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He also said that the authority is planning to exploit the natural resources that have not yet been exploited so far, to include such nonprecious metals as feldspar which is used in the manufacture of glass and ceramics.

Juraysat estimated the quantities of feldspar available in Jordan at 80 million tons.

With regard to exploitation of the Dead Sea minerals, Juraysat said that an industrial chemical complex was recently established in the Dead Sea area in which salt deposits are estimated at 43 billion tons. A national company has been established which is headed by the minister of industry and consists of a number of government ministers and company directors from the Royal Scientific Society, the Social Insurance Institute, the Arab Potash Company, and the Jordanian Phosphate Company. The company is now conducting an economic feasibility study of the projects to be implemented.

With regard to the exploitation of shale oil in Jordan, the deposits of which are estimated to be approximately 40 billion tons, the chairman of the Natural Resources Authority said that studies are being carried out to launch a pioneering distillation project (a trial station) in the al-Lajjun area and a power generating station in the al-Sultanah area.

The authority, he said, is continuing its efforts to exploit this material through two methods, namely distillation and the burning of shale rocks for electric power production.

It has been noted that oil was discovered in Jordan in the mid-eighties, but in small quantities, whereas the Hamzah well now produces 500 to 700 barrels per day.

LEBANON

Fadlallah Reviews Political Situation

44040234 Beirut AL-'AHD in Arabic 20 Jan 89 p 3

[Interview with His Eminence Ayatollah (Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah), date and place not specified]

[Text] His Eminence Ayatollah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah affirmed that the backward vilification campaign against him was an expression of the mentality of those who had launched it. He noted that the campaign was part of an intelligence game that was being played against him.

Ayatollah Fadlallah thought that Arab rulers had started the process of liquidating anti-Israeli, anti-American and anti-colonial movements in their countries and that they did so for the sake of their regimes.

He indicated that Muslims were the prime targets of this process whose purpose was to clear the scene from any opposition to American policy in the region.

He said, "We are expecting major events. What is happening now involves changing alliances and confusing the issues. It is turning patriots into traitors and traitors into patriots of the highest order."

Fadlallah affirmed that Arabs were no longer considering war with Israel. He said Arabs were dealing with the Lebanese problem only with an eye to their own interests and their bilateral and trilateral relations.

His Eminence al-Shaykh Fadlallah made those statements in his weekly interview, a transcript of which follows.

[AL-'AHD] It has been noticed that recently, you have been targeted personally by many positions. What do you have to say about that?

[Fadlallah] What I have to say on that subject, first of all, is what God Almighty said, "Show forgiveness, speak for justice, and avoid the ignorant" [al-A'raf: 199]. "...Those who...say: 'Peace!' to the ignorant who accost them" [al-Furqan: 63]. Second, ever since this campaign with its backward methods and its policy of abuse and vilification was started and pursued in a manner that exemplified the mentality of its perpetrators, I have been watching for signs of an American-Israeli plan-Lebanese intelligence, which has become associated with this plan, has been working against me for some time. Lebanese intelligence, which is still working against me, has been trying to harm my positions and my image because I did not give in to what others wanted. Intelligence is working against me because I would not go with the flow. But this is the price which must be paid in decisive situations when one takes a stand for Islam and for the oppressed. I do understand, therefore, that this is part of the intelligence game which is being played in more than one location.

Arabs No Longer Considering War

[AL-'AHD] Is it correct to say that the entire area is moving closer to a peaceful settlement with Israel and that those who oppose that trend have to go with the flow?

[Fadlallah] A person who has been watching events might feel that the approach which is committed to the objective of reconciliation with Israel was vigorously pursued before the policy of international detente got underway and imposed its own method of either defusing regional and international problems or trying to find solutions for them. This is because all countries and political parties in the Arab center have been associated in one way or another with the American approach which places the Israeli problem at the top of its interests in all its political relations with the region and with those parts of the world which have ties to the region.

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That is why the American approach was applying pressure to steer the political situation in the region toward that objective. The American approach was blocking the PLO so it could steer it in that direction. This was done by setting conditions for the PLO, which the organization accepted recently when it recognized Israel. It was also done by getting the Arab political reality to work with the organization, suggesting to it that unless it gives in to the United States and to Israel, it will be expelled from the Arab political scene or to be kept politically frozen. That is why the situation in the Arab world has been ready for any peaceful settlement on this matter since the Arabs decisively closed the chapter on fighting a war with Israel. Now, those who call for war with Israel, even in the future, are considered radicals, terrorists, and unrealistic, and other such words are used to describe them.

It seems to me, therefore, that this matter took on the major significance and the broader circle it acquired in Arab politics in the wake of international detente. The political activity which has been trying to terminate all the pockets that are holding to their decisive position on Israel is still going on. Efforts are being made to break out of the siege of present [restrictions] and look ahead to the future when Arab countries, with ties to America and to others, will have nothing to fear from any reactions to any concessions that are made to Israel. The undercurrents of the international political game, whether they are American or European, are such that we know there can be no settlement unless concessions are offered by one of the parties involved, the Arab-Palestinian party. This is because Americans as well as Europeans do not wish to force Israel to make any concessions for the sake of a settlement to the Palestinian problem because everyone is concerned about a solution to the Israeli problem, not the Palestinian one.

It seems to me, therefore, that the Arab political environment within each regime, whether national or within political parties, is such that people are working very quickly to achieve reconciliation. The problem, however, is this: What does Israel want, and what does America want? And that is why everyone who is trying to find a way to a settlement can be brought to a standstill. While waiting to find out what others want, everyone would experience the pan-Arab and national lassitude and the breathlessness of running around in circles. After all, the Arabs have already decided on what they want. They want Israel to accept them, and they want Israel to accept their peace offer. Now, however, the issue is not what the Arabs want in their reconciliation with Israel, but it is what Israel wants from its reconciliation with the Arabs. Since Israel can expand further and can maneuver more in the international game, it does not have to be predisposed to a reconciliation with the Arabs. And that is why it is the Israeli decision, not the Arab decision, that we wait for.

Liquidating Revolutionary Movements

[AL-'AHD] But it has been noticed that at this stage the Israeli decision is inclined to accept some of the issues

which have been set forth. Does this mean that the dangers of liquidating all anti-Israeli movements in the region remain in effect for the Arabs?

[Fadlallah] What we have been noticing is that many Arab rulers started liquidating anti-Israeli, anti-American, and especially anti-colonial movements to preserve their regimes in their countries. They did that when they started following the American approach and started working with America to set up the power of the new colonialism in their countries and in other countries as well. Many of these Arab leaders are also trying to move toward the liquidation of these revolutionary positions, especially Islamic ones. They are even trying to liquidate those positions which are not in their countries.

We know that many of the Arab countries which have a lot of money finance most of the assassination operations and most of the operations which are conducted by non-Arab regimes to besiege and oppress Muslims and all revolutionaries who reject American, colonialist policy. Even when assistance is offered to some poor, Arab or Islamic countries, there are strings attached. It is implied that these countries have to liquidate Islamic movements as well as the Islamic opposition in the country, even if that opposition were not an opposition movement in the accepted sense of the term. Thus, there would be no opposition at all to the general approach pursued by American policy in the region.

Presidential Elections

[AL-'AHD] It has been affirmed recently that Lebanon is on the verge of holding its presidential elections in June, and it is also being affirmed that these elections will be held even without reforms. Do you think that the conflicts which are going on in Lebanon are the prelude which could be extended to achieve that outcome?

[Fadlallah] It seems to me that the elections will be held sooner or later. This is one of the things that all those who are responsible for the civil strife in Lebanon want. To these people, Lebanon remains something they need in a negative or a positive sense. What is noticeable, however, is that the title of president is starting to carry many other political implications to more than one local, regional, or international party. In the absence of any other means for applying pressure, such as security infractions which are prohibited throughout Lebanon by the two major feuding parties, the title is being used as a pressure tool. That is why this issue is now being set forth so that it can be used to get many plans through or bring them to maturity and to liquidate or besiege many pockets [of resistance]. This means that the matter will have to wait for a long time since everyone was taken by surprise or had planned on the possibility that Lebanon could survive for a long time without a president and without unified authorities. The hardships endured by Lebanese citizens as a result of that are quite similar to those which they endured when they had unified authorities and a president. However, they were affected by

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these hardships in different ways. It seems to me, therefore, that no one on the local, regional, or international level is in a hurry. Evidence for this lies in the fact that the meeting between Arab ministers of foreign affairs and the Lebanese has been postponed to the end of this month. Such delays may go on for a long time just as they did with Arab committees of the past. This is because when Arabs deal with the Lebanese problem, they do so with an eye to their interests in Lebanon and their bilateral or trilateral relations which link them to each other. They deal with the Lebanese problem with an eye to their relations with the international community which is interested in Lebanon. That is why this problem is not an Arab problem in the national sense of the word, but it is an Arab problem in the sense of bilateral relations or Arab-international relations. It seems to me, therefore—and I do not wish to rush into any conclusions—that this represents a waste of time. It is something to keep the Lebanese from becoming frustrated. Should they lose the proper solution, they will not lose hope in the future, which everyone is trying to hold on to whenever it seems to be out of reach every now and then.

The Forces and Future Alliances

[AL-'AHD] It has been noticed that the opposing forces in Lebanon are now being targeted by everybody else. Can these forces effect a change in alliances in the future?

[Fadlallah] Lebanon is a country of quicksand in which everyone sinks no matter how hard he tries to get his feet on solid ground. That is why we noticed that since before the civil strife and even to this day, many issues have been confused and many alliances have been shifted. There are no constant positions in politics. In fact, these positions shift according to the nature of objective circumstances which are determined by events.

It seems to us, therefore, that the nature of the new variables on the international scene and the nature of activities on the Arab scene, on the Middle Eastern scene, or on the Lebanese scene will shuffle some papers [situations] and will reduce the size of some situations because this matter has to do with decisive moments in some plans and some relationships. And that is why we have to expect many events. To us, such events will be on a par with those whose pain and tragedies we are experiencing. To others, they will be a local matter whose tragedy and pain they can contemplate. In essence, however, what is happening in the region is that alliances are being shifted, and issues are being confused. And that is something which turns patriots into traitors and traitors into patriots of the highest order.

SAUDI ARABIA

Text of Royal Decree on New Fiscal Budget 44040215 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 8 Jan 89 p 10

[Text] The Saudi Council of Ministers last week approved Saudi Arabia's fiscal budget for 1989-90. The Saudi government authorized the Ministry of Finance

and National Economy to borrow an amount not to exceed SR250 billion during the year by gradually issuing treasury bonds of different terms in Saudi riyals.

It should be noted that the Saudi budget has in general been subject to a decline in revenues due to the sharp decline in oil prices on oil markets during the previous 2 years.

King Fahd, in a brief speech delivered at the meeting of the Saudi Council of Ministers, emphasized that "in order for citizens to live prosperously, the state finds itself on many occasions compelled to defray the budget deficit, regardless of its size, or whether it is from the previous year or the current year. This deficit, as we know, is due to problems related to oil sales, and the decline in oil prices that has been on-going for almost 4 years."

Following is the text of the Royal Saudi decree approving the budget:

I. a. State revenues for fiscal year 1409-1410 A.H. are estimated at SR116 billion.

b. Allocations for state expenditures in fiscal year 1409-1410 A.H. total SR141 billion.

II. For the purpose of increasing general state budgetary resources to cover the costs of development funded in the budget, the Ministry of Finance and National Economy is compelled to borrow an amount not to exceed SR25 billion during fiscal year 1409-1410 A.H.. This is to be done gradually over the course of the year through the issuance of treasury bonds of different terms, in Saudi riyals.

III. Revenues will be received in full according to financial regulations; all of them will be paid to the Arab Saudi Monetary Institution and its branches, to the account of the Ministry of Finance and National Economy.

IV. Expenditures are to be made according to the budget and instructions pertaining to it.

V. a. The transfer of allocations in the chapters, sections, and subsections of the budget is to occur by the decision of the chairman of the Council of Ministers based on a joint decision by the pertinent minister or the chief of the administration with an independent budget and the minister of finance and national economy.

b. Transfers between the paragraphs of subsections 1 and 2 are to be effected by the decision of the pertinent minister or the chief of the administration with an independent budget, provided that the transfer to any paragraph does not exceed half of the original allocation earmarked in the budget for that paragraph, excluding