

V. 8 Jul 76

N O R T H A F R I C A

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ALGERIA

AGRICULTURE MINISTER DEPARTS FOR USSR, GDR

Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 7 Jul 76 LD

[Text] Mohamed Tayebi, member of the Revolution Council and minister of agriculture and agrarian reform, left Algiers this afternoon for Moscow to pay an official visit to the Soviet Union. Later he will also visit the German Democratic Republic.

The minister explained in a press statement that these visits will help strengthen existing relations with the Soviet Union and with the GDR. He noted that to complete agrarian projects, Algeria needed experience and expertise. The minister concluded his statement by expressing his belief that the agreements to be signed with these two countries will be of great importance to agricultural development in Algeria.

LIBYA

ASU SECRETARY SAYS HE SUPPORTS ISRAELI RAID

Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0730 GMT 8 Jul 76 LD

[Text] A leading Arab government official said in Sydney today he heartily supported the Israeli commando raid into Uganda to rescue hijacked hostages. The secretary of the ruling Arab Socialist Union in Libya, Mr. Muhammad al-Hijazi said he was against any form of terrorism. Mr al-Hijazi is in Australia to look at problems facing uslims here. He said he did not support the attack on the freedom of Uganda, but the hostages were Israeli passport holders and Israel did what it had to do.

-QADHDHAFI DISCUSSES TERRORISM, BRITISH ARMS

London DAILY EXPRESS in English 28 Jun 76 p 8 LD

[Interview "a few days ago" in a village 10 miles from Tripoli with Col Muammar al-Qadhafi, chairman of Libya's Revolution Command Council, with DAILY EXPRESS foreign editor John Ellison: "Comfort for Terror Gangs? The Colonel Just Laughs"]

[Excerpts] Only a few days ago, in the course of an hour-long interview, I talked to Libyan leader Colonel al-Qadhafi about international terrorism, hi-jacking and the Jackal.

He laughed when I remarked that it seemed odd that most hijackers made for Libya.

"As far as I am concerned terrorism in the true meaning of the word is rejected," he said. "No sensible man would support international terrorism as such.

"The problem is that the colonialists link fighting for freedom with terrorism and that is what causes the misunderstanding and confuses the situation."

How then, I asked, could he connect freedom fighting with the Jackal operation last December, when a group of ministers from the oil-producing countries were hijacked in Vienna and flown first to Algeria and then to Libya?

None Given Asylum

"I asked myself the same question," said the colonel. "How could we link the two? The OPEC plane did come here and after some bargaining it took off again. But none of those people were given asylum here."

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S Y R I A

H 1

AL-ASAD BRIEFS NATIONALIST FRONT ON LEBANON

Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 8 Jul 76 NC

[Text] The central command of the Progressive Nationalist Front held a meeting under President Hafiz al-Asad at 2045 yesterday. During the meeting the President reviewed the situation in the Arab area and the latest developments in the Lebanese crisis. He asserted the principled stand the Syrian Arab region has been adopting since the beginning of the crisis. In accordance with this stand, the region has exerted great efforts and made sacrifices to bring about a cease-fire so as to preserve the unity of the Lebanese people and territory and to safeguard the Palestinian resistance against getting involved in actions that do not serve the Palestinian cause.

The president also reviewed the results of his official visits to France, Yugoslavia and Romania.

DAMASCUS RADIO REPORTS ON FIGHTING IN LEBANON

Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 7 Jul 76 JN

[Excerpts] Lebanon--The battlefronts exploded in Beirut and its suburbs throughout today and fighting extended to new areas. Fighting continued on the traditional fronts such as Tall az-Za'tar, the 'Alyah-Al-Kahlaha axis, and the commercial area. Every side reported that it had achieved victory against the other side. Shells continued to fall on the residential quarters in Beirut and its suburbs. In the Shikka area in the north, furious fighting took place in which various kinds of weapons were used.

Meanwhile, Kamal Junblatt has disclosed his true intentions. He declared that the forces which he is leading intend to establish civilian rule. He also said that his movement intends to turn the militias belonging to it into a regular army as soon as possible.

SANA Denies Syrian Role

Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 7 Jul 76 JN

[Text] Damascus--The radios of the deviationists continue to reiterate fabricated reports about a Syrian participation in the fighting in some areas in Lebanon. The SYRIAN ARAB NEWS AGENCY [SANA] is authorized to clarify that these fabricated reports do not deserve any comment because their propagators have previously been accustomed to involving Syria in combat operations against the Arab brothers. Since Syria is not involving itself with them now in fighting against the Lebanese, this has made them feel their weakness and failure to implement their plans, which has consequently prompted them to involve Syria's name as the reason for every defeat inflicted upon them.

Syria is prepared to support any resistance faction in fighting the Zionist enemy, but it is not prepared to be dragged behind any resistance faction in adventures against the Arab masses as a result of intervention in the domestic affairs of any Arab state.

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NORTH AFRICA

A few weeks after the OPEC hijack, it was reported that the Jackal had received 25 million pounds and been promoted to the rank of general in the Palestinian terrorist army as his reward for masterminding the operation.

I pressed Colonel al-Qadhdhafi that he must have had a meeting with the Jackal. He insisted quietly that he had never assisted him.

But he conceded that most terrorism in the world did arise from the Israeli-Arab Clash-- "The usurping of Palestine by the Jews," he called it.

Later I talked at length with al-Qadhdhafi's American-educated minister of state, Taha Sharif bin Amir, who personally negotiated with the Jackal when he landed after the Vienna operation.

He told me: "It is true that our policy towards hijackers depends entirely upon how we assess the role that they are playing in the freedom struggle. We do not always give asylum. But on the other hand in many cases we can help to save innocent lives.

Letter of Thanks

"We had a letter of thanks from the Japanese Government because our intervention enabled us to save the lives of nearly 200 passengers after a hijacking operation by a commando of the Japanese Red Army."

A New Arms Deal With Britain

He told me: "During the last days of Mr. Wilson's premiership we had negotiations but these exchanges stopped after his departure, and now we are waiting for them to be resumed under Mr. Callaghan.

"If your country is willing to sell us arms we will buy whatever we need from you so that we do not have to buy everything from one source (the Russians)."

British Leyland--boycotted until last March by the Arab world--would also be welcome to sell in Libya's booming car market. "And they can do well," he added.

His Open Support for the I.R.A.

"I think that while it is proper for each party to have its views, they should be able to decide upon spheres in which they can cooperate internationally," said the colonel.

The I.R.A. was a freedom-fighting movement which Libya supported, "but we respect the complications of the case.

"You tend to look at the I.R.A. issue as one of Catholics and Protestants, but we only look at the Irish nation as a whole. Surely Ireland has more right to independence than either Scotland or Wales, who are now talking of secession."

The Conflict with Israel

"It is clear that Jewish nationalism did not respect Palestinian nationalism and now we face the aggression of the Jewish religion against the Islamic and Christian religions," he said.

But, I asked him, was he not concerned as a sincere Moslem at being regarded by the outside world as a dangerous man of war for his refusal to accept peace with Israel. "Who said we refuse peace? Where do you get this? What we are asking for is the return of the Palestinians. If this can only be achieved through war, then war it will be. "But our aim is not war. In this case the warmongers are those who refuse the return of the Palestinians."

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NORTH AFRICA

TRIPOLI RADIO COMMENTS ON ISRAEL'S ENTEEBE RAID

Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 7 Jul 76 JN

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpt] The Zionist entity, which is a member of the United Nations, does not hesitate to carry out any act violating the simplest international values. If we the Arabs have been used to this, in view of the struggle and experience between us and the Zionist enemy for over a quarter century, what puzzles and pains us is that the Zionists' terrorist acts are being supported and encouraged by some states of the world which claim to be civilized.

If the events and facts in this respect are innumerable, let us take as an example the lightning police and terrorist raid which the Zionist state carried out on Uganda, and how this raid, which was the zenith of terrorism and terrorist planning, gained the immediate support of the U.S., British, German, Swiss and perhaps the French governments, that is, the most important states in the Western world.

The question which arises is: Why did these governments support the Zionist terrorist raid on Uganda, which caused the death of innocent victims and damage to property, while on the other hand they denounced the hijacking of the French plane by the fedayeen, who did not shed a drop of blood?

For days the fedayeen held all the passengers of the hijacked plane. They then released all the passengers, retaining only the nationals of the hostile Zionist state. The fedayeen did not shed the blood of the Zionist nationals, although they were entitled to do so. The intention of the fedayeen was not to shed blood, but to alert the world to their just cause.

The result was that the Zionist enemy shed the blood of three races--Palestinian Arabs, Ugandan Africans and Zionist nationals. Who is the black and real terrorist in such a case, let alone the several previous cases?

From our point of view, the Zionist state has been practicing terrorist methods since its establishment and up to now therefore, it is the right of the Palestinian fedayeen to return Zionist terrorism in kind. The weak point in the Arab fedayeen is that they are still more merciful and human than their enemy. Their enemy resorts to maneuvering and deception and uses his brain, science and planning and the art of war and terrorism to exterminate them and their nation.

The Arab fedayeen and their Arab nation are still merciful, human and patient with this enemy whose treachery knows no limits. The result is a new loss of a number of fedayeen, western governmental and nongovernmental condemnation of the fedayeen actions, denunciation of their so-called terrorism, and support for and encouragement of the Zionist state to persist in its drawn-up plan.

This is the result which the Arab fedayeen have reaped from every action they have carried out against the Zionist state. When will that day come when we will learn from our enemy? When will that day come when we will teach the Zionist enemy a hard lesson to respect our resolve, daring, brain, science and planning, as well as our warnings, statements and words? When will we prove to the Zionist enemy that like him we cannot retreat, back down or give in? When will we prove to the enemy that we are loyal to the rule which says: An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth. When will we prove to him, individuals and governments, that like him we are capable of using military planes, military science, military planning and military art?