions set by the army command. In this case, the duration of obligatory service shall be calculated [as part of his active service].

Article 118. A conscript not wishing to return to his previous job or work shall notify his military superiors of his wish at least 45 days before his release so that the business owner may be notified within a period of no less than 30 days prior to the release.

Article 119. A discharged conscript who does not report to his place of previous work within 15 days of the date of discharge shall be considered as having resigned unless there are circumstances beyond his control whose evaluation is:

Up to the Civil Service Commission if he is an employee, a worker, a laborer or a contract workers in any of the public sector's departments and agencies.

Up to the military courts if he works in the private sector.

The rights of a discharged conscript considered as having resigned from his previous job or work shall be settled in accordance with the laws and regulation in force.

Article 120. If the conscript is exposed during his presence in the service to an injury or an accident, the provisions applied in accordance with this legislative decree to volunteers equal to him in rank shall be applied to him and on the basis of the volunteer's salary.

Article 121. In case the business owner refuses to reinstate the conscript in his previous work, the latter shall, in addition to the rights due him in accordance with the laws in force--excluding the compensation stipulated in paragraph 1 of the amended article 50 of the labor law--be entitled to a special compensation of no less than the salary or wages of 1 full year on the basis of the salary or wages he had collected on the date of his summons to the service. This compensation shall be tantamount to damages sustained if the conscript is physically fit.

If the conscript has worked in the public sector before being summoned to the service, then he shall, by law, be reinstated in his work upon the completion of his service in accordance with the stipulations of paragraph 2 of article 117 of this legislative decree. The duration of his military service shall be considered as active service in the job he previously held before being summoned.

Chapter Five

Penalties

Article 122. The following paragraph 10 shall be added to the text of article 24 of the military judiciary law:

Violation of rules pertaining to conscription.

Article 123. The following paragraph shall be added to the text of article 117 of the military judiciary law:

The same penalty shall be imposed on a truant failing to report for military service and on any person facilitating such truancy. Exempted from this penalty shall be the parents, children, husbands, wives, brothers and sisters of truants.

Article 124. The following paragraph shall be added to the text of article 118 of the military judiciary law:

The same penalty shall be imposed on any person who conceals a truant failing to report to military service and on any person who commits any act to facilitate such concealment. Exempted from the penalty shall be the parents, children, husbands, wives, brothers and sisters.

Article 125. The following paragraph shall be added at the end of article 120 of the military judiciary law:

A prison term of 6 months to 3 years shall be imposed on any person summoned to military service if such a person renders himself, with premeditation, temporarily or finally unfit for the service. Accomplices, excluding parents, children, husband, wife, brothers and sisters, shall be subject to the same penalty.

If the accomplices are doctors, pharmacists or nurses, the prison term shall be doubled and a fine of 1,000-2,000 pounds shall be levied. The professional license of the individual convicted shall be suspended for a period ranging from 6 months to 2 years.

Chapter Six

Miscellaneous Rules

Article 126. The military courts shall examine the disputes emanating from implementation of article 117 and 121 of this legislative decree and pertaining to conscripts who were working in the private sector.

Article 127. Provisions of the social security law shall continue to be applied to conscripts who were working in the private sector in all matters on which no contradicting provisions is included in this legislative decree.

Article 128. The Ministry of National Defense--the army command--shall set the following annually within the limits of the appropriations allocated for the purpose:

1. The number of conscripts that must be summoned to military service in light of the shortage developing in the personnel.
2. The number of conscripts that must be summoned annually to the civil service in light of the needs of the ministries concerned.
3. The number of conscripts that must be summoned to the developmental service in light of the plans and needs of the ministries concerned.

Article 129. The Ministry of National Defense--the army command--shall determine the executive directives for the provisions of Section Five of this legislative decree, especially in connection with managing, equipping and training the conscripts.

Section Six

Reserves

General Rules

Article 130. The reserves are:

1. Volunteers discharged from active service and still within the reserve period specified in article 131 of this legislative decree.
2. Conscripts who have performed military service and have been discharged upon completing it but who are still within the reserve period specified in article 131 of this legislative decree.
3. Civilians who have completed successfully military education courses organized by the army command and who have been discharged upon completing the courses.

Article 131. The reserve period shall be set in accordance with the following conditions:

1. For volunteers:

- A. Officers: For a period of 15 years following their discharge from the service, provided that they have not exceeded the age set for their rank plus 5 years.
- B. Noncommissioned officers and privates: For a period of 15 years following their discharge from the service, provided that they have not exceeded the age of 55.

2. For conscripts: From the time they complete their service and until they reach the age of 40.

3. For civilians specified by paragraph 3 of article 130: Until they reach the age of 40.

Article 132. The rules and conditions for the real and exemption of reserves and the duties required of them during their presence in the reserve shall be determined by a decree issued on the recommendation of the minister of national defense, based on the finalization of the army commander.

Article 133. The army command shall determine the method of management, training, recalling and discharging the reserves.

Chapter Two

Conditions and Rights of Reserves

Article 134. Reserves shall be promoted according to the same conditions applicable to recruits and conscripts, provided;

1. That they complete in the active service and in the reserve the seniority specified for each rank.
2. That they keep up with the training periods scheduled for them.
3. That they pass the training courses qualifying them for promotion.

Article 135. Reserves may not be promoted upon reaching the legal age set in articles 56 and 57 of this legislative decree.

Special promotions are permissible if the requirements specified in articles 41 and 42 of this legislative decree are met.

Article 136. Reserves in civilian life may not collect any salaries or allowances other than those set for them by the law.

Article 137. Reserves called up for training periods shall benefit from the same rights allocated for the volunteers, excluding the salary and the bonuses complementing it, if the training period does not exceed 1 month. But if the 1-month period is exceeded, they shall also benefit from a monthly compensation equalling the salary and the bonuses complementing it for the rank they hold.

Article 138. Reserves called up in accordance with this legislative decree shall, if their callup exceeds 2 months, benefit from all the rights given to volunteers including salary and the allowances complementing it for their rank.

Article 139. The service performed by reserves on callup in accordance with this legislative decree shall not be calculated for the purpose of reassessing the pension salary and the severance pay unless the callup period, whether interrupted or uninterrupted, exceeds 1 year in duration. In this case, reserves shall benefit from supplements and additions for the period of their service.

Article 140. The jobs of reserves working in public departments and agencies, independent establishments and municipalities and called up in accordance with this legislative decree shall be retained for them and they shall return to these jobs or to other similar jobs in the same agencies.

Article 141. If a reserve is called up for a period not exceeding 1 month and if he is working for a natural or legal-status person, this person must pay the reserve his wages and reinstate him in his work.

But if the callup exceeds 1 month, the natural or legal-status person is required to reinstate the reserve in his previous work or in a similar job, provided that the said callup period does not exceed 1 year, in which case the reserve's rights shall be settled in accordance with the laws in force.

Article 142. The state shall bear the transportation costs of reserves called up if they are outside the country by prior permission from the army command.

Article 143. Reserves called up at least twice in a year and for periods not exceeding 1 month each shall benefit from a compensation equalling the monthly salary for their rank and the allowance complementing it.

This compensation shall be paid at the end of the year which the callups take place. This compensation may be cancelled or reduced by the army commander for disciplinary or behavioral reasons or for inability to perform the duties of the rank.

Chapter Three

Penal and Disciplinary Rules

Article 144. Reserves on callup shall be subject throughout the callup period to the laws, regulations and directives applicable to volunteers.

Article 145. The military courts shall examine disputes emanating from application of article 146 of this legislative decree.

Article 146. A reserve failing to respond to the summons to join a designated within a period of 48 hours shall be considered truant and shall be punished with the penalty stipulated in article 107 of military judiciary law.

Chapter Four

Miscellaneous Rules

Article 147. Reserves called up to the service for a period of no more than 1 month shall, along with their family members who are their dependents, benefit throughout this period from the rights due the volunteers and specified in article 68 of this legislative decree.

Article 148. Reserve volunteers are entitled throughout their presence in the reserve to request enlistment in the active service with the rank they hold, provided that they undergo a qualification test whose rules and conditions

shall be set by the army commander. They shall be enlisted in this rank in accordance with the rules set for volunteers in accordance with this legislative decree. As for reserves specified in provision 3 of article 130 of this legislative decree called up to the service for a period of more than 1 year after which they are discharged, they shall be entitled to collect a severance pay equal to a salary of 2 months for each year of service, with the pay calculated on the basis of the final salary they were paid.

Section Seven

General and Final Rules

Article 149. The civil service law shall apply to the military in all matters not covered by provisions in this legislative decree.

Article 150. The minister of national defense may, on the recommendation of the army commander:

- A. Grant military personnel or the families of deceased military personnel and civilian army employees and their families social, medical and academic assistance, assistance in the cases of death and financial bonuses.
- B. Grant retired volunteers, their widows and their relatives social assistance whose value is determined in light of the appropriations available and of the condition of those requesting the assistance.
- C. Grant the educational institutions and orphanages financial aid in return for harboring and educating the sons of volunteers, and retired and deceased volunteers.

Article 151:

1. The laws in force notwithstanding, the expenditures resulting from the following cases shall not be subject to the prior control of the Accounting Bureau:

- A. The enlistment of volunteers of all categories.
- B. The reinstatement of discharged volunteers in the service.
- C. The promotion of the military.
- D. The awarding of military medals that entail the payment of financial rewards.

2. All these cases shall be subject to the postdated control of the Accounting Bureau.

Article 152:

1. Discharged volunteers shall be given priority of up to 25 percent in filling jobs in the state cadres, municipalities, public agencies and agencies deriving most of their resources from the state in the following manner:

- A. In the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications: Mailman and inspector of telephone and cable lines.
- B. In the Ministry of Public Works and Transport: Work inspector, labor or workshop foreman and fireman.
- C. In the Ministry of Public Health: Health inspector.
- D. In the Ministry of Finance: Collector and customs guard.
- E. In the Ministry of Justice: Court usher.
- F. In all departments: Messenger, office boy and guard.
- G. In municipalities: Municipal policeman, fireman, foreman and work supervisor.
- H. In jobs determined by a decree issued by the Council of Ministers after consultation with the Civil Service Commission.

2. It is conditional that a discharged volunteer nominating himself for one of the abovementioned jobs must, in addition to meeting the requirements demanded of the applicant for the job, meet the following:

- A. He must have spent at least 10 years on active duty. Whoever is discharged following an accident or a sickness related to the service shall be exempted of this period.
- B. That his age be at least 5 years younger than the legal age for retirement from the desired job.
- C. That he obtain the army command's approval if 5 years have not lapsed since his retirement.

Article 153. When discharged volunteers are appointed to the jobs noted in the above article 152, they may combine the salary of the job they hold with the pension pay they collect.

If the discharged volunteer is appointed to a job subject to retirement, he may request to have his previous services added in accordance with the conditions stipulated by the civil service law.

If the civil pension pay is lower than the previous military pension pay, the individual concerned shall retain the latter and shall be repaid the deductions taken out of his salary in the civilian job.

Article 154:

- 1. The civil defense specified in legislative decree No 50 of 5 August 1967 shall be annexed to the Ministry of Interior.

2. The provisions of the abovementioned legislative decree and of law No 57/71 of 9 September 1971 shall be amended, with the phrase the "Ministry of National Defense--Army Command" replaced by the phrase "Ministry of Interior." The phrase "minister of national defense" and the phrase the "higher military authority" replaced by the phrase "minister of interior" wherever they occur in the two abovementioned texts.

3. The text of article 16 of legislative decree No 50 of 5 August 1967 shall be abolished and replaced by the following text:

"All the civil defense agencies shall be subject to the jurisdiction of the minister of interior."

4. The phrase "on the recommendation of the higher military authority" mentioned in paragraph 4 of article 19 of legislative decree No 50 of 5 August 1967 shall be abolished, and so shall the phrase "upon the finalization of the supreme army command" mentioned in the final paragraph of article 27 of the abovementioned article.

5. The text of article 31 of legislative decree No 50 of 5 August 1967 shall be replaced by the following text:

"The revenue and expenses procedures shall be conducted in accordance with the rules specified in the general accounting law."

6. The provisions of decree No 7563 of 8 September 1961 shall be amended by future decrees in accordance with the provisions of this article.

Article 155:

1. The area within a cordon established around military installations to maintain their safety shall be called a "prohibited zone."

2. While maintaining the personal rights of individuals, the in-kind easement pertaining to each type of military installation shall be determined by a decree issued by the Council of Ministers on a recommendation by the minister of national defense based on the finalization of the army commander.

Article 156. The cooperative and economic establishments of the army shall be considered special legal persons tied to the army commander. Their regulations shall be issued in decrees based on the recommendation of the minister of national defense. Their revenues, procedures and activities shall be exempted from all taxes and fees of all kinds.

Article 157. The authorities concerned shall issue the executive decrees, decisions and directives pertaining to the provisions of this legislative decree within a period of 6 months as of the date on which the decree goes into effect.

Article 158. Laws No 3/7 of 24 March 1979 (national defense law), No 38/75 of 6 December 1958 (conscription) and No 3/81 of 20 February 1981 and the executive regulations and directives complementing them and that contradict the provisions of this legislative decree or that are incompatible with its contents shall be abolished. All the legislative and organizational provisions contradicting the provisions or content of this legislative decree shall also be abolished.

Article 159. This legislative decree shall go into force on the day following its publication in the Official Gazette, excluding articles 79 through 99 which shall go into [retroactive] effect as of 30 June 1983.

B'abda, 16 September 1983
Signed: Amin al-Jumayyil.

Issued by the President of the Republic.
Prime Minister
Signed: Shafiq al-Wazzan

Acting Minister of Finance
Signed: Eli Salim

Minister of National Defense
Signed: 'Isam Khuri

Legislative Decree No 103

Reorganization of Internal Security Forces

The president of the republic,

In accordance with the constitution,

In accordance with law No 36/82 of 17 November 1982 (empowering government to issue legislative decrees),

In accordance with law No 10/83 of 21 May 1983 (extending enactment of the provisions of law No 36/82 of 17 November 1982),

After consultation with the State Consultative Council,

On the recommendation of the minister of interior,

and with the approval of the Council of Ministers on 16 September 1983,

Decrees the following:

Book One

General Organization of Internal Security Forces

Section One

Organization of Internal Security Forces

Chapter One

Definition of Internal Security Forces and Determination of Their Tasks

Article 1. The internal security forces are an armed public force whose jurisdiction covers all the Lebanese territories and waters and their territorial air space.

Article 2. The tasks of the internal security forces are defined in the following:

1. In the sphere of administrative police:

- A. Maintaining order and bolstering security.
- B. Keeping the peace.
- C. Protecting persons and properties.
- D. Obstructing perpetration of crimes.
- E. Watching over implementation of the laws and regulations entrusted to them.

2. In sphere of judiciary police:

- A. Investigating and reporting crimes, seizing evidence of crime, finding, pursuing and apprehending crime perpetrators and delivering them to the judiciary authorities concerned.
- B. Carrying out judicial orders and decisions.
- C. Implementing judiciary sentences and writs.

3. In other spheres:

- A. Supporting the public authorities in the performance of their duties.
- B. Guarding the public establishments determined by the authorities concerned.
- C. Guarding prisons.

Article 3. The internal security forces shall be subject to the jurisdiction of the minister of interior. But by virtue of their tasks in the spheres connected with the various ministries, they shall operate in accordance with the rules specified in book three of this legislative decree.

Article 4. The military laws and regulations shall apply to the internal security forces, with some exceptions justified by the special organization of these forces.

Rank	Job	Allowance for Military Equipment for Rank	Expense allowance for Army Commander in Active Service	Transportation Allowance for Retired Army Commander	Position Allowance	Military or Civilian Driver or Allowance Equalling Salary of Private 1st Class (1)	Aide or Allowance Equalling Salary of Private, 1st Class (1)
General Commanded Army Against Enemy		100 percent	100 percent	100 percent	100 percent	X	X
General Commanded Army		100 percent	100 percent	75 percent	100 percent	X	X
Major General (2)		100 percent	100 percent	50 percent	100 percent	X	-
Brigadier General		100 percent	50 percent	-	50 percent	-	-
Colonel		100 percent	50 percent	-	50 percent	-	-
Lieutenant Colonel		100 percent	50 percent	-	50 percent	-	-
Major		100 percent	50 percent	-	50 percent	-	-
Captain		100 percent	50 percent	-	50 percent	-	-
First Lieutenant & Lieutenant		100 percent	-	-	100 percent	-	-

(1) Individual concerned is entitled to choose driver, aide or allowance.

(2) Every officer retired with the rank of brigadier general, first class, or having had his pension pay or severance pay settled on the basis of the rank of brigadier general, first class, shall benefit from the rights stipulated in this legislative decree.

PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

BRIEFS

'ANTAR VISIT TO THERMAL POWER STATION--Brother Brigadier General 'Ali Ahmad Nasir 'Antar, member of the YSP Political Bureau, deputy chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, and first deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, and Brother Engineer Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, member of the YSP Central Committee and minister of installations, this morning visited the thermal power station project in (Al-Hiswah). They inspected the project and got acquainted with the process of construction work which is being carried out by the general establishment for installations in cooperation with Soviet advisers. During the visit, Brother 'Antar met with the station officials who gave a detailed report on the process of the work of the project which will meet the future power requirements in production and services. Brother 'Antar expressed his appreciation for the efforts being made by civil workers and the Soviet advisers to complete the project on schedule. [Excerpt] [GF261338 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 26 Dec 83]

OIL RIG INAUGURATED--The first oil excavation rig was inaugurated in Al-Shabwah Province yesterday as part of the efforts to excavate oil and minerals in our country. Brother 'Abd-al-Qadir Ba-Jammal, candidate member of the Central Committee, industry minister, and chairman of the oil and mineral resources committee, cut the ribbon to declare the start of work by this rig which should be completed in 6 months. [Summary] [GF151520 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 15 Dec 83]

NEW DEPUTY MINISTERS APPOINTED--'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the PDRY Supreme People's Council Presidium, and chairman of the Council of Ministers, has issued decrees of the Council of Ministers appointing Muhsin 'Ali Yasif as deputy minister of state for cabinet affairs, and Faruq 'Uthman ibn Shamlan as deputy minister of local government. The decrees come into effect on the date they are published in the official gazette. [Summary] [GF291357 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 29 Dec 83]

DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN ELIMINATED--PDRY Chairman 'Ali Nasir Muhammad has issued a decree approving an agreement on elimination of all forms of discrimination against women. [Summary] [GF211819 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 21 Dec 83]

CSO: 4400/119

SHARJAH ECONOMIC OFFICE ISSUES TRADE STATISTICS

Al-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 25 Dec 83 p 6

[Article by Riyadh Miqdadi]

[Text] The total amount of foreign trade in the Emirate of al-Shariqah last year was 4.5 billion dirhams, which includes 3 billion dirhams in imports and 1.42 billion dirhams in exports and re-exports.

The comprehensive statistics issued by the Sharjah Economic Bureau on the production and services sectors in the Emirate during the period between 1980 and 1982 indicate that al-Shariqah's foreign trade climbed from 3.76 billion dirhams in 1980 to 5.39 billion dirhams in 1981. However, it again declined last year due to conditions of relative stagnation, in addition to the continuing Iraq-Iran war and its accompanying distribution and storage problems.

The statistics say that the value of material goods exported rose from 1.19 billion dirhams in 1980 to 2.13 billion dirhams in 1981, an increase of 89 percent, but dropped to 1.42 billion dirhams in 1982.

The statistical compilations indicate that the number of industrial installations in the Emirate that renewed their registration in the trade record during the period between January 1983 and September 1983 was approximately 334, with an invested capital of 778 million dirhams.

The non-metallic mining industries came at the head of the list of industrial facilities with a capital of about 518.5 million dirhams, or 66 percent of the total capital invested, followed by the chemical industries with a capital of 77.5 million dirhams.

The industrial facilities were divided according to their activities as follows: basic mining industries, 87 facilities; the wood industry, 76 facilities; the foodstuffs industry, 46 facilities; the metallic ores industries, 46 facilities; the other processing industries, 37 facilities; the chemicals industry, 27 facilities; the paper industry, 11 facilities; the spinning and weaving industry, 4 facilities.

The statistics indicate that, "In the absence of reports connected with oil production and its profits and of reports dealing with other revenues and

with current and investment expenses, it is difficult to create a framework for the GDP, other than that estimates suggest that the share of the industrial sector in this Emirate's GDP does not exceed 3.5 percent, the same as the industrial sector's share of the UAE's GDP as a whole. [Quotation marks as published]

The statistics state that the insurance sector is the basis on which other parts of the economy rest in the Emirate of al-Shariqah, as an important financial sector and a collection center for funds in the form of allotments, which it then funnels into investments. It forms a cover for the speculator on the levels of production, distribution, and consumption. Insurance provides stability for projects in the state [public] sector and the economic activities sector.

The number of active insurance facilities in the Emirate of al-Shariqah is 23, of which there are 3 headquarters, 11 local branches, and 9 foreign branches.

Capital in the insurance sector facilities in the Emirate reached 2.5 billion dirhams. The infusion of foreign investments formed 85 percent of the total capital, which reflects the importance of this vital sector to foreign capital.

The statistics issued by the bureau included detailed information about industry, agriculture, foreign trade, insurance, the banking sector, transportation, communications, electricity, water, building and construction, the public share companies, education, health, culture, information and tourism.

CSO: 4404/231

TEXT OF ORDER PROCLAIMING ERSHAD PRESIDENT

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 12 Dec 83 pp 1, 8

[Text] Chief Martial Law Administrator Lt Gen H M Ershad on Sunday assumed the office of the President of the Peoples Republic of Bangladesh, reports BSS.

The CMLA, assumed the Office of the President under the provision of an amendment to the Proclamation of March 24, 1982 providing that the CMLA shall be the President of Bangladesh. The CMLA signed the Proclamation at a simple ceremony held at Bangabhaban.

The CMLA then signed another proclamation assuming the office of the President of Bangladesh. The text of the Proclamation is as follows: Whereas Clause B of the amended Proclamation of March 24, 1982 provides that the CMLA shall be the President of Bangladesh, now, therefore, I, Lt Gen Hussain Muahmmad Ershad, ndc, psc, the CMLA, do hereby declare that I have assumed the Office of President of Bangladesh on the 11th day of December, 1983 in the forenoon."

Earlier, Mr Justice A F M Ahsanuddin Chowdhury resigned from the office of the President on personal ground.

The CMLA dissolved the Council of Ministers and immediately after assuming the office of the President appointed a new Council of Ministers. He then administered the oath of office to the members of the Council of Ministers who remained unchanged from the previous one and retained their respective portfolio.

The function held at Banglabhaban was attended by high military and civil officers.

Following is the proclamation order issued by the office of the Chief Martial Law Administrator in Dhaka on Sunday, reports BSS.

The Proclamation (Third Amendment) Order, 1983 Proclamation Order No III of 1983.

Whereas it is expedient further to amend the Proclamation of the 24th March, 1982, for the purposes hereinafter appearing.

Now, therefore, in pursuance of the said proclamation and in exercise of all powers enabling him in that behalf, the Chief Martial Law Administrator is pleased to make the following order:

1. Short title--This order may be called the Proclamation (Third Amendment) Order 1983.

2. Amendment of the Proclamation--in the proclamation of the 24th March, 1982.--

(a) For clause B the following shall be substituted namely:--

"B. The Chief Martial Law Administrator shall be the President of Bangladesh. If the Chief Martial Law Administrator is unable to discharge the functions of the office of President on account of absence, illness or any other cause, those functions shall be performed by such person as the Chief Martial Law Administrator may direct,"

(b) After clause F, the following new clause shall be inserted namely:--

"FF. The Chief Martial Law Administrator may, at any time, be order notified in the official gazette, revive the Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, either in full or in part, subject to such conditions, limitations, modifications or amendments as may be specified by him in the order."

(c) Clause I shall be omitted and

(d) in the schedule

(I) for paragraphs 1 and 2 the following shall be substituted namely:--

(1) the executive authority of the Republic shall vest in the President of Bangladesh and shall be exercised by him either directly or through officer subordinate to him in accordance with this proclamation and the law.

(2) all executive action of the Government shall be expressed to be taken in the name of the President.

(3) the President may by rules

(a) specify the manner in which orders and other instruments made in his name shall be attested and authenticated

(b) regulate the allocation and transation of the business of the Government.

(4) The President shall exercise such powers and perform such functions as far as possible as were exercised and performed by the President of Bangladesh before this proclamation or as are or may be vested in or assigned to him by or under this proclamation or by or under any law.

(5) The President may make and promulgate ordinances on any matter in respect of which legislation is necessary and any such ordinance shall have the same force of law as an act of Parliament had before this proclamation.

(6) The President may make regulations orders or rules on any matter in respect of which such laws are required

(7) The President shall enjoy such privileges and immunities as were enjoyed by the President of Bangladesh before this proclamation.

2 (1) There shall be a Council of of Ministers to aid and advise the President in the exercise of his functions.

(2) The President shall appoint the ministers who sha-l hold office during his pleasure.

(3) Before he enters upon his office, a Minister shall make and subscribe before the President an oath or affirmation in such form as the Chief Martial Law Administrator may specify.

(4) "A Minister may resign his office by writing under his hand addressed to the President."

(ii) In paragraphs 3, 4. 4A and 5, for the words "Chief Martial Law Administrator", wherever occuring, the word "President" shall be substituted,

(iii) In paragraph 6, in sub-paragraph (2) for the words "Chief Martial Law Administrator" the word "President" shall be substitute,

(iv) In paragraphs 7, 8, 9, 10 and 13, for the words "Chief Martial Law Administrator", wherever occurring, the word "President" shall be substituted and

(v) Paragraph 16 shall be omitted

H M Ershad, ndc, psc.

Lieutenant General

Chief Martial Law Administrator and Commander-in-Chief.

dated: 11 Dec 83.

CSO: 4600/1384

ERSHAD MESSAGE ON HUMAN RIGHTS DECLARATION

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 10 Dec 83 pp 1, 8

[Text] Chief Martial Law Administrator Lt. Gen. H M Ershad, has called for renewal of the pledge to the principles enshrined in the Declaration of Human Rights to ensure for mankind a better life with dignity and freedom, reports BSS.

In a message on the occasion of the 36th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights the CMLA says 'The observance of the 36th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights today, which has been rightly conceived as a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations, demonstrates the ever increasing awareness of the international community of the need to promote and encourage respect for human and fundamental freedom the world over. The commitment by the world community in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights that all human beings irrespective of race, religion, caste, creed and colour shall have the equal right to live in freedom and enjoy the fruits of progress constituted an important landmark in the unending efforts of mankind to uphold the dignity of man.

"The Declaration continues to be a beacon light and a source of inspiration and hope for national and international efforts for the protection and promotion of human rights. It has acted as the conscience keeper of humanity and has been used as a yardstick for assessing the commitment of governments and individuals, the United Nations and other international for the obligations arising out of the UN Charter in matters of human rights. Consequently, the human rights record has never been subjected to such close scrutiny as it is today.

The Government of Bangladesh attaches great importance to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It has been gravely concerned at the blatant disregard and gross violation of human rights in Palestine, Namibia and South Africa. It is distressing that the valiant Palestinian people continue to suffer oppression and persecution in the occupied Arab territories and their basic human rights of self-determination and nationhood are being flouted and ignored through the policy of annexation and settlements by Israel. It is also deplorable that the Government of South Africa continues to practice the policy of racial discrimination and the people of Namibia are still being denied their inalienable rights to freedom and equality. We are convinced that their just and righteous struggle will eventually triumph. "Let us, today, renew our pledge to the principles enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, to ensure for mankind a better life with dignity and freedom.

ACTIVITIES OF SOVIET DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL IN DHAKA NOTED

Dhaka HOLIDAY in English 3 Dec 83 p 1

[Article by Abul Mohsen]

[Text] Despite the publication of a news item in the press that the Soviet Ambassador was called by the Foreign Ministry and was asked to close down the Soviet Cultural Centre and cut down their diplomatic staff substantially, the concerned officials have failed either to confirm or deny it.

Soviet Ambassador in Dhaka, Valentin Pavlovich Stephanov, who was called by the Foreign Ministry on Monday during the curfew hours, has reportedly denied that the Soviet Embassy has the largest number of diplomatic staff in Dhaka and that Soviet diplomats were indulging in "non-diplomatic activities." He reportedly claimed that the Americans, in fact, have even larger number of diplomatic staff in Dhaka. While it is difficult at this stage to suggest whether he was right or wrong, but the fact that the Soviet embassy has the largest number of non-diplomatic staff--more than 100--in Dhaka perhaps cannot be questioned.

The Soviet diplomats have reportedly told their "friends" that the Bangladesh government has been putting pressures on them periodically since 1976 to reduce the staff in Dhaka: but the Dhaka administration never seemed to have persued the matter seriously. They appeared to be taking the latest "pressure" from the government "not so seriously." However, they appear to be angry with the government that this time the news about the calling of the Soviet Ambassador by the Foreign Ministry was "leaked" to the press to mount pressure on them.

However, the fact that the Soviet diplomats sometimes don't behave diplomatically has more than once been proved in Dhaka in the recent past. In June, 1981 the assault by two Soviet diplomats at the airport of customs officials who were trying to check the goods that they were taking out in an embassy truck without completing formalities is a case in point. They were found to be taking out sophisticated electronic gadgets which are not needed by any embassy for discharging its normal diplomatic duties. When the government intervened, the Soviet Ambassador quietly sent the two diplomats involved in punching the customs officials back to Moscow. Dhaka did not want to embarrass the Soviets by pursuing it any further.

Earlier in May this year when a Hongkong-based publication reported that two Soviet embassy officials posted in Dhaka as Soviet military intelligence GRU and KGB residents. Following the publication of the story, Bangladesh is learnt to have requested the Soviet Ambassador to send the two "diplomats" back quietly and save it from embarrassment. No action was taken until September when on receiving further representation from the government, senior diplomat Eduard Mikhalovich Schkin, said to be the GRU resident, left Dhaka. However, it is not known whether he is on leave or have gone for good. The other diplomat named as the KGB resident still lives in Dhaka. The chief of the GRU and KGB is called "resident."

In addition, the recent arrival of an unscheduled flight of the Soviet national airline Aeroflot from Calcutta on Sunday which reportedly carried about 200 Russians to Dhaka, has also been intriguing. Apparently, no prior permission for the landing of this special flight was sought by them. The Aeroflot runs a regular weekly flight between Dhaka and Moscow and it flies on Mondays. The Aeroflot scheduled flight also came as usual on last Monday. Why so many people suddenly came to Dhaka has not been explained either by the Soviet embassy or the government.

CSO: 4600/1379

BORDER PATROL MEN KILLED IN SMUGGLING INCIDENT

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 10 Dec 83 pp 1, 8

[Text] Our Kushtia and Jessore correspondents inform over telephone last night. Two Indian Border Security Force personnel were killed and another was injured when agitated villagers encountered them at Jamalpur under Daulatpur upazila of Kushtia District in a bid to resist the attempt of smuggling out cattle-heads. Four Bangladesh nationals were also injured during the encounter.

According to Fakir Mohammad, 35, a villager, a contingent of BSF personnel, some of them carrying arms, crossed over to Bangladesh territory yesterday mornign and started taking away cattle of Bangladeshi farmers that were grazing in the fields. At a stage the villagers with a view to resisting them chased them. At this stage the BSF men fired pistolshots in the air later they fired bullets aiming at the villagers. But the agitated villagers being desperate due to the frequent raids by the BSF people continued to chasing and at last caught five of the BSF personnel. Two of them later managed to flee away. But two of them died in the hands of the angry villagers. They are Biswanath Singh (28) and Bhagaban Rana (28). The other injured BSF personnel is J. S. Shinghal (28) of Haryana. All of them were posted at Nasirpara border outpost of the BSF under Karimganj Thana of West Bengal.

Injured J. S. Shinghal is now undertreatment at Kushtia Sadar Hospital. The village Jamalpur is close to the Mahishkundi border outpost of Bangladesh Rifles. During the raid two S.L.R.'s were also recovered by Bangladeshis which are now under the custoday of Daulatpur police.

During the firing by the B.S.F. personnel four Bangladeshis were also injured. They are Fakir Mohammad, 35, Md, Shahidul Sheikh, 30, Abu Mandal, 30, and Waliullah, 32.

According to villagers their sufferings have increased after the recent reinforcement of BSF along the border. Meanwhile BDR Sector commander form Khulna has visited the spot. Tnesion is prevailing in the area while reports of further BSF reinforcement were also available.

The Kushtia district administration was not, however, available for comments.

CSO: 4600/1383

PAPER REPORTS CHITTAGONG HILL TRACTS PEACEFUL

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 9 Dec 83 p 2

[Text] CHITTAGONG, Dec. 8: Complete peace has been prevailing in entire 5500 square miles area of Chittagong Hill Tracts consisting of Khagrachari, Rangamati and Bandarban districts now. Innocent hilly tribal people can sleep in peace now and perform their daily works at ease without fearing any incursion of armed bandits that infiltrate into the area from across the border. With the establishment of peace agricultural and other developmental works have been geared up to help the tribal people attain self-reliance. Inaccessible terrains have been made accessible and the main populated areas have been connected with district and upazila headquarters.

The law enforcing agencies of the area always cooperate with the local people and also help them in every possible way in making their lives more self-dependent. The govt. has been also taking certain steps to uplift the lot of the tribal people for last few years and many hilly farmers including the Zoomians were assisted by the concerned govt. quarter to uplift their farm and agriculture and majority of the recipients of such help have now become self-dependent. Earlier the armed bandits known as the Shanti Bahinimen very often used to appear at night and looted their belongings at gun-point.

But with the measures undertaken by the law-enforcing agencies the said bandits have been pushed towards the hilly terrain along the border areas. The 1981 Division of Shanti Bahini has split into two camps and onslaught of one over another at every available opportunity has broken their moral. The constant chase by the law-enforcing agencies compelled them to shift their camps to the other side of the border at separate zones. Of the two camps was led by the former member of parliament Manbendra Larma and the other was headed by Preeti Kumar Chakma who is still holding leadership of his faction.

As all know on Nov 10 a group of squad led by captain Elio of Preetin group raided Larma's Baghamara camp at village Isara in India and killed Manbendra Larma 50 and 8 others including his top aides.

CSO: 4600/1381

DHAKA PROTESTS ATTACK ON MISSION IN CALCUTTA

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 5 Dec 83 p 1

[Text] Bangladesh on Sunday lodged a strong protest with Government of India against the unpleasant and violent events which had taken place in Calcutta and said that such incidents and statements in India 'constituted an open interference in the internal affairs of Bangladesh', reports BSS.

A Foreign Office spokesman in Dhaka Sunday said that the Indian High Commissioner in Bangladesh was summoned and a strong protest was lodged by the Foreign Ministry.

The spokesman referred to the incidents of bomb throwing inside the Bangladesh Deputy High Commission in Calcutta and other events during the last few days and regretted that such events should have taken place immediately following the Commonwealth summit in New Delhi and on the eve of the 14th Islamic Foreign Ministers Conference in Dhaka.

The Bangladesh High Commissioner in New Delhi has also been instructed to lodge a similar protest against the incidents he added.

Following statement was made by the spokesman of the Foreign Office in Dhaka on Sunday.

It has come to the attention of the Government that certain unpleasant and violent incidents took place in Calcutta. On December 1, 1983 some unruly demonstrators assembled near the Bangladesh Deputy High Commission in Calcutta, raised anti-Bangladesh slogans and indulged in acts of hooliganism. On December 3, 1983 they again assembled near the Deputy High Commission and indulged in similar acts of hooliganism and violence. They brickbatted the office and the residence of the Deputy High Commissioner and threw bombs inside the building causing threat to the security of the lives of the personnel causing serious injuries to several children in the residence and damaging the property of the Deputy High Commission, while the police stood idle by.

Meanwhile, the Chairman of the ruling left front made a statement seeking to openly interfere in the internal affairs of Bangladesh.

The Indian High Commissioner in Bangladesh was summoned and a strong protest was lodged by the Foreign Ministry. It was pointed out that such incidents and statements by people in responsible position in authority in India constituted an open interference in the internal affairs of Bangladesh.

It is regrettable that such events should have taken place immediately following the Commonwealth heads of Government conference in the New Delhi and on the eve of the 14th Islamic Conference of the Foreign Ministers in Dhaka.

Bangladesh High Commissioner in New Delhi has also been instructed to lodge a similar protest.

An earlier AFP message from Calcutta says:--Students in Calcutta yesterday made a bomb attack on the Bangladesh Deputy High Commission there during a demonstration.

Press Trust of India (PTI) said the demonstrators lobbed a number of bombs and one of them landed inside the Deputy High Commission building.

The demonstrators of the pro-Moscow All India Students Federation (AISF) also burned an effigy of the Bangladesh Military Chief Lt Gen H. M. Ershad the agency said.

CSO: 4600/1380

GANDHI SPEAKS AT SOUTHERN CONGRESS-I CONFERENCE

Madras THE HINDU in English 19 Dec 83 p 11

[Text] MADRAS, Dec. 18. "Local pride should not hit at national unity. If it crosses that border, it becomes dangerous both for the country and the region" the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, declared here today.

Winding up the two-day Southern Regional conference of the Congress (I), she said she had no quarrel with regionalism. There ought to be pride in language, culture, religion or history of the region and this was part of the Indian tradition. But unity would have to be maintained in this diversity.

It should be remembered, she said, that the States were not self-sufficient and depended on each other for one thing or another. It was only in a big unit that one could help each other and achieve all-round progress.

Referring to the role of the Opposition parties, she said they had been in power in some of the northern States in the past, but their governments had never come in the way of the Centre implementing its programmes. It was only in the last few years that a new kind of attitude had grown that the task of the Opposition was not merely to oppose but to obstruct. "This is a dangerous feature". Any Government which had been elected by the people for its promised programmes must be given full cooperation to fulfil its pledges. "We do not quarrel with somebody in the Opposition. If programmes are going to be obstructed, it will only weaken the nation and it is not a good tendency". There should be some grounds of cooperation in the interest of the country, at least on essential issues like communal harmony and national unity.

Allocation of funds: Several Chief Ministers had always complained of injustice in the allocation of funds from the Centre. Even some of the Central Ministries were demanding a greater allocation to embark on new programmes. But the resources were limited and had to come from a small taxation base. "The needs of the people would have to be limited and we will have to tell the people this".

Mrs. Gandhi pointed out that sometimes local problems were blown out of proportion. Barring individual terrorism here and there, the situation with regard to specific problems had vastly improved. Though there was no organised movement as such, the stray incidents of shoot-outs and looting had to be controlled.

Calling upon Congressmen to move to the villages and tell the people about the economic achievements in the country, she said there was nothing to put the Congress on the defensive. They must act as a bridge between the Government and the people and ensure that the benefits of the programmes reached the masses for whom it was intended.

The Prime Minister said "today's poverty is no longer what it was some 10-12 years ago. There are pockets, especially among the tribal people, but by and large the situation has improved". Her enquiry with representatives of trade and commerce had shown that the buying power in the villages had gone up considerably.

Vicious circle: On the economic front, Mrs Gandhi said the problem of rising prices was receiving the Government's utmost attention. The rate of inflation, which was as high as 22.7 per cent when her party was voted back to power in 1980, had been contained. Though there had been a slight increase in the price spiral, the inflation was still held within single digit. The crisis was due to the vicious circle of increased wages, more buying power and spurt in prices. A balance would have to be struck.

The Prime Minister said some of the agitational movements got ready support on the Opposition parties. But she had always told the agitation leaders that it was easy to start any movement but would be difficult to control it as it would go out of their hands. This had been the case both in Assam and Punjab.

Mrs. Gandhi appealed to her partymen to gain their old spirit of sacrifice and confidence and close their ranks to serve the people. "Remember, the Congress is the only unifying factor in the country which had won the freedom and had laid the foundation for the process of nation building" she said.

CSO: 4600/1368

GANDHI ADDRESSES WESTERN REGION CONGRESS-I MEET

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 4 Dec 83 p 1

[Article by Barkatullah Nagar]

[Text] (Bhopal), December 3 (PTI). THE Prime Minister today said that India had withstood powerful pressures at the recent Commonwealth heads of government meet.

Addressing the concluding session of the western regional Congress conclave, Mrs. Indira Gandhi said that despite the pressures, the country had adhered to its policies and principles.

She said many countries participating in the CHOGM were not prepared to accept that the world stood on the brink of a crisis.

"They do not understand that if there was a nuclear war, everybody would be wiped out," she added.

Some Western countries had held the view that the anti-nuclear weapons campaign was backed by Communist countries only. Some people supported this view in Europe.

Apparently referring to the allegation of a country at the CHOGM, that it was India which waged the Bangladesh war, the Prime Minister said India had, in fact, refrained from a conflict for a long time despite pressure put by Parliament and the people.

Reiterating that India wanted to have friendly relations with all countries, Mrs. Gandhi said: "We also want to have friendship with a neighbouring country which was working against us."

She regretted that her statement that India believed in democracy was interpreted by Pakistan as interference in its internal affairs.

Referring to problems at home, the Prime Minister deplored the "negative attitude" of the opposition parties. The opposition, instead of checking violence, had been "encouraging" it. In the beginning, they would encourage agitations and later express concern over them, she alleged.

She reminded them that it was easy to put a house on fire but very difficult to extinguish it.

About the situation in Punjab, Mrs. Gandhi said both Hindus and Sikhs were having the feeling that injustice was being done to them. She said: "Some parties have developed creation of misunderstanding among the people as a fine art."

About corruption, Mrs. Gandhi said it was the big industrial houses which offered bribe to government officers. However, corruption was far less in the Congress compared to the opposition parties while in power.

Without naming the RSS and the BJP, she asked, what could a party which was "born amidst communalism" and tried to exploit religion for political ends do for the minorities if it came to power? Minorities did not mean Muslims alone but others also, she said.

The Prime Minister was presented with the sword (shamshir) of the late Maulana Barkatullah Bhopali who had formed a government in exile in Kabul.

The sword was presented by one of the descendents of Maulana Barkatullah at the Parade Ground here where she had gone to address a public meeting.

At the meeting, Mrs. Gandhi called upon the people to thwart the attempts of external and internal forces to undermine India's unity and retard the pace of economic development.

After the meeting, she left Bhopal for Delhi by an IAF aircraft.

Homage was paid to Dr. Rajendra Prasad, first President of India, by delegates attending the party conference of Maharashtra, MxP., Gujarat and Goa.

The delegates observed a minute's silence.

The Prime Minister also referred to the services of Dr. Rajendra Prasad.

CSO: 4600/1342

GANDHI UNHAPPY OVER PUBLIC SECTOR PERFORMANCE

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 29 Nov 83 p 1

[Text] NEW DELHI, November 28. (UNI). THE Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, has expressed dissatisfaction at the performance of the public sector undertakings and asked the ministers concerned to give the "necessary political push" to "show results".

Mrs. Gandhi said "we cannot afford the luxury of massive investment", unless there was at least a ten per cent return.

In a strongly-worded letter to the ministers in charge of public sector undertakings, she said good performance of one or two sectors of industry concealed the continuing poor performance of a majority of the enterprises.

She expressed concern over the fact that many of the undertakings which had improved last year had tended to "slide back" this year.

Referring particularly to the coal, power, railway and fertiliser sectors, Mrs. Gandhi drew the attention of the ministers to the fact that a wide spectrum of industries in the public sector continued to be in the red.

"Political Push"

The public sector undertakings, through their improved performance, should provide adequate resources for the programmes being undertaken by the government for the benefit of the poor. "This has to be given the highest priority", she said.

She said "the test of political management lies in achieving higher productivity."

Mrs. Gandhi was doubtful about "providing the critically needed element of political push and guidance for managements to show results" although elaborate monitoring was being done at all levels.

She said that project schedules were being delayed and because commissioned projects stopped functioning after some time production targets were not being met.

Regarding financial performance it was pointed out in the letter that despite price increase in several product lines performance remained a "matter of concern."

The maintenance of plant and equipment also "seems to be nobody's concern", the Prime Minister said.

Mrs. Gandhi has asked the ministers to study in details the reasons of poor performance and steps needed to improve the situation within the "existing resources."

CSO: 4600/1334

PRESIDENT'S SPEECH TO SIKH CONGREGATION REPORTED

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 5 Dec 83 p 1

[Text] PATNA, Dec 4 (PTI)--President Zail Singh today asked Sikhs to raise their voice against the misuse of gurdwaras and misinterpretation of the preachings of Sikh Gurus, leading to communal violence.

Addressing a large congregation in the premises of the Takht Sri Harimandir here, the birth place of Guru Govind Singh the President said it was a matter of regret that those who were supposed to maintain the purity of 'khalsa' (pure) were themselves making it impure by sheltering criminals and anti-social elements.

In the process, they were also bringing a bad name to the entire Sikh community, he said.

Though the President did not name anyone, he was obviously referring to the recent statement of Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale threatening to kill Hindus in Punjab.

Stating that he had nothing to do with any political parties, the President said that if any political party had any differences of opinion with any other party, it should tackle it politically. 'Why kill innocent people?' he asked.

All sections of the people irrespective of caste, creed or religion had an equal constitutional right to live wherever they liked in a democratic country like India, he said.

Mr Singh advised the Sikhs not to be misled by such persons having parochial outlook and follow the path shown by their Guru--Guru Govind Singh--who, he said was a symbol of peace sacrifice and unity.

Mr Singh said that everyone having faith in God was free to visit their religious places, worship the deity and take prasad. But these places should not be allowed to become hide-outs of miscreants and hoodlums if their sanctity had to be maintained, he added.

The President was presented with a seropa.

Unveiling a life-size statue of Bab Kuer Singh, hero of 1857 struggle for freedom at Arrah the President gave a call to emulate his rare qualities of courage and determination to overcome all odds.

The statue erected in the midst of a fountain depicts the legendary hero riding on horse back with sword in hand.

Mr Zail Singh eulogised the fighting qualities of Veer Kuer Singh and said he raised the flag of revolt much before the 1857 uprising.

Our correspondent adds: The President also unveiled the statue of Dr Shrikrishna Singh the first Chief Minister of Bihar, in the premises of the main secretariat in Patna.

CSO: 4600/1346

FINANCE MINISTER DEFENDS GOVERNMENT FISCAL POLICY

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 2 Dec 83 p 1

[Text] NEW DELHI, December 1. THE finance minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, told the Rajya Sabha today that the price situation was "serious but not alarming" and warned against any panic reaction.

The finance minister, who was replying to a call-attention motion by Prof. S. Bhattacharya and eight others on the price situation, easily got the better of the opposition members who mounted a listless attack on the fiscal policies of the government during a discussion lasting for about three hours.

The minister defined the fiscal policy of the government and hoped that bright prospects for the kharif crop would strengthen the seasonal decline in prices in the coming weeks.

The Janata and CPM members, at times, found themselves at the receiving end. Mr. Mukherjee pointed out that when the Congress (I) government mounted a campaign against black marketeers and foreign exchange racketeers "you (Janata members) said these were all politically motivated and sent us to the Shah commission." Now you were taking the government to task for not taking action against such offenders.

Expenses on Asiad

He also challenged the opposition members, who had dubbed expenditure on Asiad as wasteful to prove that Rs. 2,000 crores had been spent on the Asian Games as they were alleging. Mr. Mukherjee said that despite his repeated statement that Rs. 69 crores was spent on Asiad, the opposition members continued to quote high figures of expenditure for political gains. Even assuming all the expenditure made by the DDA, the NDMC, the DMC and other agencies for Asiad the amount would not come to Rs. 2,000 crores.

The minister assured the house that the government would be able to check the situation created by rising prices.

The opposition members charged that the government was ineffective in stabilising the prices because of its wasteful expenditures, its inability to take action against black money and its reluctance to extend the public distribution

system to the rural sector. They criticised expenditure on NAM, Asiad and CHOGM.

Increase in Prices

Taking the financial year as a whole, the increase in prices up to November 12, 1983, has been 7.8 per cent against 4.7 per cent last year, 4.3 per cent in 1981-82, 11.8 per cent in 1980-81 and 15.9 per cent in 1979-80, Mr. Mukherjee said.

The annual rate of inflation on a point-to-point basis on November 12 was 9.3 per cent compared with 6.9 per cent on July 30, 1983, and 6.5 per cent at the beginning of the financial year.

He said prices of certain specific items, particularly rice, pulses, edible oils, khandsari, gur fruits and vegetables and tea had increased rather sharply during the current financial year upto the end of July, 1983. Since then (up to the end of October) in the wake of an excellent kharif crop, prices of rice, wheat and fruits and vegetables had come down by 3.1 per cent, 0.2 per cent and 7.3 per cent, respectively.

He said among the measures taken to contain price rise were decisions to import rice and wheat, stepping up the releases of foodgrains, sugar and edible oils through the public distribution system; reduction in fertiliser prices; increase in the cash reserve ratio from seven to 81.5 per cent in two phases and an intensive effort to maximise the kharif output.

Initiating the discussion, Mr. S. Bhattacharya (RSP), said the figures quoted by the minister did not reflect the financial problems faced by the consumers. He charged that the government had failed to contain the rampant inflation.

CSO: 4600/1337

HOME MINISTER ALLEGES FAROOQ LINK WITH PUNJAB EXTREMISTS

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 3 Dec 83 p 1

[Text] NEW DELHI, December 2: An allegation that the Jammu and Kashmir chief minister, Dr. Farooq Abdullah, met the participants of one of the training camps, allegedly set up by the Punjab extremists in that state, was made by the Union home minister, Mr. P. C. Sethi, in the Lok Sabha today.

Mr. Sethi also revealed that, according to reports received by the Union government, a consignment of arms brought from a neighbouring country had reached some organisers of these camps in Guru Nanak Niwas in Amritsar.

The minister said that since a large number of such camps were held in Jammu and Kashmir, the state government had been asked to take adequate measures. While Mr. Sethi said the state government's response was still awaited, a Congress (I) member, Mr. Harish Rawat, supplemented the charge by saying that the chief minister did not bother to reply to the Union government's letters.

Mr. Sethi made the statement in response to a calling-attention notice given by five members.

The discussion on the calling-attention notice was later expanded into a general discussion under rule 193 of the conduct of business of the house in view of the seriousness of the issues involved and the interest of many more members wanting to participate. The discussion would be resumed on Monday.

CSO: 4600/1340

CPI LEADER RAO COMMENTS ON COMMONWEALTH MEET

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 1 Dec 83 p 7

[Text] CPI general secretary C. Rajestwara Rao on Wednesday demanded that India should quit the 'so-called Commonwealth' as it had failed to achieved tangible results.

The CPI leader said in a statement that excepting the criticism of the South African racist regime and support to Namibian independence, the meeting failed to achieve anything.

In fact, there has been retreat on many issues from the position of the Non-Aligned Movement summit, Mr Rao said and added that there was not even mention of the NAM call for a new international economic order.

The CHOGM failed to name the US, which has been egging on nuclear arms race and fanning military conflicts in various parts of the world, as the power responsible for the failure of the Geneva negotiations on medium-range nuclear missiles, he said.

Mr Rao said the meeting has equated the Soviet Union with the Reagan administration, which was out to endanger the future of humanity through a nuclear holocaust.

On the question of the latest "blatant US invasion of Grenada" Mr Rao said, the meeting kept mum and asked for free and fair elections even as the tiny Grenada was groaning under the jackboots of the US invaders".

On the question of keeping Indian Ocean as a zone of peace, Mr Rao said the meeting instead of condemning US attitude in implementing the UN resolution, hypocritically called on the "big powers" to implement the resolution.

He said it was futile to expect any good to come out of a gathering where "such reactionaries as Mrs Margaret Thatcher (UK), Mr Pierre Trudeau (Canada) and the Caribbean stooges of the US imperialism played a prominent role".

"All the good money of Indian people had gone waste. We are at a loss to know what our Prime Minister wanted to achieve out of this jamboree", he said.

CPI-M GENERAL SECRETARY MEETS PRESS ON 1 DECEMBER

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 1 Dec 83 p 7

[Text] CPI-M general secretary E. M. S. Namboodiripad has said that "if and when elections are ordered, our party will enter into dialogue with such parties as are prepared to cooperate with it in defeating the ruling party".

It will, however, have no electoral alliance with Opposition parties which adopt pro-imperialist communal and other disruptive policies. Mr Namboodiripad stated this while clarifying the party's attitude towards the ruling party attitude towards the ruling party in an interview given to a regional daily. He categorically ruled out electoral alliance with the BJP.

Regarding his party's attitude towards the ruling party and the Government, Mr Namboodiripad said while the CPI-M has always been prepared to extend co-operation to the Government on any issue on which the Government took a correct stand, it was opposed to the basic policies of the Government.

"It will continue its efforts to unite the forces of Opposition and rally the people for change of Government policies", he added.

Mr Namboodiripad was asked as to whether it was correct to infer from his recent meeting with Mrs Indira Gandhi that it was part of an overture towards the CPI-M in the context of current complex political situation in which right and reactionary forces were asserting themselves country-wide.

He replied, "In no case shall we abandon our opposition to the basic policies of the Government. This is known to the Prime Minister".

"I do not think that Mrs Gandhi is earnest in her declarations regarding the struggle against the forces which threaten the unity and the integrity of the country. There is, therefore, no prospect of her abandoning the antipathy to the Left movement in general, to the CPI-M in particular", he said.

In reply to a question he said it was nor irrelevant as to whether Mrs Gandhi herself was "responsible" for dismissal of his Government in Kerala in 1959. What is important is Mrs Gandhi's attitude to the non-Congress-I Governments, including those of Jammu and Kashmir and Karnataka against which her party was today playing the toppling game.

Regarding similarity to views between his party and Mrs Gandhi on international issues, Mr Namboodiripad said in that matter also their stand was at variance with that of Mrs Gandhi. He said while his party made a clear distinction between the peace-loving socialist power, the Soviet Union and the aggressive imperialist power, the United States, Mrs Gandhi did not do so.

CSO: 4600/1336

VISITING FRENCH INDUSTRY MINISTER TALKS TO DELHI PRESS

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 14 Dec 83 p 9

[Text] NEW DELHI, December 13 (UNI). THE French minister for industry and research, Mr. Laurent Fabius, said today that he has suggested to Indian leaders to send an official delegation to Paris to discuss all aspects of bilateral nuclear cooperation, including fast breeder reactor (FBR) technology.

Addressing a press conference here after a round of meetings with Indian leaders, including the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, he said he would not comment on the Indian stand on the non-proliferation treaty NPT). "That is not the aim of my visit," he said when newsmen asked him whether France would link FBR technology sharing to India signing the NPT.

Mr. Fabius said his talks with Indian leaders were "very fruitful" and disclosed that India had agreed to send a working team to examine France's latest steel technology.

He said his talks with the industry minister, Mr. N. D. Tiwari, culminated in an agreement to constitute a working group on public-sector cooperation to enhance its managerial efficiency and competitiveness.

Businessmen Assured

Mr. Fabius, assured Indian businessmen that his country was keen to keep up co-operation with the Indian private sector.

Both at his meeting with the president of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), Mr. Ashok Jain, and later at a FICCI luncheon in his honour, Mr. Fabius offered French technology to India in electronics, energy, mining equipment and various other fields.

He particularly stressed the need for greater co-operation between the medium and small-scale sector of the two countries.

Mr. Fabius said the visit of a French industrial delegation in January would help in identifying specific areas of co-operation and technology transfer.

The FICCI president invited French co-operation for the modernisation of Indian traditional industries such as sugar, cement, textiles and paper. French collaboration was equally welcome, Mr. Jain said, in capital goods industries, where obsolescence is quick, and in export-oriented units, where new substitutes or changing tastes are drastically altering market conditions.

He pointed out that out of over 7,200 foreign collaboration agreements approved by the government of India between 1957 and 1982, the share of France was only 347. However, he said, France was now evincing much greater interest in co-operation with India.

CSO: 4600/1375

ITALIAN VISITOR DISCUSSES AID POSSIBILITIES

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 2 Dec 83 p 3

[Text] BOMBAY, December 11: India is likely to get a package deal of aid of around \$258 million from Italy by way of grant, soft loans and supplier's credit, Dr. Luciano Barillaro, a top executive at the Italian embassy at Delhi said here today. A financial agreement between the two countries to this effect is likely to be signed in the next few months. Out of the total \$258 million, \$60 million will be in the form of grant, \$140 million as soft loans carrying interest at the rate of 2.5 per cent and repayable in 15 years and \$85 million as suppliers' credit bearing interest at the rate of 9.5 per cent.

According to Dr. Barillaro, Italy will allocate \$30 million out of the grant amount of \$60 million to agriculture and fishing. Out of the soft loans of \$140 million, projects have been identified for \$40 million.

Dr. Rosolino Orlando, co-chairman, Indo-Italian Joint Business Council and leader of a high-powered Italian delegation currently on tour in the city, today stressed the importance of joint ventures between Italian and Indian companies.

Addressing a meeting with the Association of Indian Engineering Industry, Dr. Orlando said that there was also need for interaction in the area of trading between the two countries. Training of Indian personnel by Italian companies was also a good suggestion, he said, and pointed out that the Italian Machine Tool Association had already taken the initiative to train Indian personnel.

According to Dr. Orlando, a letter of agreement between AIEI and Confindustria of Italy is likely to be signed at Milan in April, 1984. A draft of this agreement for following up the business opportunities identified has already been submitted by the AIEI to the visiting delegation.

In his welcome speech, Mr. J. N. Mehrotra, chairman, AIEI (western region) sought the support of the Italian representatives in getting the double taxation agreement signed between the two countries and getting it ratified as expeditiously as possible by the Italian government. He also suggested an institutional link-up between AIEI and Confindustria to ensure a continuous follow up on business opportunities. AIEI, he said, would send an industrial mission to Italy in March, 1984.

CSO: 4600/1337

AUSTRIAN DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER MEETS DELHI PRESS

Madras THE HINDU in English 8 Dec 83 p 1

[Text] NEW DELHI, Dec. 7. Austria has offered a complete package of assistance for the proposed Vijayanagar steel plant in Hospet, Karnataka, and the offer has been received favourably. A team of technical experts is expected here for follow-up discussion.

This was stated at a press conference here today by Dr. Norbert Steger, Austrian Deputy Prime Minister, at the conclusion of the first meeting of Indo-Austrian mixed commission.

Dr. Steger, who had had meetings with the Union Finance Minister, the Industries Minister, the Steel Minister and the Commerce Minister, stated that Austria had offered financing for some of the major projects proposed to be taken up in India. These included modernisation of the Rourkela steel plant, setting up of a new steel plant at Vijayanagar, and a power project in Jammu and Kashmir.

New Process

As regards the Vijayanagar project, Dr. Steger said the proposal was to set up the plant based on the new coal reduction process called KR process developed by an Austrian firm, Voest Alpine AG. He said the process had been tried on a pilot plant in West Germany and was suitable for India as low grade coal with ash content upto 40 per cent could be used. This would help save foreign exchange involved in import of coking coal.

Report Awaited

Dr. Steger said tests conducted on the pilot plant with Indian iron ore and coal had given encouraging results. This was confirmed by the Steel Minister Mr. N. K. P. Salve when Dr. Steger called on him. Mr. Salve said the Government was awaiting the final report on the tests and if the KR process was found to be suitable it could be used in the Vijayanagar plant.

The Austrian delegation to the mixed commission meeting had gained the impression that the Indian Government was keen on implementing the Vijayanagar steel project. If India agreed to base it on the KR process, initially a

small sized plant--say 600,000 tonnes capacity--could be set up and subsequently on the basis of experience gained in the new process the capacity could be stepped up.

Items for Export

At the mixed commission meeting, a list of nine commodities with potential for export of nine commodities with potential for export to Austria and 23 sectors where Indo-Austrian joint ventures could be set up in third countries were drawn up. The 23 sectors included:--architecture and town planning, roads and highways, water supply and sewage disposal, cement, leather, textiles, dam engineering, construction engineering, mining, including ore handling and dressing, oil extraction and processing, sugar production based on sugar cane, steel foundries, grey iron foundries, re-rolling mills, structural fabrication, railway construction, maintenance and operation, light engineering like bicycles, sewing machines, fasteners, fans and switches, etc., power transmission and distribution, computer software, steel and ferrous metallurgy, off-shore and on-shore pipeline systems and paper.

The exportable commodities included engineering ancillaries and components, iron ore, alumina, coffee, tobacco, spices, marine produce, marine products and drugs and leather goods.

The agreed minutes of the meeting of the mixed commission was signed by Mr. R. Dayal, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Commerce on behalf of India and Dr. Rudolf Willenpart, Minister in the Federal Ministry of Trade, Commerce and Industry of Austria, on behalf of Austria.

The minutes were signed in the presence of Dr. Norbert Steger, and Mr. V. P. Singh, Union Commerce Minister. Both expressed their appreciation that the commission had specified areas of cooperation and made practical suggestions for improving Indo-Austrian trade.

Business Council

The Commerce Minister stated that an institutional framework was necessary to give an impetus to trade promotional measures. Therefore, he was glad that the Austrians had agreed to consider the setting up of a joint business council which would enable Indian and Austrian business enterprises to exchange information and follow up different projects and trade promotional schemes.

Austria had agreed to participate in India's international trade fair in 1984, and India would participate in the international trade fair at Vienna next year.

Dr. Steger said in reply to a question from a pressman that though the trade balance was now in favour of Austria it could turn in favour of India in a couple of years. Austria followed a liberal import policy and Indian exporters could avail themselves of it. "We are determined to change the balance in your favor" he added.

Asked about the sudden interest of Austria in India, Dr. Steger said that being a land-locked country Austria has all along been exporting mostly to the neighbouring EEC countries. He had taken over as Commerce Minister recently and he wanted to give a new impetus to trade by seeking new markets.

Meeting With PM

During his stay here, Dr. Steger also met the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi and discussed the international situation. About these discussions, he said that a non-aligned country like India should join hands with a neutral country like Austria to halt the increase in armament build-up by major powers.

CSO: 4600/1376

POSSIBILITY OF EARLY ELECTIONS DISCUSSED

Madras THE HINDU in English 5 Dec 83 p 1

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text] NEW DELHI, Dec. 4. The two alternative months that are being privately mentioned in the corridors of power as politically opportune and seasonally suitable for the next Parliamentary elections are May and October, 1984, although the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, has not been indicating her intentions even to her closest confidants.

The advocates of early elections in her entourage have been telling Mrs. Gandhi that, if she wanted to take the Opposition by surprise as she did in 1971 and 1977, she should go through a brief Budget session before any dissolution of the Lok Sabha.

But there are others who have been cautioning her that any Budget presented on the eve of the elections, in the wake of the worsening economic situation, is bound to hit the ruling party hard by giving the Opposition parties an opportunity to blame the Government entirely for the rising prices and the resultant hardships of the people.

Element of surprise: It would be bad tactics in their view, to have the poll immediately after the Budget with all the inescapable compulsions for stiffer doses of taxation. A more prudent course, according to this school of thought, would be to go in for a vote on account followed by a snap poll in March, if not earlier, to retain the element of surprise. If the Congress (I) is not prepared for an early poll, so the argument runs, the Opposition parties are even less prepared to face the people so soon.

But these counsellors of greater caution feel that there is no special advantage to be gained by going in for a May poll, if the ruling party is unprepared for earlier elections, since October would be a more suitable month, in their opinion. The people would have reconciled themselves to the rigours of the new taxes and price increases, accepting them philosophically as inescapable facts of life.

Manoeuvrability: Those in favour of an early poll have been telling Mrs. Gandhi that it would not be prudent to wait till October which would restrict her capacity for any manoeuvrability in the event of some adverse developments.

As the elections will have to be held by December in any case, she would not be able to delay the poll beyond October, if the intention is to have the elections before the expiry of her present five-year term, since late November and early December are paddy harvesting period and wheat sowing season in many of the northern States.

Congress (I) 'not totally prepared': There are some others in her inner circle who are not greatly impressed by these arguments in favour or against an early poll for entirely different reasons. They are making no secret of their uneasy feeling that not only is the Congress (I) totally unprepared to go through the ordeals of a national election with the requisite measure of confidence, but the present Government, with its poor image, is not capable of making the right impact on the public mind for being voted back to power with a safe margin.

It is a debatable point whether the enhanced international stature of Mrs. Gandhi is going to help her really in offsetting the domestic dissatisfaction with her faltering leadership on the home front. It is equally open to doubt whether she can escape the blame for all the mess created in many States by the nominated Chief Ministers arbitrarily imposed from Delhi.

Lessons not learnt: The sad part of it all is that the Congress (I) has not learnt anything from its chastening experience in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka, since its current strategy in the south is based on ensuring the return of at least a reasonable number of its candidates through manipulative politics and private horse-trading rather than a determined bid to reassert the party's continued relevance. The Congress (I) strategists have been exploring the possibilities of striking electoral deals with those in power at least in two of the four southern States to offset any unexpected reverses in some of the northern States.

Need for make-shift alliances: The Congress (I) did so well in the whole Hindi belt in the last elections, in complete reversal of its terrible rout in 1977, that in the 1984 poll, it cannot improve any further on its 1980 performance. On the contrary, the party has to contend with the prospect of losing some seats in the normal course as the voters tend to get disenchanted over a period of time with any Government irrespective of who is at the helm. In this situation, it is of critical importance for the Congress (I) to regain some of its lost importance in the south through make-shift alliances.

Public opinion in Tamil Nadu: The timing of the elections will, therefore, depend to some extent on the Congress (I)'s plans for striking these deals in the southern States. And those in power at the Centre have become so sensitive to public opinion in Tamil Nadu, for example, over the Sri Lanka situation that the outcome of the current parleys for resolving the Tamils problem will be one of the many considerations in deciding whether the Congress (I) should go in for a snap poll in May or wait till October, hoping for a more favourable combination of circumstances on the national scene.

PM's trip to Madras: Mrs. Gandhi is planning a trip to Madras on December 16 to address the regional Congress (I) conclave, which will give her an opportunity to size up the situation personally in the southern States. The attempt is to mollify the dissidents in the Congress (I), while making an ambitious bid to woo the leaders of the local ruling parties with a view to arriving at an understanding for division of seats wherever possible.

RAO: SUMMIT DOCUMENTS REFLECT FOREIGN POLICY

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 6 Dec 83 p 1

[Text] NEW DELHI, December 5. THE external affairs minister, Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao, told Parliament today that India's views on important issues were adequately reflected in the documents issued by the Commonwealth summit.

He said in a statement that India's "principled and forthright position" on West Asia had not in any way been weakened by the paragraphs in the joint communique relating to this subject. On the contrary, the Commonwealth meeting appreciated the successful efforts of the non-aligned mission in securing the cease-fire in northern Lebanon.

Even on Grenada, which was a hotly debated issue during the conference, the Commonwealth leaders called for the strict observance of the principles of independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity. They looked forward to the functioning of the interim civilian administration in Grenada, free of external interference, pressure on the presence of foreign military forces.

India hoped that foreign troops would be withdrawn from Grenada without further delay, Mr. Rao said.

According to the external affairs minister, there was a large measure of agreement on the West Asian situation which posed a threat to world peace, as well as on the inalienable rights of the Palestinians. There was a general understanding on Kampuchea and Afghanistan which had in the past proved very contentious issues.

Mr. Rao said the Goa declaration called for resumption of a genuine dialogue to reduce tensions and achieve progress on disarmament as was earlier emphasised by Mrs. Gandhi. The Prime Minister had felt that the Commonwealth must urge the United States and the Soviet Union to exert themselves to break the stalemate in the negotiations on disarmament.

Namibia Issue

The Prime Minister had also spoken about the pressures to which small countries following independent policies were subjected. The Goa declaration expressed concern at the vulnerability of small states to external attack and interference in their affairs.

Mr. Rao said that the summit rejected any linkage between Namibian independence and the withdrawal of the Cuban troops from Angola. It asked for the full activation of the U.N. role in terms of security council resolution 435.

The Commonwealth leaders also put forward their views on the lack of progress in the North-South dialogue, protectionism, and decline in multilateral concessional assistance.

He said: "the New Delhi statement on economic action is on the whole good, even though it does not meet our expectations. It does open the door, even if slightly, to further progress in the direction of reforming the international economic system."

The statement underlined the urgency of the process of preparatory consultations, with regard to economic reforms. "It is our expectation that this would eventually lead to the international conference with universal participation on money and finance, which the non-aligned summit had called for."

The external affairs minister stressed that a world-wide dialogue was absolutely necessary to pull the world away from nuclear catastrophe and to tackle urgent political and economic problems. A serious dialogue was needed on East-West relations, on disarmament and arms control, on North-South issues as well as such common problems as preservation of the environment, care of the young and protection of the weak. Issues of particular concern to non-aligned countries must remain high on the international agenda.

During the summit, bilateral issues were also discussed with some of the leaders who expressed interest in strengthening relations with India, Mr. Rao said.

CSO: 4600/1348

IMPORTANCE OF, IMPROVEMENTS IN NAVY NOTED

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 4 Dec 83 p 5

[Article by H. Kusumakar]

[Text] COCHIN, December 3. INDIA is to acquire Seaking MK-42B helicopters from the United Kingdom to augment the operational capacity of its naval fleet.

The Seaking is essentially an anti-submarine helicopter. It can be deployed for search as well as hunter-killer missions at sea.

MK-42B helicopters, with their see-skimming air-to-surface missiles, also form a very lethal platform against surface targets.

An earlier version is in the service of the Indian Navy for over a decade. The crew of this complex aircraft are trained to take all tactical measures to detect, track and destroy an enemy submarine. This is where the flight and tactical simulator (FATS) comes into the picture.

FATS is a Seaking simulator training device set up in Cochin in 1979. It has a separated cockpit layout and a rear crew to train pilots and observers independently. The two can also be hooked up for training of crew co-ordination. Fully computerised FATS can simulate all flying conditions, including those at night, in various weather situations, over land or sea.

Air Army's Role

Under-water detection is made by transmitting sound waves into the water and deducing the range, depth and bearing of a submarine from the reflected sound wave. Because of varying hydrological conditions, it is always a battle of wits between the submarine and anti-submarine warfare platform.

Helicopters have come to assume an important role in submarine warfare. The Indian Navy operates, along with the sophisticated Seaking, Kamov-25 "Choppers" to ferret out submersibles.

Today, the fleet air arm is a well-integrated component of the navy with an impressive array of aircraft and helicopters that perform a variety of roles, strike, reconnaissance, anti-submarine, early warning and rescue mission. The

addition of the battle-tested, vertical take-off and landing Sea Harriers on the recently modernised aircraft carrier, INS Vikrant, can be expected to strengthen further the fleet air arm.

World War II heralded the arrival of aircraft-carrier in the naval tactical doctrine. The attack on Pearl Harbour by Japanese carrier-based aircraft operating from over 3,600 nautical miles and the subsequent battles in the Pacific more than demonstrated the advantage of a floating airfield.

Naval aviation naturally became an important element in India's first naval expansion programme in 1948.

It has grown practically from year to year. From the original squadron of 200 sailors, which was the embryo of naval aviation, the Indian Navy today possesses a multi-squadron fleet air arm. Along with the submarine and missile ship, naval aviation has enhanced the three-dimensional shield for the defence of India's enlarging maritime interests.

The maritime responsibility of the southern naval command in Cochin extends from Goa to Cape Comorin in the Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean. The defence of Laccadives and Minicoy island territories is also vested with the southern naval command.

Needless to say, the position of these islands is strategically important, INS Verduruthy, INS Sanjivini, INS Agrani, INS Dronacharya, INS Hansa and INS Garuda are the major establishments of the command in the fulfilment of its responsibility.

Today, the seas around India are equally if not more important in the context of national sovereignty and development. Recent geopolitical developments have converted the Indian Ocean into a turbulent vortex of superpower rivalry. The presence of foreign navies does not augur well for the stability of the region. It is known that on the western flank, Pakistan is arming itself disproportionately to its genuine needs and the induction of the Harpoon missile and modern destroyers and aircraft cannot be ignored.

Ocean Rights

The economic angle, too, cannot be overlooked. The recent enactment of the international law of the sea under the aegis of the United Nations has brought an area of 300 km. around the coastline for exclusive exploitation of its resources by India.

This zone is the biggest in the Indian Ocean, spanning an area that is more than half the land mass that India covers. It is also one of the richest oceanic areas. A conservative estimate is that one square mile of this seabed contains mineral nodules that can yield 70,000 tonnes of aluminum, 2,300 tonnes of cadmium, 1,700 tonnes of iron, 4,000 tonnes of cobalt, 1,200 tonnes of nickel and 650 tonnes of copper.

Animal proteins in the form of marine life are available in plenty in the oceans. (Already, 15 per cent of the world's supply is met from this source.) Indian waters are amongst the richest in the world in view of the tropical conditions that exist. The problem of poaching by foreign trawlers needs to be countered effectively before it assumes alarming proportions.

In the present time, the most significant single asset is the discovery of oil in the sea-bed and Bombay High is vital for the nation's economy. The output from this source has already touched the ten million tonne mark this year and saves a sizable amount of foreign exchange. It is envisaged that oil will also be struck in other offshore oil areas around the Gujarat, Andhra and West Bengal coasts which have a potential of 220 million tonnes.

India has acquired considerable expertise in off-shore oil drilling and is the only third world country to attain pioneer status in deep-sea mining.

All these resources and potential assets need to be protected and nurtured by the presence of a strong naval element, along with the defence of sea-lanes that led to and from various minor and major ports as well as the innumerable little island territories that are strategically located against the possibility of any enemy incursion.

CSO: 4600/1342

REPORTER TELLS PLANS FOR TECHNOLOGY CITY

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 3 Dec 83 pp 1, 9

[Article by Praful Bidwai]

[Text] HYDERABAD: WITHIN months of the announcement by New Delhi of a controversial plan to establish a Science City, now comes the Technology City project for non-resident Indian scientists and engineers.

Bureaucrats of the Andhra Pradesh government and some enterprising U.S.-based Indian technologists, primarily from this state, have been quick to take the cue from Mrs. Indira Gandhi and turned the concept of a Technology City into an elaborate plan.

They have now produced a "feasibility report" for "Project Tech", a "technology enterprises city" near here.

The Technology City will only cost Rs. 130.4 crores, according to the feasibility report.

It will act as a magnet for expatriate Indian scientists apparently eager to bridge the technology gap between this country and the developed world. When completed, it will house some 1,500 scientists and engineers engaged in research in such high-tech fields as biotechnology, material sciences, energy and environment, and electronics, including computers, communications and instrumentation.

The Technology City, the most spectacularly capital-intensive and high-cost project ever conceived for science and technology in this country, is proposed to be sited over about 1,600 acres of land in Narsapur taluq of Medak district, close to Hyderabad.

The government of Andhra Pradesh has agreed in principle to make the land available free of cost for the project. Those who have initiated the proposal are now lobbying New Delhi for funds and grants as well as official support for the Technology City.

The objectives of the grandiose scheme, as stated in the feasibility report prepared earlier this month, are:

--to create a unique physical, economic and technical infra-structure" that will attract expatriate Indian scientists, industrialists, technologists and educators and to locate R & D, testing light industrial production, design, consulting and training facilities in "the high technology areas relevant to Indian development".

—"to serve as a focus for the enterprising expatriate Indian scientists and technologists interested in contributing their knowledge, skills and resources to the development of India"

--so as to create "a critical mass that may result in an explosive growth in the application of new technologies to a wide variety of situations."

--and to create a "nucleus in the development of socially relevant technologies".

Unique Show-Piece

Last, but not least, the aim is "to create a unique show-piece that will develop and demonstrate modern technology and serve as a model for replication elsewhere in the country."

The "unique show-piece" concept traces back to exactly a year ago, when over a hundred scientists, technologists and industrialists of Indian origin, settled in the United States, met in Pittsburgh to discuss several presentations and deliberate on the contours of the Technology City proposal.

The Pittsburgh workshop, held on November 13 and 14, was itself a sequel to a brief meeting some resident Indian scientists had with Mrs. Gandhi on July 31, 1982 during her visit to the U.S.

Owing to paucity of time, Mrs. Indira Gandhi had asked Dr. M. S. Swaminathan--himself an expatriate scientist now and director general of the International Rice Research Institute, Manila--to pursue the various ideas thrown up at the meeting, with the U.S.-based non-resident scientists.

The Pittsburgh workshop was greeted profusely by Mrs. Gandhi in a message: "Now is the time to evolve better ways of bringing science into the daily lives of all our people. The idea of technology cities seeks to do just this through research, education, and extension.... My greetings to the participants in the workshop. Their deliberations will be of value to us."

The Indian ambassador to the U.S. also sent a message of felicitation to the workshop, expressing his confidence that it "will prove to be a pioneering effort of major importance".

The Pittsburgh workshop was preceded by the drawing up of a blue-print for the Technology City by a three-man task team of U.S.-based scientists, following discussions with Dr Swaminathan. The task team proposed a seven-year schedule for the setting up of the project.

The workshop participants however favoured a fast-track five-year schedule, were unanimous in supporting the Technology City concept and agreed on four major areas as providing the thrust of the city's activity: bio-technology for medical, agricultural and chemical industries; material sciences, energy and environment and electronics. However, few specific sub-areas or R&D lines were stipulated.

Following keynote presentations and a panel discussion, they also elected a nine-member ad hoc committee, headed by Dr. C. R. Rao of the University of Pittsburgh, to pursue the various proposals discussed at the workshop.

The efforts of some members of this committee to liaise with Andhra government officials, as well as informal contacts established with certain influential management teachers recently returned from the U.S. have now fructified in the form of the feasibility report.

Marketing Role

The report has the backing of the industries department of the Andhra Pradesh government, the A.P. Industries Development Corporation, ANRICH (the Andhra Pradesh State Non-Resident Union Investment Corporation)--apparently the only state-level company set up to attract expatriate funds--as well as some management experts, ex-scientists and builder-promoters.

As conceived by the report, prepared after three meetings, the Technology City will not only develop and promote new scientific techniques in frontier areas, but it will also encourage consultancy, liaison with local institutions as well as help individual entrepreneurs market their technologies.

The City will emphasise commercialisation of technology through "light production" to be undertaken by entrepreneur scientists. "Some of the enterprises might even be 100 per cent export-oriented."

The Technology City will seek to exploit some of India's strengths such as a large pool of skilled scientists and technologists and "low-cost English-speaking labour".

Like the Pittsburgh workshop, the recent report also emphasises a commercial orientation. By implication, the report also shares the Pittsburgh workshop's stress on allowing the expatriate scientists to retain dual citizenship.

Again, in conformity with the workshop, the report proposes that the City will be an autonomous organisation run by a board, the majority of whose members are its residents. The day-to-day management of the city, including functions such as entrepreneurial assistance, marketing support and publicity, will be vested in the board and a chief executive appointed by it.

Model Science School

The City will provide a physical infrastructure including five-star housing, roads, and markets, technical support facilities such as a library, computers,

workshops; and R & D facilities and sophisticated instrumentation and communication services.

Besides these, the City will operate a model science school which, "in addition to meeting the needs of the residents, will admit gifted children from the larger community" and will use computer-aided and audio-visual-based instruction.

The Technology City will also promote an ultra-modern medical facility, a five-star hospital with "the latest diagnostic equipment", to serve "as a model for effecting improvements in delivery of health care in Hyderabad and elsewhere".

The entire concept of these facilities, as of the project as a whole, is based on or is a direct replica of the model of science cities and technology parks in South Korea (Dae Duk), Taiwan (Hsinchu), Singapore (Jurong), Malaysia (Petaling Java), besides Japan (Tsukuba) and the U.S. (Silicon Valley and Research Triangle Park).

"You might even say our Technology City is an imitation of these models", says an official actively involved in the project. "But what's wrong with imitating something that our non-resident scientists are familiar with and want? What is wrong in giving them salaries and facilities of a five-star kind--that is what they are used to."

The feasibility report makes a strong plea for locating the Technology City in Hyderabad on the following grounds. Hyderabad is well-linked by air, road and rail to the major metropolitan cities, has adequate water and power supply, and can expand in all directions. It is relatively cosmopolitan and dust-free.

The city offers "a wide variety of cultural activities, including sher-shairi, qawalis, dance and music from all over the country."

And most important, Hyderabad hosts five universities, 18 research institutions and is the base for 12 national training institutions as well as the R & D divisions of some large corporations besides having no fewer than 20 large main-frame computer installations.

The support of the Andhra government, particularly its industrial promotion agencies and ANRICH is also cited as a strong ground.

It is not clear if many scientists in the institutions listed in the report are keen on having the Technology City located here. Most are critical of the idea for the "spectacular waste" it involves. But some of the non-resident scientists, now U.S. citizens, interviewed by this writer are obviously so.

Builders Happy

Even more enthusiastic would seem to be the city's builders and contractors. For the project involves the development of 1,600 acres of land, building of 10 miles of roads, 2 million sq. ft. of housing and laboratory construction and Rs.

5 crores worth of recreational facilities--the total bill for the "physical infrastructure running to an astounding Rs. 604 crores, accounting for 46.5 per cent of the total cost of the Technology City.

The contractors are even more eager than the PAP government officials that the project proposal is pursued seriously in New Delhi. Right now, however, it is a few expatriate scientists who are taking the follow-up initiative.

They seem keenly aware of the emphasis laid at Pittsburgh in presentation after presentation on obtaining the approval of "the highest authority in the land" on "prioritisation by the Prime Minister" and on obtaining Mrs. Gandhi's "blessings".

In fact, some prominent scientists' list of principal recommendations made at Pittsburgh ended with the entry, "PM Blessings".

CSO: 4600/1340

BORDER FORCES HEAD DISCUSSES BORDER PROBLEMS

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 2 Dec 83 p 9

[Text] NEW DELHI, Dec. 1.--Mr Birbal Nath, Director-General of the Border Security Force, said here yesterday that the Centre had decided to strengthen the security of the border in the eastern sector by augmenting the force, raising the number of watch towers and introducing the modern night vision devices and speedboats to check the largescale smuggling and unceasing infiltration.

Similarly, he told a Press conference, the vigil on the border in the western sector had been strengthened because of the attempts at smuggling out of India large quantities of silver, whisky and sewing machines and smuggle into the country opium, charas and heroin in bulk quantities.

Like on the western border, he said, the Government had decided to construct, for the first time, 254 watch towers in West Bengal and the north-eastern States. These towers, to be equipped with searchlights, night-vision devices and field-telephones, would be operational by March next.

The Government also sanctioned the raising of there more BSF battalions to be deployed in West Bengal and Tripura with a view to strengthening the border security in the north-east in addition to sanctioning the setting up of more observation posts and greater use of speedboats and water crafts in the riverine terrain.

Mr Birbal Nath disclosed that the vigil and raids by the BSF men on the border in the western sector had led in the last 10 months to the seizure of 31 quintals of silver worth Rs 1.15 crores, which was being smuggled out of India. In a number of raids on the border in Punjab, the BSF men apprehended heroin worth (Rs 64.25 lakhs), charas (Rs 17.53 lakhs) and opium (Rs 28.68 lakhs) being smuggled into India.

The total seizure of contrabands on different borders so far was worth Rs 4.40 crores, an all-time record. The BSF men also captured seven revolvers, 31 pistols, six guns from the smugglers during encounters and apprehended 4,937 smugglers and other illegal entrants so far in the western sector.

Mr Birbal Nath said the Centre had sanctioned two additional battalions in 1980 for deployment on the Assam and Meghalaya borders, to check infiltration and illegal crossing from Bangladesh to India. The augmentation so far enabled the BSF to raise the number of outposts from 48 to 61 in Meghalaya-Bangladesh sector and from 48 to 81 in the Assam-Bangladesh sector. The average distance between the BSF posts in Assam had now been reduced to 3.4 km from the earlier 5.7 km and to 7 km from the earlier 8.8 km in Meghalaya.

The Government had now sanctioned two additional BSF battalions for West Bengal and one additional battalion for Tripura. These units had since been raised and already positioned on the borders, he said.

He said during the past 10 months BSF men had apprehended 20,738 infiltrators on the border in the eastern sector--West Bengal (18,509), Assam (589) Meghalaya (141), and Tripura (1,499).

CSO: 4600/1338

INDIA, QATAR PLAN JOINT PROJECT ON GAS RESERVES

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 20 Dec 83 pp 1, 7

[Text] DOHA, Dec 19 (PTI)--India and Qatar today decided to undertake joint technical studies for optimum, utilisation of the enormous gas reserves in this Gulf state for mutual benefits.

The Indian experts in this field would soon get on the job and work out the modalities of the technical cooperation for use of the gas in the production of fertilizers and other petro-chemicals.

An understanding of this effect was arrived at the official talks President Zail Singh had with the Amir of Qatar, Sheikh Halifa Bin Hamad Bin al-Thani. The senior officials present at the talks later held consultations on the follow up action.

During the talks, the Amir of Qatar, also appreciated India's intentions to have increased investment in the Gulf State. Two Indian firms have recently acquired contracts worth \$500 million. It was also agreed that Qatar would encourage visits by Indian industrialists and businessmen to explore the possibilities of investment.

According to an official spokesman, the Amir stressed the importance of South-South cooperation and enhanced cooperation among the non-aligned countries.

PLO Supported

During official-level talks, India and Qatar called for urgent steps to end the Iran-Iraq conflict which has destroyed the Arab unity and supported the Faiz peace plan for solution of the Palestinian issue.

The two countries also reaffirmed the non-aligned movement's approach on maintaining the territorial integrity of Lebanon and withdrawal of Israeli troops from all the Arab territories.

Reiterating their stand on the right of self-determination by Palestinian people and their claim to establish an independent state under their own legitimate control, the two sides fully endorsed the legitimacy of the PLO.

Qatar fully backed the non-aligned stand that the Indian Ocean should be a zone of peace. India supported the Qatar contention that the Gulf should be kept free from super power rivalry.

On the question of Pakistan, Mr Zail Singh apprised the Amir of Qatar about the efforts India was making to step up cooperation in South Asia and reassured him that India was taking positive steps to further improve the relations with Pakistan.

Responding to the invitation extended to the Amir by Mr Zail Singh, the Amir said he wished to visit India in the very near future. The exact dates of his visit will be worked out by the two governments.

UNI adds: Later, addressing the Indian community here Mr Zail Singh explained that India's consistent support for the Arab causes, including the Palestinian cause, emanated from principles espoused by Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru who spoke out against the injustices the Arabs were subjected to.

CSO: 4600/1371

PAPERS REPORT AITUC SESSION IN BANGALORE

Gupta Address

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 17 Dec 83 pp 1, 7

[Text] SHANTARAM PAI NAGAR (Bangalore), Dec 16--All India Trade Union Congress general secretary Indrajit Gupta, MP, today made an open appeal to the CITU leadership to "start the process of merger" on the basis of the policy of "class struggle as against class collaboration, secularism and national unity, peace and anti-imperialism and international working class solidarity.

Presenting his report, Mr Indrajit Gupta said "We are of the firm opinion that the time has come when trade unions having a broadly common class and political ideology should make determined efforts to sink their differences and to forge their organisational unity. All socially progressive and left-minded unions should come within the compass of these efforts".

While declaring AITUC willingness to work for such unity of all unions which unequivocally stand for the principles of class struggle, secularism, and national unity, peace and anti-imperialism and international working class solidarity, Mr Gupta said "we see no objective reason why AITUC and CITU to start with should not agree on the above principles as the basis for their organisations, starting from the lowest level, merge with each other or mutually agreed terms and conditions".

However, CITU general secretary Samar Mukherjee addressing a press conference later said "there was absolutely no question of merger of the two organisations, at least immediately". He said that the CITU leadership was "yet to get the proposal of merger from AITUC as reported to be contained in Indrajit Gupta's report".

Earlier, Mr Indrajit Gupta emphasised the supreme need of united struggles of the working class on vital questions on the national and international scene.

Delivering one of the most inspiring speeches of the session Mr Gupta said "without struggles nothing will be achieved".

Mr Gupta threw light on the current national and international issues and dealt at length on some of the urgent and vital problems facing the trade union movement in the country.

He asserting that no single trade union was in a position to defend the workers from attacks and pleading for trade unity as the foremost task.

He said that in this context that the formation of the National Campaign Committee (NCC) was a positive gain and "we propose to all trade unions to have joint action on common issues if not all issues" He further said "We do not want to keep INTUC out of NCC. We shall fight in the NCC to keep its door open for them".

Dealing at length with the policies of economic depredation going on in the country with active Government connivance, Mr Gupta said "You cannot fight monopolies and multinational corporations in India without fighting the policies of the Government of India in this respect which is helping their growth".

He said "Indira Gandhi's policy in regard to world peace, non-alignment, friendship with the USSR and other socialist countries etc. are correct but all these do not add up to a position of that called for unqualified support to her".

Mr Gupta started his address by quoting Dange's message to the conference wherein Dange had suggested that AITUC should fight for the demand for nationalisation of monopoly houses and to thwart the attempts of multi-nationals to tighten their grip over India. Mr Gupta said "there is nothing new in what Dange has said in his message, but we cannot wage a struggle on this unless we fight government of India's policies".

Expressing his concern on the deep inroads being made by multinationals into the economy by even entering the public sector said that the Government were not taking any step to curb them.

Welcoming the Government decision on the takeover of 13 textile mills of Bombay, Mr Gupta asked why were not similar steps being taken in respect of other closed textile mills and other industrial units closed all over country.

Referring to the danger of growing influence of communal and divisive forces in the trade union movement, Mr Gupta said "there can be no doubt that growing mass discontent against unemployment, poverty and exploitation are being utilized by reactionary forces to instigate communal, casteist and regional clashes among the people. This is a serious threat to working class unity and to the country's integrity".

In this connection, Mr Gupta pointed out that "social and religious heritage of the past is being distorted today to foster aggressive Hindu communalism, such as that preached by the BSS and organisations like Vishwa Hindu Parishad on the other hand, long years of discrimination against Muslim minority, as well as Scheduled Castes and Tribes, are breeding powerful tendencies of majority separatism. Both these trends unless counteracted, will be increasingly used to divide toilers, disrupt class and national unity, and annihilate mankind: He said the first and major task of AITUC was to educate workers about peace in the context of war and threat of nuclear war. To make anti-war struggle meaningful to the hungry and the unemployed, and to rouse them in the

defence of peace, obviously, cannot be done without explaining how the problem of mass poverty, disease, illiteracy etc. can only be solved if the arms race is halted and if even a fraction of world arms budget of 660 billion dollars per year was diverted to meet the urgent social needs of people of the developing countries".

He further added that AITUC has been striving, alongwith other mass organisations, to deepen understanding of our workers and to show the connection between their day-to-day struggles for immediate demands and world-wide peace movement.

On trade union unity, Mr Gupta said that though there were number of issues on which various trade union organisations in NCC may not agree there were a number of problems on which these trade unions with divergent views can work together. He appealed to the delegates to work hard to achieve this objective of unity.

US Invasion Condemned

The 32nd session of AITUC adopted unanimously a resolution strongly condemning the "totally unprovoked and most shameless" invasion and occupation of Grenada by the United States.

The resolution called upon the people of India in particular the working class to say no to the deployment of US missiles in Europe. Another resolution expressed solidarity with the Cypriot people calling upon the Indian working people defeat US imperialist machinations.

More Greetings

The second day of the proceedings were greeted by some more leaders of fraternal delegations from abroad and from fraternal trade union organisations in the country.

Prominent among them were CITU vice-president, CPM politburo member and leader of CPM group in Parliament Samar Mukherjee and leader of Soviet Trade Union delegation Valentine Makejew.

Gupta Summing-Up Speech

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 20 Dec 83 pp 1, 7

[Text] SHANTARAM PAI NAGAR (Bangalore), Dec 19--The AITUC today called for observing 1984 as the 'year to organise unorganised labour' by unionising them, and adopted a resolution at its 32nd session criticising the negligence of safety measures in coal and other mines in the country.

AITUC general secretary Indrajit Gupta, MP, during his summing up speech on the discussion on the report which he presented to the session on the second day of the deliberations said "Prime Minister Indira Gandhi had declared

1982 as the productivity year but it proved to be the year of lockouts and closures in bit industrial units in the country.

The year 1983 proved to be the year of public sector workers because during this year they defeated the bureau of public enterprises guidelines restraining wages. Let us now decide to observe 1984 as 'year to organise unorganised labour' by unionising this large labour force which is living and working in the most miserable conditions.

Mr Gupta also called upon the delegates "to go back from the conference with the slogan of trade union unity".

Elaborating the concept of TU unity, he said what the AITUC wants and what it has done is to initiate the process of trade union unity.

He, however, refused to comment on the CITU general secretary Samar Mukherjee's statement on CITUC-CITU merger since it was not on the agenda but pointed out that the trade union unity even among the like-minded leftist organisations like the ATUC and the CITU cannot take place 'overnight'.

Elaborating further, Mr Gupta said "what we want is class unity."

Chiding those, who spoke of the unity with those believing in 'scientific socialism', he said "that was too high a criterion for trade union unity" and pointed out that the AITUC was able to meet challenges from the BMS and its anti-working class ideas.

He said from the "narrow concept of Hindu rashtra or such ideas, the BMS workers get exposed to the unity of all workers irrespective of religion or other considerations.

On the question of peace and struggle by working classes to safeguard the world from a nuclear holocaust, the general secretary emphasised the fact that the trade union movement and peace movement are inter-linked and the trade unions should also be on the forefront of the peace movement."

Mr Gupta also dealt with the rapidly increasing growth of monopolies and the multi-nationals in the country and stressed the need for the ATICU to make deeper studies on this question so that it could be effectively countered.

The general secretary welcomed Mr Dange's suggestion in this connection but said how it could be done without fighting the government's policies of giving concessions to such companies.

Mr Indrajit Gupta emphasised the democratic and proper functioning of the trade unions and educating of the workers by drawing a detailed syllabus and conducting schools and classes.

He also stressed the need for raising the level of trade union movement beyond the frame work of day-to-day wage struggles.

Recognition of Kampuchea Sought

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 20 Dec 83 p 6

[Text] SHANTARAM PAI NAGAR Bangalore, Dec 19--On the penultimate day of the 32nd session of the AITUC, the representatives of Ceylon Trade Unions, General Confederation of Labour, France and delegates from Kampuchea addressed the proceedings. The session unanimously adopted a resolution expressing AITUC solidarity with the people of Kampuchea and demanded recognition of the new popular government of Heng Samrin by United Nations without any further delay.

The resolution recalled the heroic struggles and sacrifices of the people of Kampuchea, their fight against the French and US imperialists alongwith the fraternal people of Vietnam and Laos.

It also noted the 'great misfortune' suffered by Kampuchean people after their liberation from imperialist yoke when an anti-people and reactionary clique headed by Pol Pot had usurped power there and imposed 'genocidal and barbarous' regime.

Once again people rose to defeat this clique after great sufferings and sacrifices and the new regime under the leadership of Heng Samrin has been able to successfully restore political, economic and cultural life of the country and has been, at the same time, fighting armed attacks of the Pol Pot gangs which has now found shelter in the neighbouring country of Thailand.

CSO: 4600/1371

MIZORAM CHIEF MINISTER NOTES CHAKMA INFLUX

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 20 Dec 83 p 4

[Text] Chief Minister of Mizoram Brig T Sailo on Monday said that there had been large scale influx of 'Chakmas' in the State and if it was not checked they might encroach upon a sizable portion of Mizoram, reports PTI.

Brig. Sailo told newsmen in New Delhi he has recently written to Union Home Minister P C Sethi and Chief Election Commissioner R. K Trivedi about the Chakma-influx into the strip of land lying between Mizoram and Bangladesh.

Alleging that the Chakmas infiltration was encouraged by Bangladesh Brig. Sailo said if it was not stopped immediately India might lose the land to Bangladesh in future.

He said the north-eastern region has lived in isolation for long which resulted in the growth of anti-India and pro-secessionist feelings. "Hence, they must be brought closer to the national mainstream to give them a moral boosting and a feeling of oneness with the rest of the country", he said.

Brig. Sailo said the Centre has recently taken several steps to solve the problems of the north-eastern region. "This was very fruitful in convincing the people living there that the Centre was alive to their needs and aspirations. He said more efforts, including developmental schemes, were necessary to further convince them of the Centre's concern towards them, he said.

Emphasising the need for development of the region he urged the Centre to treat it above party politics. The members of Parliament from the north-east are so small in number that they could not carry much weight. Hence the Centre should take steps for the development of the region, he added.

He said that the insurgency activities in the north eastern region can not be brought to an 'abrut end'.

Brig Sailo said the north eastern region was very vital to the security of India because of its geographical and strategic location. 'Hence violence and insurgency activities must not be allowed to grow there.'

CSO: 4600/1371

OFFICIAL SEES NO FOREIGN HAND IN COUNTERFEIT RACKET

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 17 Dec 83 p 9

[Text] NEW DELHI, December 16. MR. Janardhan Poojary, deputy minister for finance, told the Rajya Sabha today that no foreign power was involved in the fake currency racket in the country.

Replying to a calling-attention notice, he said the government had no evidence to show that the U.S. or China were involved in the racket. Two foreign nationals, Thais, were involved, he said. There was no attempt by foreign powers to destabilise the country by printing fake Indian currency notes.

Members from both sides in the house had alleged that the CIA-China axis was responsible for printing fake currency notes in Thailand, Mr. J. P. Goyal (LD), Mr. Ram Chandra Bharadwaj (Cong-I), Mr. Shiv Chandra Jha (Janata), and Mr. Sukomal Sen (CPM) alleged that the CIA was responsible for the fake currency racket.

Plastic Notes

Mr. Bharadwaj expressed surprise over the fact that a friendly country like China was trying to destabilise the Indian economy. Mr. Sen wanted foolproof arrangements for disposing of soiled notes, while Mr. Bharadwaj wanted unfakable plastic currency notes on the Australian pattern.

Mr. Shamim Ahmad Siddiqui (Cong.-I) wanted the criminals involved in the racket to be arrested under the National Security Act. He complained that many people from Afghanistan were responsible for selling fake Indian currency. He wanted check-posts on the borders of Bangladesh and Pakistan to keep a strict vigilance.

Earlier, Mr. Poojary in a written statement allayed the apprehensions of members about the existence of a large number of counterfeit 100-rupee notes in circulation in the country. Cases of counterfeiting of currency notes were detected from time to time by the CBI and police departments of the state governments and prosecutions were launched wherever necessary.

The Reserve Bank had cautioned its offices to exercise greater care while examining 100-rupee notes.

There was no reason to fear the existence of large-scale clandestine banking operations in foreign exchange. Insofar as unauthorised dealings in foreign exchange were concerned, the enforcement directorate remained vigilant and took appropriate action under the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act and under the COFEPOSA Act. While investigating into the counterfeiting cases, transgression of any law, including FERA, would be taken into account and dealt with according to the relevant provisions of the act.

The government fully shared the concern of the members about the counterfeiting of currency notes of 100-rupee denomination and was taking all necessary steps to complete investigation against the persons guilty so that prosecutions might be launched against them.

He said that according to information received from the Bombay police, the Sahar police station had arrested six people said to be connected with the film industry on November 21, for possession and circulation of forged 100-rupee notes and registered a case against them under section 489(B) and (C) of the Indian Penal Code.

Earlier, on September 19 and September 24 the crime branch, CID, Bombay, had arrested four people, of whom one was a film actor, for possession and circulation of forged 100-rupee notes.

Since June, 1983, the CBI had also registered eight cases of counterfeiting of 100-rupee notes.

It was believed that the source of manufacture of the counterfeit currency notes detected by the CBI since June, 1983, and one of the cases being investigated by the Bombay police was somewhere in Thailand. These cases were being investigated in collaboration with Interpol, the deputy minister said.

CSO: 4600/1369

INDIA

BRIEFS

ENVOY TO UK--NEW DELHI, December 16: Mr. Prakash Mehrotra, governor of Assam and Meghalaya, has been appointed high commissioner to the U.K. He will have the rank of a minister of state. Mr. Mehrotra, who will take up his assignment shortly, will succeed Dr. V. A. Sayid Mohammad. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 17 Dec 83 p 9]

CSO: 4600/1370

REAGAN'S VIEWS, POLICIES, REMARKS CRITICIZED

Lahore VIEWPOINT in English 22 Dec 83 p 6

[Editorial: "Two Trends"]

[Text] SOME YEARS ago, Robert McNamara had invited public ridicule and contempt by making the asinine remark that what was good for General Motors was good for the United States. With the passage of time, however, the well-known American technocrat seems to have grown up, not just aged. As US Defence Secretary during the Kennedy and Johnson years, he began his career in government with giving full support to the Pentagon's most extravagant demands, but soon he came to realize that President Eisenhower's warning to the American people against allowing the military-industrial complex to dominate their lives had a great deal of validity. Gradually McNamara became more cautious about endorsing plans for vast defence expenditures that merely helped to increase international tensions and intensify the world's economic crisis. While the earlier changes in his thinking deserve study, it was during his term as World Bank President that he showed signs of understanding that world problems were exceedingly complex. After some time in this important office, he began to argue in favour of accepting the Third World's demands for a

restructuring of the international economic order, because he saw that the problems they face were such that many decisions by international agencies were literally a question of life and death for millions. Realizing that much of the distress in the world resulted from policies advocated by Washington, and that the poorer nations were compelled to live in poverty as a result of wars and preparations for future conflicts, he slowly began to feel that these policies were the main hindrance to human progress.

As a result, even after leaving the World Bank Robert McNamara has sought to support policies that to him seem rational and that are not tied to the wishes of Wall Street tycoons. Evidence of his willingness to associate himself with the movement to save the world from chaos and destruction is indicated by the contribution he made to a discussion that was arranged after the nuclear holocaust film The Day After had been shown to millions of viewers in Great Britain. McNamara declared that America's Cruise and Pershing missiles should be withdrawn from Europe, "because he saw that "this one action, relatively small and unimportant, would

reduce the risk of nuclear war." Supported in his views by a host of other people, ordinary citizens as well as those at the top of their professions including scientists and doctors, this view runs counter to the thinking that is solidifying in the White House in preparation for the next Presidential election. The latest expression of the aggressive militarism in the Reagan Administration has been articulated by the President himself, when he declared that "a revolution for freedom and democracy was under way in the world . . . that the U.S. welcomed the fight . . . it is finished with attempts at turning swords into plowshares." His rhetoric about "Our days of weakness are over. . . Our military forces are back on their feet and standing tall. . ." will send a chill through the peoples of the world as a declaration of intent that can culminate only in war. Wiser men have realized and said repeatedly that in present circumstances the outbreak of war would lead quickly to nuclear conflict, and that this can only end in total annihilation of all humankind. Therefore, the only way to solve international disputes and problems is through peaceful negotiations, and this can be achieved on the basis of justice in accordance with the principles of the U.N. Charter. The two trends represented by McNamara and Reagan in their recent remarks present two choices: one a sane path to survival through peace, and the other a lunatic drive to war and total destruction.

PLANNING MINISTER OUTLINES BALUCHISTAN DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 27 Dec 83 pp 1, 6

[Text] ISLAMABAD, Dec. 26---massive programme for the development of Baluchistan has been undertaken with a huge allocation of Rs. 21 billion in the Sixth Five-Year Plan which is seven times more than the amount allocation in the Fifth Plan.

This was stated by the Minister for Planning and Development Dr. Mahbubul Haq in the course of his press briefing here today to explain the special development projects for the less developed regions which the Government took to the Aid-to-Pakistan Consortium meeting recently held in Paris.

The Minister stated that the raising of the allocation for the development of Baluchistan was in pursuance of the Government policy to pay special attention to the less developed areas in the country and to root out want and poverty from these regions.

He explained that the total allocation in the Sixth Five-Year Plan for the development of Baluchistan was Rs. 21 billion while the allocation was only Rs. 3 billion in the Fifth Five-Year Plan. It had recorded a 7 times increase, he added.

The special projects for Baluchistan include Saindak Copper Project, Makran coastal road, Sibi-Rakhni road, Mirani Dam, Khushdil Khan Bund, widening of Pat Feeder Canal, Gwadar miniport, widening of the RCD Highway, Dadu-Khuzdar transmission line and Akra Kaur Dam.

Road Network

Dr. Mahbubul Haq told the newsmen that the government aims at opening up the areas of Baluchistan hitherto inaccessible through a network of roads. The Government has also undertaken the big projects for mineral exploration and was keen that the industries should be installed on the basis of such minerals in the same areas so that the less developed areas enjoyed the prosperity and the poverty was wiped out from there.

The Minister said that Saindak Copper Project would cost 400 million dollars out of which 50 million dollars would be invested by the public sector.

The Minister expected the private sector to come forward to invest for the project. He said that the Canadian and French consortiums had made offers to Pakistan for financing the project. He said that in January some development with regard to the offers would take place.

The project was divided into two phases, the mining for copper, silver and gold and a sulphuric acid project. The third phase related to steel was dropped.

The Minister said that Pakistan had clarified categorically that copper to be found from Saindak would be utilised in the country.

The Minister said that the studies had been conducted in the project 10 years back. If the foreign financiers wanted to undertake fresh studies, they could do so.

He said that the Government planned to complete the project in the next five years. He said that industries based on these mineral would be set up in and around the areas. He said that the Planning and Development Ministry had projected the idea at all meetings with regard to national development that the industries should be installed in the areas where the raw materials had been found so that the people of the less developed regions were properly benefited and job opportunities were created for them.

The Minister said that there was a planning of bringing 12 million additional acre of land under cultivation by providing the irrigation water resources.

There are three projects for the irrigation water. The first project is Mirani Dam to be completed at the cost of Rs. 570 million which would irrigate 35,000 acres. The second project is Pat Feeder Canal project to be completed at the cost of Rs. 2,650 million which would irrigate 612,000 acres of land. The third is Khushdil Khan Bund project.

The Minister said that there was a planning of bringing 12 million additional acre of land under cultivation by providing the irrigation water resources.

There are three projects for the irrigation water. The first project is Mirani Dam to be completed at the cost of Rs. 560 million which would irrigate 612,000 acres of land. The third is Khushdil Khan Bund project.

The Minister said that there were two main projects for construction of roads. The first is Sibi-Rakhni road to be completed with a cost of Rs. 856 million and would be spread over 386 km. It would be a two lane highway and would open up the inaccessible Murree Bugti area. The second project is the Mekran coastal road, the total cost of which is Rs.. 1,654 and its length will be 736 km.

The Minister said that a big project of widening of the RCD Highway was under consideration. He said it was a long term project for which Pakistan was seeking finances from the Middle East countries.

The Minister said that the power capacity in the province would be raised upto 300 MW by the end of the Sixth Plan and 1,200 villages would be electrified during the plan period.

ADVISORY COUNCIL POWERLESS TO QUESTION GOVERNMENT ACTIONS

Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 14 Nov 83 p 3

[Editorial: "This Shoora Is A Joke"]

[Text] Four members of the Advisory Council staged a walk-out when a member's privilege motion demanding information was rejected. The motion said that members of the Advisory Council were not given information about some officers who were involved in the malpractices of the previous administration and who figured in the government's White Paper.

Advisory Council member Mr Hamzah's question was about those officers whose names figure in the White Paper issued by the government as guilty of wrongdoing and who are not only still in service but have also earned promotions. Mr Hamzah said that the concerned minister had not answered the question posed on 11 November. The question had been asked earlier, too, and then too the minister had not replied.

This motion was rejected under a ruling that in the house a minister cannot be compelled to answer each and every question. However correct this ruling might have been on legal grounds, on moral and political grounds this retreat can neither help the government nor can it restore the prestige of the council. On political and moral grounds, no other conclusion is possible but that the government has capitulated before these guilty officers of the previous regime and that instead of enforcing its own beliefs it has allowed itself to be overpowered by them. In overlooking the notorious offenses of these officers, every effort is being made to give them positions and to enhance their power and prestige while at the same time refusing to acknowledge reality. To this end, the government is taking recourse to technicalities. In this situation, even if the ruling of the chairman of the Advisory Council did not violate the rights of the member, it has surely hurt the credibility of the council. It has shown that the poor council is quite helpless and impotent in demanding an explanation from a minister responsible for promoting the guilty officers. As it is, the Advisory Council is a completely appointed body and on top of that is so helpless and so lacking in the government's confidence as to be completely powerless in the face of a minister's wishes. If such a council is not a farce, then what is?

Look at it from another angle. By appointing a body that is so helpless in demanding an explanation, the government has ridiculed the Shoora of the Islamic Khilafat in which an ordinary man could ask for account of the linen the Khalifa received as presents. But here is this Shoora where a minister cannot be made to answer questions not on personal but even on public issues. It was well said that even in elected bodies there is a convention that a minister cannot be compelled to answer every question. Although a reference was made to Western elected institutions, the chairman of the Majlis-e Shoora did not mention the conventions of the Islamic Khilafat, of which we spoke just now.

12286

CSO: 4656/50

PAKISTAN

DIRECT TALKS WITH AFGHANISTAN GOVERNMENT URGED

Karachi AMN in Urdu 26 Nov 83 p 2

[Jumma Khan column: "The Federal Council Also Discusses Afghanistan Problem"]

[Excerpt] Several appointed councilors, some of them retired military officers, who participated in the recently concluded session of the Federal Council, in discussing foreign policy have advised the government to recognize the present Government of Afghanistan and open negotiations for an early settlement of the problem. The foreign minister, retired general Yaqub Khan, has flatly refused to recognize the Babrak Karmal government on the grounds that it is not a legal government. A majority of UN member countries agrees with this position of the Pakistani Government. Similarly, the Islamic Conference is also against recognizing the Babrak Karmal government. The legality of a government is a separate issue. It is not important here if the majority of UN countries agrees with Pakistan's position or what stance the Islamic Conference has taken on the Afghanistan problem.

The basic question concerns Pakistan's own interests. We honestly believe that if a military solution of the Afghanistan problem cannot be found, a peaceful solution should be sought. It is not for us to worry whether the Karmal government came to power with the help of the Soviet Government or its army. Let the Russians and Afghans worry about it. We cannot run the world, nor are we responsible for it. We are not world leaders and cannot act as "policemen of the world." We have to plan according to our available resources.

The 3 million refugees living in Pakistan are an unnecessary economic burden on us and are influencing the economy of at least two states--Baluchistan and Sarhad. We should try to send these refugees back as soon as possible and use our national resources, which are being wasted on these refugees, on our own countrymen. A long time has passed and no solution to the Afghan problem has been found. We tried to find a solution working through the United Nations, and, as expected, no answer to this problem was found.

The fact that most of the world is with us and that the Islamic Conference agrees with us does not give us much pleasure. Instead, we are worried about the fact that we cannot find a way to send the Afghan refugees back and the fact that the Soviet Army is still stationed in Afghanistan.

Perhaps we are under the impression that the pressure brought by the Islamic Conference and the United Nations will resolve the Afghanistan problem according to our demands.

The question arises: How many international problems have been solved by pressure brought by the Islamic Conference and the United Nations? What is happening in Lebanon and Grenada?

We failed to find a satisfactory solution to the Kashmir problem by involving the United Nations. Mutual negotiations with India over this problem were also a failure. Neither the Islamic Conference nor the United Nations helped us in any way. How can we succeed in making the Soviets leave Afghanistan when we could not make India give up the occupied territories in Kashmir, despite the help from the Islamic world and the United Nations? The USSR is neither smaller nor weaker than India; it will not accede to world pressure. Even a tiny country like Israel can ignore the pressure brought by the entire Islamic world and tear to shreds all UN resolutions. A country like the United States can take over Grenada using naked aggression and not even ask for help from Britain, leader of the European Common Market. Under such circumstances, how can we expect the Russian Army to leave Afghanistan just because of some negotiations in the United Nations? Have we become so listless that we cannot even see the danger signals on our borders? No one came to help us in the past. The time and circumstances demand that we give priority to our own national interests and not become a pawn of international politics. To this end, we should talk directly with the Afghanistan Government and get rid of the danger on our borders.

7997

CSO: 4656/52

WORLD BANK TO STUDY PAKISTAN'S EXPORT STRATEGY

Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER In English 27 Dec 83 p 1

[Article by Anwar Rajani]

[Text] The World Bank will carry out a study about Pakistan's future export strategy to help the country achieve the export targets fixed for the Sixth Five-Year Plan, it is reliably learnt.

The study is being undertaken by the World Bank in view of the importance assigned to the export expansion during the Sixth Plan.

As a part of this endeavour, the World Bank intends to review the characteristics of the Export Finance Scheme now being administered by the State Bank of Pakistan.

In this connection, the procedure, terms and conditions of the Export Finance Scheme will be studied to see how this facility is being used by exporters.

A two-member team of the Resident Mission of the World Bank in Pakistan is expected to visit Karachi within about a week to meet leading exporters, bankers, Government officials and representatives of trade bodies to discuss the export prospects with them.

The team is likely to enquire from exporters about the practical problems that they face in availing of the credit facilities meant for export trade.

The World Bank team which will stay in Karachi for eight days, is expected to meet, among others, State Bank Governor A. G. N. Kazi, Banking Council Chairman M. R. Khan, Chairman, of the Export Promotion Bureau Hmid D. Habib and Chief Executives of commercial banks.

CSO: 4600/236

IMPORT OF COTTON BALES PLANNED

Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 27 Dec 83 p 1

[Text]

Letters of Credit for import of 1.5 lakh bales of high quality cotton have been established so far by the cotton mills and L/Cs for another 50,000 bales are expected to be opened soon.

The long staple Sudanese cotton has taken a lion share of the market (75 per cent) as it is cheaper in price due to high wax content and is being quoted around 75/76 cents. The balance 25 per cent of imported cotton is mainly medium staple American cotton which is being imported at 81/82 cents. On the average the landed cost of imported cotton at present is around Rs. 1,040.

In the previous years when the country had good local crop around 15-20 thousand bales of high quality cotton were imported per annum for mixing purposes. The estimate of local cotton crop given by officials, ginners and mill owners differ at present. The government expects the local crop of 34 lakh bales, while the ginners do not estimate

the crop to be over 25/28 lakh bales.

Mill owners are expecting the cotton crop of around 28 lakh bales this year and they claim that there is 50 per cent floating fibre and kutchra (waste) is as high as 22 per cent this year.

In the lower Sind, the ginning season is practically over while in upper Sind the ginning season is expected to end around Jan 20 1984 and in Punjab by the end of January 1982, only then the actual quantity of local crop will be finalised.

At present the local cotton price is averaging around Rs. 925, however market sources expect a rise of around Rs. 75 to Rs. 100 within a week.

Since the local mills would be using a much higher percentage of imported high quality cotton than in the previous years most of them are going fine by increasing their normal count from 7-10 to 30-40 and even as high as 60 count in some cases. Cotton importers are optimistic that the total cotton import of high quality cotton could reach as high as 250,000 bales this year.

CSO: 4600/236

STEEL MILL COMPLETES PHASE, STRIP MILL COMMISSIONED

Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 27 Dec 83 pp 1, 6

[Text]

The last but one unit of the Pakistan Steel, the 800,000-ton per year capacity Hot Strip Mill went into production after being commissioned by the Federal Production Minister Lt-Gen. Saeed Qadir at the Steel Mill Complex on Sunday.

Later talking to newsmen, Lt-Gen. Qadir said that the entire Steel Mill project would be completed by June next at a total estimated cost Rs. 2500 crores.

The Minister said that the Hot Strip Mill would cost about Rs. 100 crore. Its roughing stands have already gone into operation, while the finishing stand would also be commissioned next month.

He said that the last unit of the Steel Mill—the Cold Rolling Plant—would be completed between March and June next year.

Replying to a question, the Minister said that the Steel Mill would take about a year or eighteen months to go into full production of 1.1 million tons as the workers and technicians gained experience in their jobs. It would meet the country's present demand for steel. However, during the next Five-Year Plan period, the demand for steel would double, and to meet the shortfall plans would be taken in hand to expand the capacity of the Steel Mills.

The Production Minister said that the down-stream projects of the Steel Mills, such as the pipe mill, the wire rod project and the tin plate scheme, were also making good progress. The pipe

mill and the wire rod projects have been sanctioned, while the feasibility study of the tin plate scheme has been completed. He hoped that the tin plate project would also be sanctioned before the end of the current financial year. All the down-stream projects would be undertaken in the private sector.

The tin plate project, estimated to cost about Rs. 250 crores, would also meet the present demand for tin plates required in packing foodstuffs and other material.

The Minister said the hot strip unit has been commissioned on the auspicious occasion of the 107th birth anniversary of the Quaid-e-Azam, Mohammad Ali Jinnah. It would go a long way in making the country self-sufficient in steel production, and also help the growth of industries otherwise.

Lt-Gen. Saeed Qadir went round the hot strip unit and the under-construction Cold Strip Mill.

In the first phase, the hot strip mill will produce steel plates with a thickness of 20-30 millimetres.

In the second and third phases the hot strip mill is to produce hot-rolled sheets measuring 6-10 and 1.6-4 mm.

Over the next three months, the Hot Strip Mill will form the first to the second and third phases until it is working on full production by spring, 1984, and will then be capable of turning out 800,000 tons of hot rolled sheets and coils annually.

EDITORIAL CRITICIZES GOVERNMENT FOR PRICE INCREASES

Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 26 Nov 83 p 3

[Editorial: "Relinquish Your Throne"]

[Text] The government has increased the price of vegetable shortening by 2.75 rupees, more than 33 percent. This deplorable increase was accompanied by a hypocritical announcement: "It has been decided that the consumers alone should not bear the burden of this increase. The government will share the burden, therefore, the price has been increased by only 2 rupees and 80 paisas. The government will lose billions of rupees."

We would like to hear an explanation of this "bearing the burden together." The government press announcement says, "If we had not increased the price of shortening, the government would face a budget deficit of 4 billion rupees." In other words, from these 4 billion rupees, consumers will absorb 3 billion rupees and the government will absorb the remaining 1 billion. This means that the government believes that the consumers are capable of bearing three times the burden that the government can. That is something! The tone of the press statement indicates that the government expects the consumers to be grateful for cutting only three-fourths of their neck, leaving them with that one-fourth to live by. Why not cut off the whole neck so that the consumers cannot complain? What a favor! Cutting off only three-fourths of the consumers' necks while having the right to sever the whole! God be praised!

The attitude of this government as displayed in this press statement indicates blatant ignorance of the problems people are facing and mercilessness. This one-sided and selfish announcement describes government's economic problems but does not mention the people's hapless situation. The government and the people started the new budget year together. On the basis of last year's price index, the government increased the salaries of civil servants by 10 percent and at the same time increased the prices of sugar and flour. The government did not explain how these fresh increases in prices would be absorbed by the wage earners.

When the prices of sugar and flour were raised, we commented that these items are basic necessities for all. One cannot stop or reduce their use of sugar and flour. The burden of this increase is not equal on the rich and the poor.

The well-off segment of our population can easily bear this increase, but 80 percent of our population is poor, and this burden would be unbearable to them. We also noted that an increase in items of basic necessity directly influences the price index. Prices of other commodities increase automatically. Thus, since last July, there have been incredible hikes in the prices of eggs, meat and vegetables. Some vegetables, which are staples for the rich and the poor, are many times more expensive now.

A lady in Karachi wrote us a couple of days ago, "You are very good at writing about politics but not about our problems. We women are finding it hard to run our homes. Onions cost 10 rupees a kilogram and a higher price we never saw." It is not just onions; most vegetables cost between 6 and 14 rupees a kilogram. This 200-to 300-percent increase in the price of vegetables is a new phenomenon. This horrible increase in prices has resulted from the 10-percent increase in government employee salaries and the similar increase in the prices of sugar and flour.

The salaried population received a 10-percent increase, which was hardly felt, but they are feeling deeply the 100-percent increase in prices. The government, however, is neither aware nor concerned with the problems of poor families and has now forced them to bear the burden of a 3-billion out of a 4-billion-rupee deficit. Should the government not think about the impact of these budget deficits on the poor? If the government cannot find resources to make up its own deficit, how can a common family? How long will the poor be sapped? Why does the government not recognize various economic classes, and why does it increase taxes on items that have little or no effect on the well-off and all but kill the poor? All this reflects the merciless mentality of capitalism.

The government did say that it was forced to increase prices on the domestic market because of an increase in international market prices. But what the government did not tell the poor is the number of white elephants they have to support in the Shortening Corporation. Could the government not get rid of these white elephants to offset price increases on the international level? The reason for price increases in industries controlled by government is overspending. They recruit four persons when only one is needed, have a glut of highly paid administrators with their allowances, graft and misappropriations. All this burden of overspending is passed on to the consumers.

At any rate, all we can ask the president is to cancel his orders announcing an increase in the price of shortening. If he cannot run the country without this policy of price increases then he should get off the throne. He should make way for able people who believe in helping people and not cheating them.

7997

CSO: 4656/53

EDITORIAL BLAMES BUREAUCRACY FOR MISMANAGING ECONOMY

Karachi AMN in Urdu 8 Dec 83 p 2

[Editorial: "This Dangerous Game--Invitation to Disaster"]

[Text] Since our bureaucracy has no fear of being held accountable for its actions, it is playing dangerous games that are equivalent to bringing disaster to our country. Thousands of years ago, a Greek philosopher said "Nothing can be more dangerous to a country than corrupt officials." This adage is applicable to our country's present conditions.

Our civil service has inherited its system and mentality from the British era of slavery. It has not developed as a Pakistani national organization. It has accepted all the ills and has kept itself ignorant of the productive aspects of its job. Times have changed as have needs and demands. The world has come a long way since independence but our civil servants still act like the "sahib bahadurs" of the slave era.

Our civil service does not believe in appointing a person who qualifies for a certain position. Civil officers are appointed "to any vacant position." Thus, each department abounds in ignorant officials who are neither knowledgeable about the intricacies of their program nor understand the needs and demands that exist there. They are incapable of dealing with a crisis; instead, they take stupid actions that only exacerbate the situation. This state of affairs is analogous to giving a knife to a crazy person.

The result of the haphazard methods of these officers is unnecessary waste of our country's resources. Millions of our countrymen are suffering. Our countrymen wonder what will happen to this country, which was created through the sacrifice of 12.5 million Muslims. Bribery is rampant; people do not get what is rightfully theirs; justice has disappeared; talent, hard work and ability are not recognized and personal contacts are necessary for any government job. We protect ignorant officers from the results of their stupidity and ruin the future of coming generations. We are not even aware that we are instrumental in our own destruction.

Take the fiasco of onions. Millions of bags of onions were exported to Eastern, Western and Gulf countries, and now that we have run short, we are importing onions. Where was our civil service sleeping when the onions were

being openly exported? Why did it not foresee that such a practice would cause a shortage of onions in our country? Now, onions are being imported. The import duty has been waived, but money is being wasted on trade teams traveling abroad looking for onions. One group was sent to India. The controlled price of onions in India is 2.5 rupees per kilogram. A slight increase in this price resulted in a near rebellion, and the government was forced to procure onions at a cheaper price. We cannot expect India to sell all its onions to us. We have no alternative but to buy back the onions exported to the Gulf countries at a higher rate. This will result in even higher prices.

This indicates that those idiot civil servants sitting in the ministry of trade are busy destroying the economy of our country and no one is investigating them.

This deplorable state of affairs is not limited to the ministry of trade. Theft, robbery and murder are being committed even during the day and the police have failed totally. Industries are suffering badly from higher electricity rates and "load-shedding" practices. This month, the entire country will suffer even more from this load shedding and God alone knows how many years it will retard our industrial development. Development plans do not fair any better. None of these plans are completed in time or within the proposed budgets. The planners are notorious for their defective planning. No country can compete with us in bureaucratic conspiracies. We are champions in this field.

It is no big deal to ask for the appointment of qualified people in commerce and industry. People who understand the working of the system, recognize needs and demands and can make decisions at critical moments. We could not do even that during the past 36 years. If experts are not appointed in the ministries of industry and commerce, the situation will become impossible. The officers appointed because of personal contacts cannot cope with the problems. They can do nothing but act as "sahib bahadurs." These appointments are on par with graft as a social evil! If we want to alleviate the problems in our country, the only way left for us is the total overhaul of our administrative structure. We do not disagree with the idea of implementing an Islamic government; it is a good idea. But if the present civil service remains, Islamic rule will be equally ineffective.

7997

CSO: 4656/56

FOREIGN LOANS AN INSTRUMENT OF EXPLOITATION

Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 14 Nov 83 p 3

[Article by Mian Jamil Siddiqi: "Foreign Loans"]

[Excerpt] This refers to 1953, when the Planning Board was set up. This body in 1955 devised the first 5-year plan and thereby imposed on the nation an unbearable burden, which it has been unable to shake off. To some people, \$11 billion is not an excessive debt and we are asked to keep in mind the \$80 billion debt of Brazil and the \$70 billion debt of Mexico. Events have proved that the biggest blunder of the 5-year plan was that the bureaucracy had the plan designed by Harvard University's non-profit consultative group. The justification given was that in Pakistan there was a shortage of experts in the fields of economics, engineering and developmental planning. The planners devised the plan as if for a developed country, completely overlooking conditions in Pakistan. No encouragement was given to local capital, and no consideration was given to local conditions. For developmental planning, Pakistan was presented with a model that was all right for a country like America but completely wrong for Pakistan. What is worse, in the course of planning, when the necessary technology was not locally available it was advised that it should be imported from foreign countries.

Even though from the international point of view, the Harvard Group was correct, experience has shown that the maximum benefit went to a few traders and big land owners, whereas the common man remained completely deprived. Wealth became concentrated in a few hands. On the strength of blind admiration, foreign capital was believed to provide the only cure. Finally we became helpless under the \$11-billion debt. This faulty planning led to the formation of two groups--the rich and the poor--and the gulf between the two lines continues to widen. In short, the bureaucracy that had the country's planning designed by foreign experts rather than by local experts is really responsible for ruining the economic structure of the nation. This is so because our bureaucracy is a slave to the colonial mentality. It had been educated and raised by the British and therefore in the course of planning, the country's basic issues were completely ignored. The result of the faulty policies is the dependence on and import of foreign capital and foreign expertise. This also resulted in a decline in local skills and expertise and the erosion of moral values and true commitment to national progress, inequalities in income and the fact that different parts of the country were

not given equal importance. Attractive means were provided for the fun and amusement of a few. On the other hand, industrialists had to forgo even the land necessary for the development of their industries. Rural areas could not be electrified. Rural dirt roads were not paved. Luxury articles were imported on a generous scale. Not only Indians but even the Chinese were astonished to see the latest models and pretty colored cars on roads. To buy gasoline for the cars of the rich, the poor were deprived of rice, which was exported. Far from encouraging local productive capacity, we were bowed down under the weight of foreign debts and instead of local resources and capital being revived, they were further frozen. Look at the White Paper on foreign debts.

In October 1947 the foreign debt was \$77 million. In January 1983, the foreign debt was \$11 billion.

We have no hesitation in saying that Pakistan is one of those countries that invariably request concessions in the payment of its loans because this is a major factor in its economic woes. It is incredible that even though the debts have already reached dangerous proportions, still our experts run after developmental loans. This is so they can find a way to travel abroad for the negotiations. All this despite the fact that the World Bank, the IMF, the Asian Development Bank, the International Development Agency and Consortium are all agents of Western economic imperialism which, through aid in billions of dollars, in fact control the poor nations. America and the Western nations have a purely commercial point of view. They want the labor force of the Third World to grow the best varieties of rice, tea, cotton and sugar and other agricultural products and take it to the ports so that the West can buy it at dirt-cheap prices to provide their own people with industrial energy, knowledge and a life of luxury. In other words, the West is like a landlord who has his lands farmed on the basis of its fertility and spends more capital on the more fertile fields. Western imperialism regards Third World countries, including Pakistan, as its farm and the majority of the loans is geared toward increasing the production of raw materials and their export. To ensure this, various means are used. Different kinds of seminars, courses and conferences are arranged where only one voice is heard: attain self-sufficiency in agriculture. Our country is an agricultural country, otherwise our friends would not help us with steel, engineering and technology.

Because of the mischief of Western economic imperialism, we have received billions of dollars but our country is still underdeveloped and has been unable to escape the clutches of poverty. If the trend of the two or three most recent American defense and economic loans to Pakistan remains the same as it has been over the past 36 years, then rest assured that Pakistan will remain among the poorest countries.

According to an ILO report, 31 percent of the rural and 22 percent of the urban families of Pakistan are below the poverty level. This is how Professor McNamara, president of the World Bank, described it: "Pakistan is caught in the mire of poverty. She has slipped further down in the list of underdeveloped countries."

It is time for us to reconsider the past practice of taking foreign loans. Let us make a determined effort to stand on our own feet. Let us create technology with our own power. Let us depend on our own resources. The present generation is in debt, but let us make an effort to save the coming generations from this terrible catastrophe. If today 50 percent of our people are mired in debt and if we do not do anything to rid them of this, then in the future 90 percent of the people could be in the grip of loans. Even our children and our grandchildren will not be able to escape. It is necessary to start a struggle on a sound basis and begin to give practical shape to plans to escape from the clutches of these imperialist shylocks.

12286

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POLITICIANS URGED TO REFRAIN FROM MUTUAL RECRIMINATION

Lahore CHATAN in Urdu 21 Nov 83 p 6

[Article by Mard-e Kohkan: "Do Not Make Pakistan a Political Zoo"]

[Text] The impressions created by the government's efforts to start negotiations with various political parties were evident in the statement released by Maulana Shah Ahmad Noorani, president of Jamiatul Ulema-e Pakistan [JUP]. Later, when government circles disclosed that the negotiations with JUP had taken place at the request of JUP itself, it was felt that the way to conciliation between the government and political parties was being opened. But another, and bizarre, development has also been revealed. The government has invited some political parties whose existence in Pakistani politics is suspect. This step is forcing politicians to question the government's sincerity.

It seems to be inappropriate to start negotiations with political parties whose existence the government denies. Only recently, the president did not agree with his own appointed personnel on the issue of elections based on political parties. This action will not help to establish a democratic system of government.

On the other hand, the politicians are also acting strangely. A few days after returning from these negotiations, they make statements that are too open. Later, when the influence of the president's talks wears off, they go back to their old habits and begin to denounce the government. As a Pakistani, I would like to make a heartfelt request to them: For God's sake, please do not make this country a political zoo. We cannot establish democracy here just by bad-mouthing each other. Take appropriate actions to help establish democracy, which is our goal.

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AMNESTY MEMBER PLEADS FOR PRISONER OF CONSCIENCE

Lahore VIEWPOINT in English 22 Dec 83 p 4

[Text] AS A MEMBER of the Group France 363 of Amnesty International which adopted Jamil Omar as a prisoner of conscience, I have, once again, the honour to draw your attention to his plight.

Jamil Omar, a computer lecturer of the Quaid-i-Azam University, was arrested on November 3, 1981, in Islamabad for peacefully distributing non-violent leaflets, asking that Martial Law be repealed. He was detained at the Lahore Fort, imprisoned in Rawalpindi jail without any trial for sixteen months, produced before the military court No. 52 in Rawalpindi for seven weeks (March-April 1983) and sentenced on November 8, 1983, to seven years' imprisonment.

He never used nor provoked violence. He has been sentenced for expressing his views in a non-violent manner, a right provided to everyone by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Article 19) to which Pakistan is a signatory.

Moreover, I would like to draw your attention to the fact that his 'confession' was obtained under duress, though the Declaration provides that 'No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment' (Art. 6). The Islamic Declaration of Human Rights also says: "No one shall be subjected to mental or physical torture, degrading treatment, or extortion of confession" (Art. VII).

During the trial, no witness against him could prove he was guilty. Though his was not a common law trial but a political one, yet Jamil Omar and two of his colleagues (Tariq Ahsan and Dr. Mohammad Saleem) are now detained with common law prisoners in Rawalpindi jail.

Jamil Omar is suffering from an eye infection and from bronchitis but has received no treatment.

I request that Jamil Omar should not be tortured again, that he should receive medical treatment, and that he should be released as soon as possible--MME SIMONE ALLIOT, Chemin de Boulon, 84440 Robton, France.

(This is a slightly edited version of the letter Mme Alliot wrote to Gen. Ziaul Haq, Law Minister Pirzada, Home Minister Haroon and other members of the Federal Cabinet--Ed.)

DELAYS IN ADOPTION OF URDU AS NATIONAL LANGUAGE CRITICIZED

Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 15 Nov 83 p 5

[Editorial: "We Protest Vehemently"]

[Text] Mr Ghulam Ashaq Khan, federal minister of finance, whose tenure as a bureaucrat exceeds many times that as a minister, while answering a question in the Majlis-e Shoora, said that restricted use of Urdu in government agencies is being considered. This policy will begin at local, state and regional levels and finally will be implemented in the federal secretariate. In answer to another question, he said that we cannot implement Urdu overnight. We will have to achieve this goal slowly and steadily.

This statement by Ghulam Ashaq Khan reflects his bureaucratic mentality. They are assuming that "restricted" implementation of Urdu is good for Urdu and is doing Urdu a favor. He added angrily that the use of Urdu cannot be implemented "overnight." To this, we would like to say that if Mr Ghulam Ashaq Khan reads some history he will discover that all earlier efforts to implement Urdu have been "overnight" efforts. In 1830, when Urdu was far less developed and had been on the scene for only about 40 years, it was made the national language of the subcontinent in place of Persian. Later, at the end of the struggle for freedom, English, which was understood by less than 1 percent of the population, replaced Urdu as the official language "overnight". Even though English has been the official language for over 125 years, only 5 percent of the people in Pakistan can understand it well and less than 1 percent can express themselves in correctly written English. Urdu, despite being the lingua franca of millions of Pakistanis, is being pushed aside to make room for English.

The finance minister, when mentioning "overnight," should remember that a period of 36 years is a long time. This "methodical" approach in implementing Urdu has always been unsuccessful and we consider it a conspiracy against Urdu. Has the finance minister forgotten the promises made in 1956, 1962 and 1973 about replacing English with Urdu? These constitutional promises were never fulfilled. After these serious breaches of promise by the government, this insulting approach employed by this bureaucrat is extremely painful to us. We vehemently condemn and oppose it.

ECONOMY SAID ON WAY TO RECOVERY

Dubayy KHALEEL TIMES in English 5 Nov 83 p 21

[Text]

COLOMBO — Sri Lanka's exports are not likely to be seriously affected by the recent disturbances, according to the Minister for Trade and Shipping, Mr Lalit Athulathmudali.

He believes the major problem at present is restoring the confidence which has been built up regarding Sri Lanka as a sound international investment area.

Mr Athulathmudali is the architect of Sri Lanka's six-year-old experiment with an open economy, which has led to a high growth rate and level of investment.

But there has been growing criticism recently of the negative side of the policy which has included an adverse balance of payments, rising prices and large budget deficits—next month's budget is expected to be billion dollars in the red, which will have to be financed by borrowing.

It was to counter these aspects that Mr Athulathmudali had been stressing the need for increased exporters, almost as a second phase of the open economy policy.

But then came the July strife where hundreds of small manufacturing units were destroyed and at least a few foreign investors began to think more about the wisdom of placing financial stakes in the island.

Mr Athulathmudali is optimistic, however, that the overall effect will only be temporary.

Agricultural production was unaffected by the riots but some garment factories and coconut oil mills were destroyed.

"In the garment industry it will be about eight months to a year before

the affected factories are put right. However, that will not cause any long term loss of production because we have reorganised production in other factories, some of which were running under capacity for instance and in others we introduced more shifts," said Mr Athulathmudali.

"So we have successfully minimised, if not eliminated the shortfall in the garment industry.

"Some coconut oil mills were burnt, but fortunately these were the smaller ones because the biggest mill is government owned. There, while we have to deal with the problems of the individuals, the total production situation we can adjust. That is why we imposed a ban on coconut oil exports, fearing the worst, but now it has been relaxed.

"Overall the problem we are faced with is not so much repairing those units but the general run on confidence which we have been building up for the past six years, which has got some people thinking again.

"But there are already good signs such as increasing transactions in the banking sector in the past month."

Investment

In the past few years Sri Lanka has been successfully wooing investment from the Gulf and several groups are now involved in banking and hotel projects. Mr Athulathmudali says nobody should have second thoughts about their investments.

"Even at the worst time of the problem no foreign property was touched. The incidents do not in any way reflect any adverse attitude to foreign investment. It does not affect in any way the stability of the government.

"It has only highlighted and heightened the very serious problem which Sri Lanka faces, the problem of the

relationship between the majority and its principal minority. One should not seek to minimise that problem, but it does not directly affect the commercial sector. So while it has been psychologically very very serious, and to some extent is politically serious, the least affected sector was the commercial sector.

"I would say to foreign investors, continue to have, and increase, your confidence," said Mr Athulathmudali.

He believed the outbreak of violence had strengthened the resolve of many people to examine where the errors had been. Steps had already been taken to increase the strength of the security forces and to provide better training.

"The crisis itself has shown all the groups involved that there are limits beyond which we cannot go. I think even the extremist groups who were involved in the riots in July now realise the utter futility of such a thing and that if they riot they are only strengthening their main opponents and the separatist cause.

"On the other hand the separatist groups have realised there is no international support for a separate state. There is international concern about the killings, the violation of human rights, and about the security of every citizen of Sri Lanka, but there is nobody who really says there should be a separate state. I think the separatists are now in a better mood to look for an alternative."

Discussing the role of India in a settlement, Mr Athulathmudali said India was a friendly country which had stoutly maintained it did not wish to interfere in Sri Lanka's affairs.

"We are not complaining about Indian concern, but ultimately it is our problem and we have to resolve it by ourselves. I think, by and large, the central government in India has stuck within the bounds of international law. Even the Tamil Nadu government where members spoke in terms which violated international law are now speaking in a more responsible fashion."

He believed that it would be difficult for any Tamil extremist groups to oppose any settlement which was approved by the Indian government.

"But of course, the important thing is that all the people of Sri Lanka must have no misgivings about what India is doing. There is still a widespread feeling in some quarters, which I do not share, of a threat from India.

"It is quite normal in the situation of a big and small country, but Sri Lanka has been India's best neighbour for the past 35 years."

As regards the next step in a political solution, Mr Athulathmudali said that as soon as the Tamil United Liberation Front abandoned its claim for a separate state, negotiations could begin. "The climate will improve tremendously and everything else is negotiable," he said.

INCOME TAX LAWS REVISED

Dubayy KHALEEL TIMES in English 23 Nov 83 p 9

[Text]

SRI LANKA has revamped many of its income tax laws granting relief to low income earners and exemptions to those sending money from foreign employment earnings and catching up the entire country's working population.

The tax proposals made by Sri Lankan Finance Minister Ronnie de Mel in his seventh budget on November 16th caught everybody by surprise when he announced that beginning January next year and ending December everybody in Sri Lanka earning an income from employment will have to pay one per cent of such earnings as rehabilitation tax.

Those who are current income tax payers will have to pay an additional 10 per cent which will be added to their taxes. These moneys amounting to Rs 600 million will be spent by the government to rehabilitate and reconstruct the damage done during the ethnic violence in July and the additional expenditure the race riots have caused to the Lankan government treasury.

Deduction of the one per cent tax on earnings will be the responsibility of employers who will have to deduct the amounts from the pay packets of workers of every category and remit it to the government treasury.

Mr De Mel said that the race riots should never happen again and said that the government was compelled to get every Lankan worker to pay for what he called the "searing six days of July."

The amount to be collected by way of a rehabilitation tax and a

rehabilitation surcharge which relates to the one per cent and 10 per cent tax respectively will cover the government's estimated cost of reconstructing homes, shops and factories destroyed during the race riots and also the cost of deploying armed forces and police and running refugee camps as a result of the violence in which nearly four hundred persons were killed and thousands of buildings destroyed.

The money will also be spent on added expenditure of the prisons department which has an additional 6,000 prisoners in jails throughout the country who were arrested for committing offences during the race riots.

A large majority of them are being held for looting, arson and some for murder. They are being held in prisons for a minimum period of three months under the country's current emergency regulations pending police investigations into the charges to be framed against them.

Some of the people held in jail had been arrested for possessing or dealing with property believed to be looted.

Under the new tax laws, Mr de Mel has granted an extension of tax exemption on interest earned in what is called non-resident foreign currency accounts. These accounts were specially opened a few years ago to accommodate and encourage Lankans working abroad, mostly in Middle East countries, to send in foreign exchange to these special NRFC accounts which have been exempted from tax on interest for a period of three years after the account holder returns to Sri Lanka.

This exemption, which was earlier for a period of three years, has now been extended to six years. The interest paid for these NRFC accounts is in the same currency so that the account holder can withdraw the moneys in foreign currency of his or her choice.

The minister has also granted a five-year tax holiday for Lankan companies engaged in the production and processing of sugar, milk and milk products, livestock and fisheries activities and specified agro based industries.

A similar tax holiday has also been granted to individual companies and partnerships which are engaged in the export of non-traditional exports out of Sri Lanka for the period 1984-85 to 1988-89.

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END