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Near East/North Africa Report

No. 2061



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INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

TOP LIBERATION ORGANIZATION OFFICIAL DELIVERS VIEWS

Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 13 Nov 79 p 5

/Article by Marwan Hazin: "At a Press Conference in Kuwait, Abu Iyad Warned of Attempts To Cause Despair among Palestinians"

/Text Mr Salah Khalaf, Abu Iyad, the second man in the Palestine national liberation movement FATH, warned several Arab information media against disseminating rumors which attempt to detract from the Palestinian people or seek to make them despair. He said that it is absolutely not permissible for some Arab countries to try to create problems, no matter how small, among the ranks of our Palestinian people.

Abu Iyad was talking at a press conference held yesterday morning at the site of the FATH office in Kuwait. He stressed that the Palestine Liberation Organization would set out some of the problems from which the Palestinian people have been suffering in the Arab countries, such as travel document, visa, residence and work, issues at the 10th Summit Conference, and would explain the purpose behind these. He said that if there is any fear on the part of officials in these countries, the organization could set forth guarantees assuring that this fear will be eliminated.

He said that while there were attempts to make the Palestinian people desperate, this people would never experience despair. He added "The more this people is oppressed the more its heroism increases." He said, "We do not want to be the cause for the distress of certain Arab countries. We are anxious to be quiet and do not want to talk about what is giving us trouble, because of our concern for Arab solidarity." He added, "We do not want to raise any problem now lest our people be defamed more than it is being now." Abu Iyad did not mention the names of the countries the Palestinians are having trouble with but he did stress "We, as leaders, have been able to control our staffs so far."

In his press conference Abu Iyad raised five other points. He talked about the subject of the Palestinian state, the south of Lebanon, the subject of contacts with Europe and the visit by Abu 'Ammar, the head

of the Executive Council, to a number of European countries, and then addressed himself to the issue of Iran and the talk of Palestinian mediation.

The Palestinian State

Regarding the Palestinian state, he said that the notion of establishing the Palestinian state was presented after the October war, early in 1974 specifically, as part of the conditions which have not changed or been transformed, either via the 10 points or the political platform of the Palestine National Congress, all of which demand an independent Palestinian state on any portion of the land which has been liberated, without any conditions. He said that one of the necessary attributes of the Palestinian state will be military and economic power, Arab solidarity, and the gaining of allies from the socialist camp and other European countries, and added "Without these attributes one cannot establish a state or quasi-state."

"The Camp"

Abu Iyad referred to the Camp David Agreements and said that the Palestinian revolution has stood against the Camp agreements not because it wants to enter peripheral conflicts but because these agreements will not realize any national rights for the Palestinian people.

Palestinian Mediation and Iran

Abu Iyad talked about what was desired of Palestinian mediation in Iran in order to save the hostages in the American Embassy, which Iranian students occupied 8 days ago. He vehemently denied that there was any mediation in this regard and stressed "What happened on our part was not mediation but an attempt to understand what has happened and is happening."

He added that the Palestinian revolution had the right to understand the objective of the operation and asserted that everything which has been said about the Palestinian delegation's departure to Iran, whether it is repeated talk about winning America's sympathy or talk of gaining American recognition of the organization through deceit, is to be rejected and not accepted by our revolution "because we reject sympathy just as we reject acting through deceit. Thus there is no mediation between us and the American agents." He said, "The Palestinian revolution can do everything and we are with Iran in every struggle it wages."

Abu al Walid

Abu Iyad pointed out that Brig Gen Sa'd Sayil reached Damascus on his return from Tehran 48 hours ago after the termination of the mediation between the Iranian and Palestinian revolutions.

An Honor We Are Not Claiming

In another area, Mr Salah Khalaf denied that the Palestinian revolution has offered military support to the Iranian revolution "Because the Iranian revolution is an unarmed one, indeed is one of the few rare revolutions in which blood has triumphed over the sword." Abu Iyad wondered about the arms the Palestinian revolution offered to Iran and consequently about the armed people who were trained, and said "However, that is an honor we are not claiming." He said "The Palestinian revolution has been betting on the success of the Iranian revolution since Khomeyni announced the fall of the Shah, and we have stood beside him." He added, "As I conceive it, had al-Sadat's Egypt stayed in the Arab ranks when the Iranian revolution occurred, the situation in our area would have been completely different."

The Shah and Khomeyni

Abu Iyad referred to the fact that the Shah had been threatening the security of the Gulf and Saudi Arabia, turning Iran into an armed arsenal. He added that the Shah had been supplying Israel with oil, raising the Israeli flag over the biggest spy center and in addition threatening Arabs, and that he occupied three islands in the Gulf. Had he stayed, he would have occupied more, because that was his intent. Khomeyni, however, came and did away with all this, cutting off the oil, removing the specter of fear from the area and raising the Palestinian flag over the Israeli embassy.

The Ideology of the Two Revolutions Is Different

After Abu Iyad had reviewed the difference between the Iran of today and the Iran of yesterday, he said that concurrence certainly did not exist between the two revolutions in everything. He stated that the ideology of the Palestinian revolution assuredly differed from the ideology of the Iranian revolution for a number of reasons, among which he mentioned the fact that the Palestinian revolution did not believe in factionalism and that it was prepared to coexist with all religions. He emphasized that the Palestinian revolution did not allow itself to be the instrument of any revolution and consequently was not subjected to the guardianship of the Iranian revolution and that "We refuse to be its guardians and consider it to be an assisting revolution and accept that there be solidarity between the two revolutions but not to the extent of concurrence over everything."

Palestinian Contacts and Europe

Mr Salah Khalaf, Abu Iyad, turned to talk about the visits Abu 'Ammar made to a number of European capitals, describing these visits as achieving political successes and victories which did not come from a void. He warned against anyone's trying to create doubts over these contacts and said that anyone standing in their way "does not want our revolution to set forth toward the horizons of the world."

He asserted that the Palestinian revolution knows the volume of these contacts and whether they would attain a great triumph or should be put in their true context.

The South of Lebanon

Concerning the south of Lebanon, Abu Iyad, the second man in FATH, said that the south of Lebanon was to a large degree connected to the coming summit and that the issue of the south was not one of the entry or non-entry of the army but one related to an American plan which sought to have the Palestinian revolution face a new Camp David via the south so that the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty could be saved and the autonomy conspiracy could be deviously introduced into the bank and Gaza. Abu Iyad said that Philip Habib brought this plan on his recent visit to the area and that in essence it called for the establishment of a temporary truce which would be transformed into a permanent truce as well as the transfer of the guerrillas north of the al-Litani and withdrawal of their weapons, then the convening of a conference to be attended by Syria, Jordan, the organization and Israel "as a bribe."

He stressed that the organization rejected the plan because it realized how serious it was, just like the autonomy plan which has schemed at settling 500,000 Palestinians in Lebanon, 300,000 in Kuwait, a further large number in Saudi Arabia and the rest in remaining Arab countries. He added, "However, we will fight this settlement from a patriotic standpoint." Abu Iyad expressed his hope that the issue of the south of Lebanon would be subjected to discussion at the 10th summit in a manner which would not disrupt the conference. He also expressed his hope that a single Arab stand would be declared against America. He repeated the statement that the Arab countries had fallen short in performing their duties toward the south and did not give it its due--indeed, did not give it enough due to survive. He said that the bombs were being used in the south of Lebanon which had not been used in the Viet Nam war and that there was not a house or village left which had not been hit.

Relations with the Arabs and the Oil States

Abu Iyad turned to talk about the relationship between the Palestinian revolution and Syria, emphasizing that relations were good. He said that the Syrian resistance was a basic element in the development of the eastern and northern fronts. In his discussion of the relationship between Syria and the Palestinian revolution, Abu Iyad criticized Libya's position and added, "We hope that Libya will have a specific political position on which basis it will deal with the revolution."

Abu Iyad stressed "The oil countries have accustomed us to the fact that they take the interests of the Palestinian cause into account." However, he said that he hoped for a new relationship between the Palestinian

revolution and the Gulf press and added that there were some shortcomings. He warned against the "press of the rich," stating that their concern was to distort the revolution and turn people to despair.

West Germany and the Palestine Revolution

Then Abu Iyad talked about West Germany, saying that its release of two guerrillas recently was not an indication of proof of good will because "There are more than 20,000 Palestinians in West Germany against whom oppression and psychological acts are being practiced." He added "Then West Germany should prove that it is a country which is not occupied by America and Israel."

Concerning what is said about the Syrian-Lebanese-Palestinian action paper to be presented to the 10th Arab Summit Conference, Mr. Khalaf said "There is an attempt to come up with such a paper so that the conference will not be disrupted and involve itself in problems we do not want." He said that statements by the Lebanese foreign minister Fu'ad Butrus are stirring up the hope that a tripartite working paper will be set forth, although a Syrian-Palestinian paper is preferable. He said, "This will mean that there is a Syrian-Palestinian axis to the degree that it will mean setting out a conception of what could be unanimous Arab action."

Mr Salah Khalaf expressed his desire that the Arab summit would succeed and said that whoever tried to make it fail was trying to strike out at Arab solidarity and bring the Arabs back to the era of blocs.

The Palestinian Rifle

He said that it was in the interests of the Arab states that there be a Palestinian position; otherwise, the settlement would be imposed on the whole Arab region. He stressed that when the Palestinian rifle fell that that would mean the imposition of the settlement on the Arab countries. He said that abrogation of the Cairo agreement was absolutely out of the question. He stressed that the Palestinian revolution would not allow itself to be sacrificed for Lebanon nor would it allow Lebanon to be sacrificed for the cause. He pointed out that many weapons now being sent to Lebanon were now returning to the Arab countries from which they came, in order to help destroy those countries. He said that Mr 'Arafat's visit to Paris would take place only in accordance with an official invitation not masked by ulterior motives outside the scope of the Palestinian cause.

He added that a meeting between 'Arafat and French President Giscard D'Estaing outside France would not be useful or desirable.

Then Mr Mahmud 'Abbas, Abu Mazin, who came to Kuwait the day before yesterday, talked about the joint Jordanian-Palestinian committee to support the resistance of the people of the occupied territories and denied that he had withdrawn from the committee. He said that the committee was extant

and still functioning. He said that the Liberation Organization's decision to support the municipalities in the West Bank came as a result of the continuous vexations to which these municipalities had been exposed under Israeli military rule, as a consequence of the success the organization had attained in bringing national forces to leadership centers in the occupied territories. He said that the organization had produced a platform to create sisterly relations between occupied territory municipalities and Arab ones, and that 17 of the existing 31 municipalities in the bank as well as 64 village and local councils have been made sister towns. He pointed to the sum which the Ninth Arab Summit Conference in Baghdad had allocated, totalling \$150 million, to support the resistance of the people of the occupied territory, including the sum of \$100 million to be under the supervision of Jordan and the Liberation Organization. He said, "The instalments of this sum have not all reached us; the first to reach us was toward the end of August. This was spent domestically in accordance with the priorities of the municipality, public welfare organization and higher and intermediate education projects, with emphasis on the city of Jerusalem." He said that there was a desire to build the Jerusalem University in order to establish the arabhood of the city and to merge the four universities in the occupied territories into one. He said that the joint committee had met three times and studied the projects in accordance with priorities, giving loans to 12 housing societies to help them build dwellings for their people.

He said that the projects presented to the bank were being presented to the Gaza Strip. He pointed out that the organization had succeeded in signing agreements with some Arab countries to sell Gaza Strip citrus in their markets. On the project for a Palestinian university abroad, Abu Mazin said that that project had been bruited about for some time and had reached the point of serious discussion. He pointed to Israel's attempts to destroy Islamic sacred places, foremost the sanctuary and the Dome of the Rock, and said that occupying authorities had excavated seven tunnels underneath these sacred places on the excuse of looking for the skeleton of Solomon and that that had threatened these sacred places with collapse.

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IRAN

BACKGROUND OF AMBASSADORS TO WESTERN EUROPE REVIEWED

Bonn DIE WELT in German 30 Nov 79 p 7

[Text] Khomeyni's new man in London, Ali Afrouz, 29 years of age, clamped down strongly on his staff when he entered office 2 months ago. He dismissed 22 of the 50 embassy employees who appeared to him to be "anti-revolutionary" or unnecessary. The former psychology university lecturer did not know the first thing about diplomacy. Already persecuted during his schooldays by the secret police of the Shah, the SAVAK, he quickly advanced to the five-member steering cadre of the Revolutionary Guard after the revolution in February. Afrouz has on his desk in front of him a sign which says in Farsi: "I represent the 1,000 sacrifices of the Shah regime. I represent the Iranian people."

Mehdi Navvab, 31 years of age, the Iranian ambassador to Bonn, has stated: "My activity in the opposition to the Shah suffices as the basis for my work." He is a skilled machine engineer and former Bosch correspondent to DIE WELT. In 1967, during the visit of the Shah to the Federal Republic of Germany, he was an incensed opponent of the Persian coronation. Today he loudly ch-ers the Ayatollah Khomeyni: "A miraculous man."

Amir Entezam, 47 years of age, Iranian ambassador to Stockholm, is not exactly publicity-shy. The trained engineer and a member of the Freedom Party during the Shah's time was elevated by the revolution to the rank of vice premier and government spokesman. On 13 June he announced his own appointment as ambassador to Sweden, Norway, Finland, Denmark and Iceland. He was accredited to the Scandinavian countries on 28 August. He prophesied a "new Vietnam" for the Americans should they plan an invasion of Iran. However, the moral threat of approximately 3,000 Persians who are allowed to study "together with women" in Stockholm appears to be more important to him than this political confrontation.

Shamseddin Amir-'Ala'i, 77 years of age, the ambassador to Paris, is a full-blooded diplomat in the squad of the new Iranian representatives to West Europe. The holder of a doctor's degree, a lawyer and author of several law textbooks, one on capital punishment, he has decades of experience in practical politics. He was minister of agriculture, minister of interior, and police perfect in Teheran. In the beginning of the fifties he was appointed, for the first time, ambassador to Brussels. In 1953 he returned home and, as an opponent of the still young Shah regime, was imprisoned. After his release, Amir-'Ala'i began his political fight against the Shah.

IRAQ

GOVERNMENT'S AMBITIOUS AGRICULTURAL PLANS DETAILED

Beirut THE ARAB WORLD WEEKLY in English 17 Nov 79 pp 3-6

[Text] The ruling regime in Iraq, turning to the soil with ambitious plans to make the country self-sufficient in food by 1982, has allocated 10 bn dollars for mammoth projects ranging from irrigation dams to model farms and resettlement.

A chain of model farms dot the landscape along the highway between Baghdad and Basrah, while efforts are underway to bring vast tracts to the north under the plough. Compared with other countries in a world of food production inadequacies, Iraq is confirmedly lucky.

The uphill battle against salinity persists, while efforts to establish irrigation and drainage systems appear won. Saline waters leave white patches that erode fertility in what could otherwise be rich land. Shortage of expertise and manpower also have been sharply reduced.

During the current five-year development plan, the Government has been investing at the rate of two bn dollars a year, with a total allocation of three bn dinars (about ten bn dollars) has been earmarked for agricultural development under the plan.

The sum amounts to nearly 10 times the size of investment in agricultural under the previous development plan, which ended in 1976. The plans indeed are ambitious, for a country still importing a great percentage of its staple foodstuff needs. Iraq can afford to import, but its leadership has opted to invest into the future.

In pursuing their agricultural expansion projects, the leadership of the ruling Arab Socialist Baath Party have been true to their basic ideals of policy-to spread a socialist mode of life throughout the country, starting with a boost in farm production by means of collectivization. Farmers have been responding positively to government efforts to set up cooperatives and collective farms, with the government contributing money and housing units. Baghdad has spent more than 1.7 bn dollars on rural housing projects since 1976, building simple brick homes that are complete with water and electricity, grouped in villages.

In its drive to expand cultivable farmland horizontally as well as vertically the government realizes that at present only 3.6 mn hectares are being cultivated of which 1.8 mn hectares are in private hands. This is to be incorporated into collective cooperatives by 1980. Officials underscore their policy to make the cooperatives a step on the road toward complete collectivization.

The peasant retains the ownership of the land, but once collectivized the ownership acquires a collective shape. Official statistics show that 1,900 cooperatives are operating in Iraq, along with 79 collectives and scores of state farms. By 1980, there are to be another 785 cooperatives.

The Tigris project now underway envisages a total investment of ID 133 mn. Peasants enrolled under the cooperatives have been increased from 63,000 to 337,000 tilling farms covering 22 million donums.

Capital of the Agricultural Cooperative Credit Bank has been raised to ID 50, with the rate of interest on credit lowered from 5% to 3%. The government has launched the Fruit and Vegetable Marketing Administration, whose storage capacity has reached 13,100 tons. Grain storage capacity has reached 262,000 tons and, by 1980 the total storage capacity is expected to reach 730,000 tons.

Water storage has been increased from 12.3 bn cubic meters to 86.8 bn. Two dams now abuilding are to hold back a total of 20.7 bn cubic meters of irrigation water, in addition to 1,150 megawatt electric power to run factories and extend to rural regions.

Reclaimed farmland has been increased from 19,000 donums to 200,000, and mechanical tools and vehicles employed have been increased from 10,000 to 22,000 units. Chemical fertilizers now in use amount to 233,000 tons, or eight times the quantity used during 1968.

Al Wahda is a model farm on the edge of Baghdad, standing out as the vanguard of the agricultural development drive. Two similar farms are abuilding east and south of the capital, and about 120 more are envisioned in northern and southern regions.

West Germany, Dutch, French and East European firms have been engaged to carry out land reclamation projects, build a string of dams, drill for water, provide dairy and other farming equipment and supervise poultry raising, animal husbandry and artificial insemination centers.

"Al-Wahda is meant to be a model, after which other farms are to be patterned," said the farm manager, Mehdi Hassan. "Although it cost us 20.6 million dollars, the farm already has proven its commercial viability. We are now making money, selling farm produce and multiplying cattle, sheep and poultry."

The West German contractors Schmidt Ankum provided technical know-how, personnel and equipment, including air-conditioned units for automatic milking chambers. Nearby, the 19.2-million-dollar "April 7 Farm" is nearing completion, with contractors coming from the Netherlands, the DEFCO firm. The 41,000-acre farm holds 757 peasant families operating under a collective farm system. DEFCO also is busy cultivating a 2,300-acre forest on the farm's eastern fringe.

Al-Khalis, the third farm in the vicinity, is rich with 800 Frisian cows, a chain of dairy plants and animal husbandry centers. The 20-million-dollar Farm was built by PEC Engineering of France. The farms are complete with elementary schools, housing units, sporting clubs, clinics and veterinary centers. A limited tract within Al-Khalis has been given to the Arab Liberation Front, a Palestinian commando organization, to till. Income from the tract goes to the ALF command to "finance commando operations against Israel."

Robert Jennings of Hamburg, told the Arab Economist that agricultural development in Iraq is "sure investment, just like money in the bank." He conceded that the nature of terrain is somewhat difficult and problems of salinity require constant treatment. Nevertheless, he said, once these problems are contained, fruit from the model farms, which required vast investment, "will show unlimited profit and prove to be economically viable."

Jennings was employed by the West German firm Schmidt Ankum, builder of the Wahda model farm. Iraqi men and women are employed by the model farms, and Dr Sabah Taha lives at April 7 with her agriculture engineer husband. Dr Sabah is a "happy veterinarian, because I love animals and nature."

"Frisian cows, a breed that flourishes in the Netherlands, can adapt perfectly to conditions here," said Dr Sabah. "But initially, these cows suffer from some diseases during their first year here. Afterwards, they fit well in the farms." Aziz Beithoun, the resident engineer at Al-Khalis, also said the model farm experiment has been an "example of perfect success, technically as well as economically."

He keynoted the "high living standards" of the peasants and the enormous costs involved in providing hospital care and schooling for their families. Nonetheless, he said, income from the farm has been "more than rewarding."

The Haditha irrigation scheme, one of the biggest in the country, is to cost a total of 210 million dinars. There also is a vast project underway with Soviet assistance--a canal from Lake Trarthar, north of Baghdad, to the Euphrates. The Lake takes water from the Tigris through a flood-control canal. The new canal will enable Iraq to raise the level of the Euphrates by taking water from the projected lake, thereby improving irrigation.

Beyond Al-Khalis, a new settlement has been cropping up on the main highway between Baghdad and Basrah, on the alluvial plain near the Tigris. The

The settlement looks neat, with burned brick houses and feder roads. The peasants hoeing the fields are naturalized Iraqis imported from the overcrowded Nile Valley in Egypt. They are leading the stream of Egyptian emigrants to what might turn out to be one of the most impressive experiments in the Arab world--a mass shift of peasants from overcrowded Egypt to underpopulated regions in Iraq.

Officials said it is still very much an experiment, the first resettlement of some 2,500 Egyptians from eight Nile Delta provinces. The initial stage took a relatively short time in 1976.

Egyptian peasants going to Iraq could mitigate problems of overpopulation, if carried out on a broader scale. Iraq, which has only 12.7 million people, extends on an area that once held and supported 45 million. Short of farmer as it is, Iraq still has to import food.

Egyptian peasants are, indeed, better accommodated in Iraq than they were at their impoverished villages at home. The idea behind this was to ensure an easy transition for these families. They are not integrated into the Iraqi lifestyle as yet, but have been exerting themselves to assimilate Iraqi ways. "I can't help wondering about these Egyptians," an Iraqi official said. "They are extremely nice and obedient. They are hard working and faithful. But the men often are apt to take more than one wife if they can afford it." These Egyptians are given the Iraqi nationality and are permitted to coexist with the local peasants. But they have simply transferred Egyptian village ways to Iraq. These Egyptians have the tendency to do things their own way, unless some official with authority dictates a change of styles. Cooperatives, for instance, are on the plain and provides unlimited technical assistance and expertise, the Egyptians have ignored them and have been pursuing traditional ways of tilling the soil. The land has been divided into small tracts cultivated by hand. "I tried to get them to explain why, but no one would give me the reason behind their aversion against tractors," the same official said. "However, I must say that my problems with those Egyptians are minimal, and I'm looking forward to a greater cooperation with them."

CSO: 4820

IRAQ

BRIEFS

ASBESTOS PIPES PLANT--An asbestos pipes plant in the Taamim governorate has neared completion, (due in the first quarter of 1980). A source of the State Establishment for industrial design and construction announced that the project aims at meeting local demand for asbestos pipes that are widely used for irrigation. [Text] [Beirut ARAB WORLD WEEKLY in English 17 Nov 79 p 11]

ALUMINUM PLANT--The Iraqi government has agreed to buy 150,000 tonnes of aluminum oxide annually from Jamaica to be used by a new aluminum plant which is underway and is due for completion early next year. The announcement made by the Jamaican government in Kingstown did not specify the exact date on which export of the Bauxite will start. The Jamaican Prime Minister was recently in Baghdad. [Text] [Beirut ARAB WORLD WEEKLY in English 17 Nov 79 p 12]

ELECTRIC PROJECTS--The State Establishment for Electricity in Iraq has completed over the past 9 months, a number of electric projects and the installation of several generating stations, in the various governorates. The Director of the Establishment Mr Hareth Jamil recently announced that the first phase of the high tension project for the southern district has been completed at a cost of ID 70 million and has a capacity of 400,000 volts. The central generation stations have also been completed in Hartha. The Director Mr Jamil added that during the same period the Nassriya station was completed. The second phase of that station will be put on experimental operation next month. Other units will also be put on experimental operation to generate a 130 volt current while the Establishment has started work on the first phase of the high tension project connecting the north and central regions. This is in line with Iraqi plans to connect all areas to the high tension power grid. Mr Jamil finally said that so far this year electric power has been connected to 730 villages and the technical teams of the Establishment has started work on preliminary plans for spreading electric power to 6000 villages. [Text] [Beirut THE ARAB WORLD WEEKLY in English 17 Nov 79 p 12]

PAPER PLANT COST--The Iraqi daily AL JUMHOURIYA recently reported that the Iraqi Planning Board has raised the cost of the Basrah paper pulp plant covered by the current year's development programme. The cost of the plant expansion works have been raised by ID 368 thousand thus reaching ID 46,198,000. The board also agreed to raise the annual appropriations for the plant by ID 2.5 million to reach ID 6,084,000. The planned capacity of the project is 136,000 tonnes of paper pulp equivalent to 30,000 tonnes of quality paper, 17,000 tonnes of printing paper, 8,000 tonnes thin light typing paper and 4,000 tonnes of toilet paper. The plant provides employment for 1320 workers. [Text] [Beirut THE ARAB WORLD WEEKLY in English 17 Nov 79 p 127]

TEXTILE PRODUCTION--The State Establishment for Textile Production has achieved 92 percent of its targeted production of carpets, 89 percent of its plastic bag production targets and 54 percent of its jute textile production targets over the past nine months. This was announced by the Establishment's Director Mr Yassine Abdullah Jassim who said a new carpet plant will start production next year with an annual capacity of 1 million meters and at a total investment cost of ID 4.5 million. [Text] [Beirut ARAB WORLD WEEKLY in English 17 Nov 79 p 12]

CSO: 4420

JORDAN

BRIEFS

FURNACE EXPANSION--Mr Walid Asfour, the director of the Amman Cement Company recently announced that the fifth klinker furnace being installed at the plant will be operational early next year. In an interview with the monthly bulletin of the Chamber of Industry in Amman, Mr Asfour said the capacity of the cement plant after the furnace is installed will reach 2,500 tonnes daily. Mr Asfour added that Jordan's demand for cement is in the range of 6,000 tonnes per day which means that with the new furnace coming into operation imports of cement can be reduced, Mr Asfour also spoke of a sixth furnace tenders for which will be invited soon and the furnace should be installed and operational by 1981. The estimated capacity of the sixth furnace is 3,000 tonnes. On finance of the expansion works Mr Asfour said the company had received fresh loans from a consortium of European banks amounting to JD 5 million mainly to finance the fifth furnace expansion. Mr Asfour also revealed that the company had also arranged for a JD 5 million loan from domestic sources of finance and planned to issue IOUs in the amount of JD5 million. [Text] [Beirut THE ARAB WORLD WEEKLY in English 17 Nov 79 p 37]

MAGNETIC SCREENING FOR MINERALS--Magnetic screening is underway in Jordan for the delineation of mineral rich areas in which future investments can be channeled. The screenship is conducted by Phoenix of the U.S. headquartered in McLean, Virginia under a \$1.3 million contract signed last August. An American geologist in the company's expert team said a DC 3 plane, equipped with the most advanced magnetic screening equipment will be conducting daily flights over Jordan and for three successive months. Mr Gordon Anderson of the Phoenix Company said the magnetic screening which started on September 25 will cover an area of 45,000 kilometers and should be completed by the end of the year. A second stage of the project includes an electro-magnetic screening of the area southwest of Jordan over a stretch of 19,000 kilometers. The area to be screened is nearby the Jordanian-Israeli disengagement line and in areas where the DC 3 can fly a helicopter will be used flying 30 meters above the surface. Mr Anderson said electro-magnetic screening penetrates the ground to depths of 3,000 meters giving a detailed outline of the structure of the earth's strata. U.S. and Yugoslav companies had previously prospected for oil in Jordan but made no strikes but Jordanian officials are hopeful that the new screening will lead to positive results. [Text] [Beirut THE ARAB WORLD WEEKLY in English 17 Nov 79 p 3]

CSO: 4820

KUWAIT

FU'AD MATAR SEES DIRE CONSEQUENCES IN HOSTAGE SITUATION

Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 8 Nov 79 pp 1, 10

[Editorial by Fu'ad Matar: "Fear of Iranian Deversoir"]

[TN: Deversoir Is Point of Israel: Suez Canal Breakthrough in 1973 War]

[Text] As long as the U.S. administration insists intentionally on not acknowledging that there is a people whose land has been usurped, whose citizens have been displaced and who have been replaced by a racist state-- a state which the United States supplies with money, weapons and experts and with which it coordinates at the security level--as long as the U.S. administration insists on following this course, then there is no harm if this position is reassessed as a result of a deal, even if some will consider this deal a form of blackmail.

Until the detention of the hostages in Tehran by the green guard of Khomeini, no Arab weapon employed as an instrument of pressure on the U.S. position has achieved the required purpose, perhaps because the weapons have not been used well and perhaps because they have not been used fully.

If we examine these weapons one by one, this fact would become very obvious to us.

The weapon of deposits has not been used at all, except for the fact that some people have stopped depositing their funds [in U.S. banks] while others have continued to do so. The justification that the depositors whisper in the course of analyzing and defending this position is that the United States will not return anybody's deposits because these deposits are [not], to start with, in a strong box whose key is in one of the drawers of the U.S. president but are employed in businesses and establishments and are not easy to collect and deliver to their owners.

The weapon of Arab investments has also not been used at all. An evidence of this fact is that the latest official statistics in this regard show that the volume of these investments has amounted to 43 billion dollars.

When a debate is held with some of the Arab officials who supervise the transfer of deposits and who approve the measures for the conversion of funds for the purpose of investment, we are surprised to find that their argument is based on the logic that the more funds we deposit in the United States and the more money we invest in it, the greater will be the degree by which we can influence the U.S. decision. But this explanation which is more of a reading than of an explanation, has been proven invalid by evidence of the fact that we have not yet been able to notice the impact of the Arab thumbprint on the U.S. decision. Meanwhile, we discover something that is a lot more serious, namely that some of the deposits and investment go to Israel. Statements made a few days ago by the new Israeli minister of finance confirm this fact indirectly. The Israeli minister announced that Israel's foreign debts amount to 4.5 billion dollars. In view of the fact that the United States is the only country in the world that advances loans and aid to Israel without any reservations and in view of the fact that a big percentage of the Arab deposits and investments is in the United States, then it is natural to assume that the source of Israel's debts, or of a large percentage of them, is Arab money deposited or invested in the United States.

Thus, it is not only that the investments weapon has not been used but rather that the United States has employed this weapon in a counter Arab direction.

The oil weapon has also not been used in the manner that could hurt the U.S. administration and make it reassess its position. At the outset, there was some kind of a threat to use this weapon. When the threat developed and entered the phase of implementation, the U.S. administration began to plan for a counter blow instead of planning for what may appease the oil owners. The counter blow was embodied in the Camp David deal which could have, had it not been confronted with the Baghdad summit, caused a complete Arab collapse. Perhaps such a collapse was what the U.S. administration had been seeking.

Even though most of the Arab decision makers are convinced of the evil U.S. intentions, they have not yet brandished the weapons of pressure in the face of the United States. The only weapon brandishing has continued to be the threats of an oil embargo--threats that have lost their credibility among the Arab citizens.

Practically, using the oil weapon after the Camp David deal was more strongly required than its use in the preceding periods. It is definite that if this weapon had been used, the deal would have fallen through immediately, and with it the parties involved or some of them.

What is said about these three weapons can also be said about the weapon represented in the Soviet card which has not been played the way the rules of the game require it to be played. Had this game been played skilfully,

the U.S. administration would not have been able to continue to flout the Arab will.

Now it seems that the detention of the U.S. hostages by Khomeyni's green guards is a weapon that can be used well and bear fruit.

Regarding this event, there are a number of observations from which the answer can be concluded.

First observation: We wish that the Palestinian move to rescue the hostages had not been staged before a public contact on the part of President Carter with Yasir 'Arafat, the Palestinian revolution leader. Now that the move has been staged in the wake of a secret U.S.-Palestinian contact, Imam Khomeyni is required to take charge of the matter.

Second observation: It is enough for Imam Khomeyni to order, while squatting on his blanket in Qom, that detention of the U.S. citizens continue until the U.S. administration pledges to recognize the PLO and to permit it to open an office in Washington with the Palestinian flag flying over it--it is enough for Imam Khomeyni to do this to cause an unprecedented stir in all states of the United States.

It is well known that Imam Khomeyni does not bargain and that the secret of his strength lies in this quality. Had the imam demanded instead of making it a precondition that the ailing shah be handed over to him for the release of the hostages, he would have shown the world that his belief in the Palestinian issue is strong and that this issue, compared to the issue of the ailing shah, is the fundamental one.

Moreover, to take advantage of the fearful ongoing struggle in the United States for the presidency in the wake of Edward Kennedy's decision to declare himself a candidate, it is enough for Khomeyni to say that he will hand over the citizens [hostages] to the candidate who declares publicly that he will recognize the PLO and will exert efforts to realize the Palestinian people's aspirations--it is enough for Imam Khomeyni to say this to cause unprecedented confusion in the U.S. ranks.

Third observation: We will be surprised if Imam Khomeyni does not do this because such a thing needs a historical leader who has come to power from beyond the framework of the conventional endeavors and premeditated plans, as proven by the fact that his rise to power has surprised even those who draw up the equations and develop the plans.

Moreover, this leader has nothing to fear for--not throne, not age and not the pleasure of life and the joy of living. He is content from life with his blanket and with a little bread and water that keep life going in his heart.

We say that he has nothing to fear because the U.S. retaliation for these days in which America's face is slapped with unprecedented violence by

the ayatollahs ruling Iran will be fearful.

Fourth observation: Complementary to the preceding observation is the question: What can President Carter's administration do?

Interfere militarily?

The United States, which preferred not to interfere to strengthen the shah, which preferred not to permit the shah to take political asylum in it after his fall and which has received the shah only after he got sick with cancer, will not embark on military action so as to avoid entanglement [sic].

Will it work to overthrow the regime in Iran?

Is there a regime in Iran for the U.S. intelligence agencies to topple? However, we feel, while asking Imam Khomeyni to use the hostages weapon in the interest of a change in the U.S. position toward the Palestinian issue, anxiety and we fear that a gap will develop in the situation if settling the issue of the hostages is prolonged. It is not essential that the gap be of the type of the Entebbe operation. However, it may be of the type that achieves what the Deversoir gap achieved.

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CSO: 4802

KUWAIT

EMBASSY SEIZURE SEEN DAMAGING TO IRAN'S REPUTATION AS WELL AS HOPELESS

Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 14 Nov 79 p 1

[Editorial by Ahmad al-Jarallah: "The Only Thing New in Iran Is Increased Loss of International Reputation"]

[Text] When late President Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir was defeated in 1967, his main excuse was, "I had expected them from the east, and they came from the west."

Perhaps something of this sort has happened and is still happening now between Teheran and Washington. The regime in Iran was convinced that oil would be the decisive weapon, and that merely talking about cutting it off from Washington would be a frightening thing to the American people and the administration. The regime in Iran has to have realized by now that America itself doesn't want Iranian oil. More than that, what happened in Teheran is still unacceptable to the oil-producing states, who are against it although they haven't said so. In fact, the people of this region don't see any exemplary demands or goals in such acts, especially since they have come to desire to deal with the peoples of the world in understandable, more persuasive language.

It might have been possible to accept conduct such as hijacking an American plane, but kidnapping a diplomatic mission with the support of the political leadership is a confusing, reprehensible matter.

Now 10 days have passed since the operation, and the question is: what have those who kidnapped the American mission accomplished, except hopeless attempts, containing assurances that the mission is well, that they are eating and drinking three Iranian meals a day, that they have water, and that they are not suffering any unpleasantness? Why do all this, inasmuch as it is now certain that the Shah will not return to Iran, or, if he returns, would be accompanied by the fleet of a major power, to repeat what happened in 1953? Who knows if there have been some arrangements made over the red line between the Russians and the Americans--to do something? Neither one would lose a thing if the new regime in Teheran disappeared. Iran doesn't need the world's ambassadors and the press of other countries

to confirm that the hostages are well, as if the intention were to lessen world reaction to an incident the calculations for which were imprecise and the results of which are not guaranteed or known. There are those who said in the past, "If I wanted you to obey, I would ask the possible." What is happening now is that America doesn't want Iranian oil, and surely there are many countries ready to sell America oil as long as the circumstances demand humane, justifiable compensation for an incident rejected around the world.

Finally, nothing new has happened up til now except an increase in Iran's loss of international reputation.

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KUWAIT

IRANIAN-LIBYAN RELATIONS HINGE ON INVESTIGATION OF IMAM'S DISAPPEARANCE

Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 15 Nov 79 p 17

[Editorial by Fathi Sharif: "The Iranian Revolution--Has the Right Time Arrived for Cooperation with the Libyan Revolution?"]

[Text] We don't know if Iran's decision to establish diplomatic relations with Libya was conditional on the formation of a committee to investigate or examine the facts in the disappearance of Imam Musa al-Sadr. The Iranian leadership still believes that the Libyan government is responsible for his disappearance.

The decision announced yesterday by Iranian Foreign Minister al-Hasan Bani Sadr seems ambiguous and indefinite--to the point of giving political circles here the impression that the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries is conditional on the formation of this committee. In fact, these circles have come to think that the establishment of these relations will not be declared until this committee finishes its mission and Libya is acquitted of this charge just as the wolf was acquitted of the blood of Jacob's son!

This is a unique way to establish diplomatic relations between two countries! This surprise decision by Iran stirred up other questions, some of which pertained to the timing of the announcement--just before the Arab summit conference--and the anticipated Libyan reaction. Will it accept this condition on the establishment of relations with the Iranian revolution and wait for the verdict of the committee, which might put the Libyan revolution's Arab and international regard and trust to this critical test?

Libyan sources commented on this decision to AL-SIYASAH, saying that it was a positive decision aimed at taking the first step on the road to official political action, since relations between the two countries do not go beyond the popular level. These sources said that during the exchange of popular delegations between the two countries, the latest of which was the visit by an Iranian mass delegation representing the revolutionary youth, headed by a revolutionary leader, Mohamed Muntazari, to Tripoli for the 1 September celebrations, the need and possibility of the two revolutions' concurring on the same goals was stressed.

Libyan sources indicated that there are no complications on the Libyan side with respect to the establishment of diplomatic relations with the Iranian revolution, and that it welcomes any Iranian decision aimed at strengthening and establishing these relations. Iranian sources stress the need to obtain precise information about the disappearance of Imam Musa al-Sadr before establishing any relations with Libya, since the revolutionary leadership in Iran still believes that the Libyan leadership is responsible for this disappearance. Therefore, the truth must be arrived at if these diplomatic relations are to be established on sound bases.

But, more important than all that, and what has attracted the attention of political circles, is the timing of the Iranian decision's announcement, since those circles believe that the Iranian decision cannot be isolated from the political and psychological climate in which the Iranian revolution now exists.

In the opinion of these circles, the Iranian revolution has become the object of particular feelings of displeasure on the part of most Arab states for its political actions and ideas and their effects on the region. Therefore, its turning to the Libyan revolution might greatly help it to build strong bridges with the Arab Maghreb in Libya and Algeria, since the Libyan and Algerian revolutions are waging a struggle against American power in the region.

Therefore, some of these circles believe that sending an Iranian committee to Libya to investigate the disappearance of Imam al-Sadr is a formal question requiring a bold act, with which Imam Khomeini has promised to establish diplomatic relations with Libya. If matters go as expected, these circles anticipate a visit by Col al-Qadhdhafi to Teheran at the end of the year to announce the cleaving together of the Iranian and Liban revolutions; a visit which the colonel has wanted to make ever since Maj 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud visited Teheran several months ago but which the Iranian revolutionary leadership postponed to a time it felt more suitable.

It appears that now the Iranian revolution has found the right time!

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CSO: 4802

KUWAIT

UNITED STATES ATTACKED FOR EXPLOITATION OF ARABS, IRANIANS

Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 9 Nov 79 p 1

[Editorial: "U.S. Superman Detained in Tehran"]

[Text] The road to the U.S. mind and heart is closed to the Arabs. Israel has gotten used to closing it by a "flying roadblock" every time an opportunity presents itself in this sphere.

The United States itself has the characteristics of ingratitude. Its morals are its dollars, its faith is its election votes and its friend is whoever succumbs to it, strikes with its sword and is content with whatever share it gives him without questioning and without arguments. Its enemy is whoever maintains his dignity in its presence, raises his head in front of it and does not shirk arguing with it. Against such an enemy, the United States quickly raises its weapons either directly or through its accredited agents in the Middle East, Europe, Africa and Southeast Asia. The United States then feels astonished when the side which it attacks resorts to defending itself by raising its weapons in the face of the United States.

The United States is now perplexed and is looking for a means to rescue its citizens who are held hostages in its embassy in Tehran. It will not hesitate to resort to any solution to rescue them, even if such a solution undermines it as a super power and even if such a solution calls for smuggling them aboard a helicopter from the roof of the embassy, as its last ambassador in Vietnam was smuggled.

This U.S. superman is surprising. It provokes wars in the world, it digests the rights of peoples, it fans the fires of domestic and regional seditions and it sheds the blood of people in tens, hundreds and thousands. The U.S. superman has turned into an angel of death harvesting the lives of peoples in the third world to keep busy the U.S. plants producing weapons, instruments of destruction and annihilation and all the munitions they need.

But this U.S. superman gets perplexed if an angel of death produced by the third world and not by the U.S. factories of evil appears to him. This

superman does not know how to act when confronted by an act like the seizure of the U.S. embassy in Tehran.

Will the solution come to this superman from the Iranian revolution itself, from the Palestinian revolution or from the cooperation of both and at what price will this solution come?

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CSO: 4802

KUWAIT

IRANIAN AMBASSADOR SPEAKS ON THREAT TO GULF SECURITY

Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 9 Nov 79 p 11

[Interview With Dr Ali Shams Ardekani, Iranian Ambassador to Kuwait; "Iranian Ambassador Answers 'Innocent Question;' We Call for Replacing Balance of Fear by Balance of Love; United States Is Danger Threatening Gulf"]

[Text] In reply to what was published in 'Innocent Question' column of AL-WATAN edition of last Monday, Dr Shams [Iranian ambassador] said: The answer to the person who wondered who threatens the Gulf security and why this security is threatened can be reached by logical conclusion founded on scientific bases.

Before anything else, we must survey the dynamic forces operating in the Gulf area and the interests operating in the area, must find out where these interests get entwined and then determine the identity of who wants to interfere to protect his threatened interests.

Before proceeding, I would like to turn back to the recent past. Before the inception of the Islamic revolution in Iran, the Gulf area particularly and the Middle East generally were the stage for the equation of fear and terror which was patronized by the Americans and the shah.

This balance of fear and terror was operating to protect the interests of the United States directly and the interests of its ally, Israel. Those interests were two-sided:

- A. Military and political.
- B. Economic.

Economically, I say that because of the low U.S. production growth rate in comparison to the European, Soviet and Japanese production, the United States was doomed to a partial loss of its military and political influence. But the imperialist character of the U.S. economy did not permit the U.S. administration to accept this fact. This is why we saw this administration get embroiled in a brutal war in Vietnam in the 1960's.

But losing the Vietnam war taught the Americans a lesson and, consequently, produced the "Nixon Plan" which was built on the basis of the following concept: If we do not want the Vietnam mistake to be repeated, then we must solve the problems to which the U.S. interests are exposed in any area by exploiting the peoples of that area to guarantee the U.S. interests.

This led, the Iranian ambassador goes on to say, to the selection of puppet rulers in every area to perform this task.

Each of those rulers had smaller puppets revolving in his orbit.

The former shah was chosen to be the puppet in this area and he performed the role drawn up for him very accurately. That role peaked with the involvement of Iran and the Iranian people in the war that took place in Oman between Sultan Qabus and the Dhofar revolutionaries.

The shah also cooperated with the Israelis militarily and economically through cooperation between the Mosad and the Savak on the one hand and through supplying Israel with 70 percent of its oil needs on the other.

Then came the Islamic revolution, supported by millions of people, and changed the balances after offering hundreds of thousands of martyrs.

This revolution did not erupt with the aim of expelling the shah and instating another person in his place but to strike the interests of the United States and of its main ally, Israel, especially since the United States and Israel had been working ceaselessly to strike the Iranian people's interest from the time when Mosaddeq's revolution was foiled.

Economically, the shah played the role of the policeman protecting the U.S. interests because he used to collect money from the rivals of the U.S. economy, namely Japan and the Europeans, and then delivered what he collected to the United States through the purchase of unnecessary weapons and through fruitless investments in the United States itself.

Those positions which the shah adopted forced other countries in the area to purchase weapons from the United States and to invest a part of their monies in it with the aim of countering the shah's influence in Washington.

In other words, the United States took, as a result of the presence of the shah and of Israel, a large part of the assets of the area's countries and of the European countries and Japan and added it to its own assets. The outcome of every oil price increase used to go to the U.S. treasury indirectly.

It is natural to say that the capitalistic struggle between the United States on the one hand and Europe and Japan on the other always ended with the triumph of the United States because of the presence of the shah.

Cake

But now that everything has changed, how can the United States protect its interests?

Here I would like to project a simple visualization. If we liken the international non-communist economy to a cake, then the center of this cake and its sweetest part must inevitably exist in this area.

This is why any action seeking to foil the Islamic revolution in Iran will inevitably lead to serving the U.S. interest in the international balance.

This is on the one hand. On the other hand, the failure to foil this revolution will open the eyes of peoples in the rich countries to the importance of their resources and will motivate these peoples to strike the U.S. interests that oppose their own interests.

After this presentation, we can of course determine who the enemy is. The U.S. interests conflicting with the popular interests point out by themselves who the enemy is.

Just for a reminder, I must point out that U.S. Senator Henry Jackson has said that it is the duty of the U.S. administration to protect the U.S. interests in the Gulf, even if by military intervention.

Therefore, I call for replacing the balance of fear and terror that prevailed under the reign of the shah by a balance of love and understanding so that we may work together to exploit all our resources and our capabilities to develop our countries and to strike our common enemy, represented by the U.S. imperialist interests and by the interests of Israel, the main protege of the United States.

We Are not Ones Causing Misunderstanding

[Question] As long as you call for establishing a balance of love and understanding in the area, then why do you, I mean your government, allow some of those considered your supporters to engage in acts or to circulate rumors that create misunderstanding between you and other states in the area?

[Answer] We are not the cause of the acts leading to misunderstanding. The cause comes from those who create imaginary persons and then attack them.

One of those imaginary persons has been Mr Rohani. I can say that if there was no Rohani they would create one because they need such characters.

I was extremely surprised when I read in the Arab papers that Rohani is a member of the Iranian Revolution Council. As a journalist seeking the

truth, I suggest that you embark on a fact-finding investigation to find out who was the first person to say that Rohani is a member of the Revolution Council. Rest assured that this person will be an agent of either the U.S. intelligence or the Israeli intelligence.

[Question] But don't you think that the presence of a constitutional vacuum insofar as the position of the head of state in Iran is concerned and that the multiplicity of the authorities currently existing in Tehran will prevent reaching the desired understanding and harmony between the area's states on the one hand and the Iranian revolution on the other?

No Constitutional Vacuum

[Answer] There is no constitutional vacuum or what is called in political science the duality of authority in Iran. The domestic Iranian conditions reflect the revolutionary momentum and not a duality of the authority and this is an indication of strength and not of weakness.

The problem is that some people compare the post-revolution Iran with other countries after military coups are staged in them and where tanks occupy the streets and impose a curfew. In Iran, everybody can say what he wants, except for those who cooperated with the Savak and those who are now cooperating with the imperialist interests.

After the revolution, all the papers published under the shah's reign were allowed to continue and new papers were also allowed to be published. Only those papers that had dealt with the Savak were banned.

United States Planted Wind So Let It Reap Storm

[Question] Don't you think that the government's failure to protect the U.S. embassy when it was attacked and then occupied by Iranian students reflects the absence of government in Tehran?

[Answer] Not at all. The government is present and it exists throughout Iran. The Iranian Government could not have protected the embassy and those present inside it without shedding a lot of blood.

It must not be forgotten also that the masses' storming of the U.S. embassy has been meant to vent intensive wrath because the masses are aware that this embassy has been the center of corruption, of corrupting and of plotting against the Iranian interests throughout the past 25 years and that it represented the devil itself insofar as the Iranian people are concerned.

The blame must fall on the shoulders of the engineers of the U.S. policy who flouted and insulted the Iranian people when they sent a person like Richard Helms, a former CIA director, to be an ambassador and to plot against the Middle East peoples. Considering that the United States planted the wind in the past, then let it reap the storm now.

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KUWAIT

'AL-QABAS' SEES MILITARY ACTION REMOTE

Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 13 Nov 79 p 1

[Editorial by Jasim Ahmad al-Nisf: "Tightrope of Nerves Between Tehran and Washington"]

[Text] Will the United States gamble with a military action to free its hostages who are detained in its embassy in Tehran? Can the world public opinion accept such a dangerous venture and what are the likely consequences of such a military venture, should it take place?

These are questions that have projected themselves sharply in the past few days as a result of the tightrope of nerves between Washington and Tehran. Most speculations, if not all, have been stressing that the U.S. military gamble, should it take place, will lose 100 percent and that its consequences will be deeper and graver than many people imagine.

The U.S. administration may be thinking of what the Soviet Union did in 1968 when its forces swept through Czechoslovakia overnight to impose by military force the continued presence of Czechoslovakia within the socialist camp and to make sure that Czechoslovakia did not exit from the fold of world communism.

But the geographic, strategic and ideological difference between the two cases is big.

Iran is different in various aspects, rather in all aspects, from Czechoslovakia which believed, and continues to believe, in the Marxist doctrine and which is linked to Moscow by the Warsaw Pact and by other bonds that make Czechoslovakia's movement and policy fully tied to the wheel of the Soviet policy. Moreover, the geographic adjacency between the two countries made the outcome of the Soviet invasion of Prague guaranteed in advance and made it possible to complete the operation swiftly and before the world public opinion could awaken and before the western reactions could act.

The situation is fundamentally different insofar as Iran is concerned. The geographic distance between Washington and Tehran is vast and

resorting to the use of the nearby U.S. bases and fleets is engulfed by dangers. Moreover, the Soviet Union will not at all permit any U.S. military operation against a country such as Iran whose common borders with the USSR extend for vast distances.

Added to this is the fact that the popular roots of the current Iranian regime depend on a firm Islamic religious belief that enables the regime to confront any rash military venture, especially since Iran is surrounded by a group of Islamic countries, contrary to Czechoslovakia which is surrounded by the socialist camp countries.

It is also difficult for President Carter to gamble with a rash and uncalculated action or any action with no guaranteed results while approaching the presidential elections which, all signs indicate, will take place in an atmosphere of sharp rivalry.

At the same time, the oil factor is an important factor that tips the scales in favor of Iran in the tightrope of nerves [in the tug of war] between Iran and the United States, especially since it is difficult for Washington to make up for its Iranian oil imports from other OPEC countries for technical and economic reasons connected with the oil production of these countries.

Moreover, Iran may embark on withdrawing its deposits in the U.S. banks in a daring move that may lead to a sharp decline in the value of the dollar.

The military possibility for ending the seizure of the U.S. embassy in Tehran is, therefore, a remote and losing possibility by all the military, political and economic criteria.

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KUWAIT

IRANIANS IN KUWAIT VIGIL DEMAND SOLIDARITY WITH TEHERAN STUDENTS

Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 16 Nov 79 pp 1, 14

[Article by Fathi Sharif: "The Vigilists: 'We Want The Iranian Revolution to Take More stringent Measures Against America'"]

[Text] At noon today, after the Friday prayer, ended the vigil by more than 200 Iranians--men and women students, workers, employees and some religious men--who began their vigil at 1200 yesterday in the courtyard of the Iranian embassy in Kuwait.

It was decided that after praying inside the embassy, the vigil participants would burn the American flag and a picture of American President Carter, and then announce their resolutions and demands, which they would then distribute to information agencies in Kuwait and a copy of which they would send to Teheran.

One of the vigil organizers told AL-SIYASAH that they will announce some of the most important demands tomorrow: complete solidarity with Imam Khomeini and the Revolution Command Council in its demand that the Shah and his family be handed over; support for the measures and resolutions adopted by the revolution to combat American imperialism in Iran and the Gulf region; denunciation of the stands of America and its agents towards the Iranian revolution; support for the Iranian students' revolutionary occupation of the American embassy; solidarity with Islamic revolutions throughout the world; and support for the Palestinian people.

The resolutions will also ask the Iranian revolution to take harsh stands towards dealing with America and its agents.

One of the vigil participants, who works as a supervisor in one of the schools, told AL-SIYASAH that he was participating in this vigil and in the political fast out of support for and solidarity with his student comrades in Iran.

He said that he was moved to participate after he heard, over Iranian Revolution Radio, a call for all overseas Iranian students to declare their

solidarity with the students in Teheran. One of the female participants, a secondary school student, said that she was supporting her colleagues in Teheran. When asked whether she supported the continued detention of some women inside the American embassy in Teheran, she said, "The American woman bears the same responsibility as the man, and therefore I support what the students in Iran did."

The zeal and excitement of these vigil participants, especially groups of students some of whom are no older than 12 or 13 years at the most, was generated as a result of the delivery by a group of Iranians of fiery speeches against America and foreign domination all day long yesterday.

8559
CSO: 4802

KUWAIT

NATIONAL OIL COMPANY CITES YEAR'S ACHIEVEMENTS

Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 12 Nov 79 p 8

/Article: "In Kuwait Oil Company's Annual Report: Resumption of Deep Drilling in the Burgan Field; Kuwait Oil Company Employees Increase to 4,637"/

/Text/ The chairman of the board of directors and member-designate of Kuwait Oil Company, Mr Ahmad Ja'far, said that the course of work in the gas project was proceeding according to the program set forth and that the completion of engineering work as well as procurement of materials was 100 percent realized at the end of last year, while the completion of construction stood at 96 percent. This was stated in the introduction to the Kuwait Oil Company's annual report for 1978, which is the report issued yesterday. Mr Ja'far described last year as a year filled with events in which an important change occurred in the organization of the oil industry in Kuwait. One result of this was that the company's operations expanded in the wake of the issuance of Ministerial Decree 20 dated 9 May 1978, by virtue of which oil production operations carried out previously by the American Independent Oil Company in al-Wafrah have been transferred to Kuwait Oil Company. The consummation of the transfer some months after the start of the fiscal year called for the assignment of an independent heading for "al-Wafrah Operations" in this report.

Aside from the al-Wafrah operations, the company maintained the desired crude oil production levels without interruption during this period. Its output during the year was 1,893,791 barrels per day. Crude oil exports were 1,606,142 barrels per day.

Development activities in the new field in the north of Kuwait continued and the completion of eight producing wells had been accomplished by the end of the year. Development activities to establish the production facilities necessary for the field will begin in the early part of 1979.

In Burgan, the exploration drilling program faced a temporary setback when the deep test well blew out on being drilled to 9,817 feet and the drilling

rig above the well was destroyed. The company has tried to obtain replacement equipment as quickly as possible; this will arrive in January 1979 so that we may begin resuming our program of exploring for hydrocarbons in deep geological formations early.

In addition, work on improving export tanker loading facilities has continued. In the second half of the year, the performance of modifications on the artificial island and construction of the single buoy rotating mooring facility were begun. It is anticipated that these two projects will be carried out in 1979 and thus that it will be feasible to load very large carriers with a capacity of up to 500,000 deadweight tons. Excavation activities have been carried out to deepen the floor in the craft harbor belonging to the company and as a result it has been possible for the country's vessels in our possession to enter and leave the harbor whatever the tide level may be.

The new bitumen plant was constructed during the year and the celebration inaugurating it was held on 4 October under the supervision of His Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah. His Excellency the Minister of Oil Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah al-Sabah performed the dedication.

It is expected that this plant, with its design capacity of 250,000 tons per year, will meet the country's need for bitumen and more. Planning is now underway to construct export facilities.

In addition the company has continued to build houses for its employees, to improve existing housing, to develop medical and social facilities, and to support athletic and cultural activities. The new building for preventive medical services was constructed in the early part of the year and services have begun to be provided there. In addition the sporting center was built toward the end of the year.

The company also kept up activities of training and developing experts on a large scale, in various fields and at various levels, with an emphasis on the training of Kuwaiti citizens. Besides the large numbers of workers who received training in the worksites and trainees who were organized in sessions inside the company, 290 workers and 34 trainees enrolled in training courses abroad during the year.

The total workforce in your company came to 4,637 at the end of the year, 49.56 percent of whom were Kuwaiti citizens.

11887
CSO: 4802

KUWAIT

NATION'S FOOD SUBSIDY PROGRAM DETAILED

Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 12 Nov 79 p 6

/Article: "Government Food and Building Material Subsidy Valued at 11.6 Million Dinars"

/Text/ The value of the subsidies paid out by the government of Kuwait for certain building materials and foodstuffs totalled 14,601,277 dinars in fiscal year 1978-79, an increase of about 4 million Kuwaiti dinars over the preceding fiscal year; most of this was for foodstuffs.

This was declared by the assistant undersecretary of commerce and industry for supply and consumer protection affairs, Mr 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Tuwayjiri, at a meeting Kuwait News Agency held with him.

Mr al-Tuwayjiri said that the Kuwaiti government was very anxious to alleviate the burdens of price rises and costs of living on the consumer's shoulders.

He added that the total spent on subsidizing foodstuffs was 10,816,950 dinars, an increase of about 3 million dinars over the fiscal year 1977-78.

Meanwhile the value of building materials subsidies came to 3,784,372 dinars.

Mr al-Tuwayjiri said that the Kuwaiti government provided the Kuwait Supply Company with a subsidy of 5,625,791 dinars to provide the following commodities:

A. Category one supply card commodities; these are Peshawar rice, American rice, sugar, lentils, vegetable oil, powdered milk, tomato sauce, and garbage bags; the value of the subsidy for these commodities was 2,933,347 dinars.

B. Category two commodities: these are packaged cheeses, cheeses in glasses, baby foods, baby milk, canned fish, frozen chicken, canned vegetables, yoghurt, jams and oils; the value of the subsidy on these commodities came to 386,447 dinars.

C. Fodder; this is barley, corn, imported bran, and the costs of transporting barley to the Society Federation warehouses; the value of the subsidies on these commodities came to 488,338 dinars.

D. Building materials in the form of cement and iron; the subsidies on these materials came to 2,041,455 dinars.

Mr al-Tuwayjiri pointed out that the government provided subsidies to the federation of Consumer Cooperative Societies totalling 108,011 dinars in value. It also provided the Fresh Dairy Product Producers' Federation a subsidy to provide fresh milk worth 276,526 dinars. It provided the Kuwaiti Flour Mill Company with 895,186 dinars. He said that the government provided subsidies to bakeries (ovens) and Arab bakeries valued at 1,017,322 dinars.

The government also allocated the sum of 4,284,945 dinars in subsidies for slaughtered and fresh meat in the form of lamb, beef and camel. It provided the Livestock Trading and Transport Company, the Meat and Foodstuffs Company and the Nasir al-Husayn al-Ibrahim Company subsidies of 650,577 dinars to provide meat from live sheep. Mr al-Tuwayjiri added that the government had given the Kuwait Cement Company a subsidy of 1,079,970 dinars to provide ordinary local black cement and had provided the National Industries Company with subsidies worth 334,947 dinars to provide limestone tile.

11887
CSO: 4802

KUWAIT

NATIONAL PETROCHEMICAL COMPANY ISSUES ANNUAL REPORT

Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 12 Nov 79 p 8

/Article: "In the Petrochemical Company's Annual Report: Eng 'Abd-al-Baqi al-Nuri: Petrochemical Profits for Last Year are 12.9 Million Dinars'"

/Text/ The Petrochemical Company's profits for the past year totalled 12.9 million Kuwaiti dinars. This was stated in a talk by the chairman of the board of directors and member-designate Eng 'Abd-al-Baqi al-Nuri as he presented the company's annual report for last year, 1978--the report which was issued yesterday. The report referred to the company's achievements in the fields of production, export and marketing, where the company achieved new records surpassing /those of/ past years and preserved its position in world markets, proving the merit of the company's employees, their grasp of the requirements of this industry, with the advanced industrial technology it requires, and their awareness of the vicissitudes of the world markets. In addition the report carried the following list of achievements in the past year and future projects:

First

The competent authorities' agreement was given to implementation of the fourth ammonia train project, whose productive capacity will total 1,000 metric tons of ammonia per day.

Second

An international consulting firm has been assigned to make a complementary study to perform a detailed economic feasibility study of the olefin complex project in order to ascertain the project's economic feasibility in the event feedstocks other than ethane, on which the economic feasibility study was based, are used, preparatory to adoption of a suitable decision concerning the project.

Third

In accordance with the competent authorities' desire, the company has

brought the figures contained in the economic feasibility study on the aromatics project up to date.

Fourth

The competent authorities have agreed in principle to enter into a joint project with Bahrain National Oil Company to establish a company to exploit gas derived from the liquid gas project in Bahrain. An international consulting firm has been assigned to make the preliminary study of this project to ascertain the type of product whose production is preferred.

Fifth

The company has made a study of the possibility of erecting intermediate and semi-finished petrochemical industries in Kuwait. In the light of this, it has been able to determine a number of projects which, when established, will help industrial integration up the petrochemical processing ladder. Establishment of these industries will guarantee a local market to consume part of the basic petrochemical products (such as olefins and aromatics) as well as their use for certain raw materials produced in Kuwait, such as urea and melamine, in processing products. In addition studies bearing on these industries have been presented to the competent authorities.

Sixth

The company has continued to study certain projects presented to it by certain Arab and foreign countries, in which they would participate in the context of the strategy to diversify the company's operations.

Seventh

The bid concerning implementation of the "conveyor belt" project to transport and load solid fertilizers by mechanical means has been awarded to an international company for the sum of 3,415,730 Kuwaiti dinars (three million, four hundred fifteen thousand and seven hundred thirty Kuwaiti dinars). The contract was signed on 16 September 1979. This project consists of two conveyor belt complexes. One is to convey unconsolidated solid fertilizer with a capacity of 250 metric tons per hour which can be converted to conveying bagged fertilizer.

The second belt project is to convey bagged fertilizer only, with a capacity of 120 metric tons per hour. It is hoped that the project will be carried out within 17 months of the date of the signing of the contract.

Eighth

Work is still going on on the project to treat polluted water emerging from the urea plants in order to recover urea and ammonia from the water

and provide water suitable for irrigation purposes. It should be borne in mind that this project is the last stage of the company's special anti-pollution projects.

Ninth

The company has conducted field experiments in cooperation with the Agricultural Department of the Ministry of Public Works on the use of a urea and ammonium sulfate solution for irrigation in the al-Wafrah and al-'Abdali farms. These experiments have provided encouraging results and the company is now earnestly engaged in studying the economics of using this project in a commercial fashion.

Tenth

The company, in cooperation with the Ministry of Public Works, has conducted successful experiments on the possibility of using urea as a source of protein for livestock fodder. The company will carry out more of these tests in 1979.

Eleventh

A special medical industrial research section has been established in the Medical Affairs Department of the company.

Twelfth

An international consulting firm has been assigned to study probable bottlenecks in production operations in the salt and chlorine unit plants; it is hoped that this will be completed in 1979.

Thirteenth

A contract has been signed to build a hydrochloric acid plant in the salt and chlorine unit with a productive capacity of 5 metric tons of 100 percent acid per day. It is hoped that the plant will be put into operation in 1979.

Fourteenth

The salt and chlorine unit has finished signing contracts for the importation of equipment to package table salt in special plastic containers.

Fifteenth

The salt and chlorine unit has made a contract for the importation of machinery to package sodium hydrochlorate solution (chlorsal) in special containers, and it is hoped that operation of the project will start in 1979.

11887

CSO: 4802

LIBYA

SECRETARY OF JUSTICE SPEAKS ON SECURITY, COURTS, RUMORS

Tripoli AL-USBU' AL-SIYASI in Arabic 9 Nov 79 pp 10-13

[Interview With Muhammad 'Ali al-Jadi, Secretary of Justice, by 'Ali al-Jawashi; "We Have Eliminated Black Cat Incidents But Rumors Have Persisted; Experiment of People's Judiciary Has Succeeded in Our Country; Decree Organizing People's Security Will Be Issued Shortly; Citizen Has Exaggerated Incidents Committed by Some Youth"]

[Text] Where has people's security reached in terms of implementation? What are the problems facing the people's justice committees? How is the theory of the people's judiciary and its jurisdiction embodied in reality? The security situation, the types of crimes and the role of the people and of the security agencies in confronting them: What is the truth of the Black Cat gang and of the rumors circulated about this gang? How true are these rumors?

How do we confront smuggling crimes and what is the people's role in this war against crime?

The masses are wondering why the traffic laws have not been amended until now.

What comes after abolition of the law offices and of the Supreme Judiciary and Police Council? These are the questions that AL-USBU' AL-SIYASI has addressed to brother Muhammad 'Ali al-Jadi, the secretary of justice. Following is the text of the interview:

At the outset, the secretary of justice explained the importance of forming the people's justice committees, saying:

Before the last session of the General People's Congress, there were no people's justice committees and the committees were confined to some secretariats, especially service secretariats and production secretariats within a limited and narrow sphere. What happened afterwards to complete declaration of the people's authority was that the need developed to have collective and not individual leaderships so that we may not act and decide according to the individual intellect but according to the collective

intellect. This is what the third international theory decided upon and what has been underlined clearly in the "Green Book," especially in the first chapter pertaining to the people's congresses and committees and other matters.

Recently, the Secretariat of the Interior was merged, as you know, with the Secretariat of Justice under the name of the Secretariat of Justice, considering that the Secretariat of Justice carries out a common function with the Secretariat of the Interior and that the side that previously helped the Secretariat of Justice and cooperated with it in performing its tasks was the Secretariat of the Interior which did so through the police and through its various agencies. To complete the picture and to eliminate duality--a duality whereby a defendant or a court case or a certain issue was first undertaken by the Secretariat of Interior, then referred to the Secretariat of Justice and then followed by correspondence and other steps to complete the procedure--the two secretariats have now become two integrated wings in one body.

This has in fact resulted in complete coordination. The security agency, or the concept of public security, has come to mean reassurance, stability, the elimination of criminals, curtailing the spread of crime and correcting the individual's behavior. This concept and this need have now been definitely confined to one authority and the same people's committee is now in control of these various agencies.

[Question] To what degree has the citizen comprehended the concept of the people's security, such as taking part in the people's resistance forces, in the strugglers [al-mujahidin] battalions, in night guard, in self-security and in guarding installations?

Self-Security [al-amn al-dhati]

[Answer] The General People's Justice Committee decided that the masses should [be allowed to] participate in the people's security out of their awareness of this responsibility and that this security is divided into two kinds: Self-security in the installations, factories and other vital utilities and people's security which pertains to ordinary guard and to protecting the citizens and their property from those tampering with self-security. A decree was issued by the secretary of the General People's Justice Committee in implementation of a recommendation made by the second session of the committee. The decree entrusts the installations, factories and some other vital utilities to form their own security, guard and protection agencies under the supervision of the municipal people's justice committee. This is the committee that provides these agencies with training, weapons and with all the rules that are necessary to facilitate performance of the task entrusted to these agencies.

This decree has stipulated certain measures and certain rules that do not leave the security issue to anybody. Whoever undertakes this duty must

meet certain conditions--precautionary security conditions that are necessary for any important work like this work. The decree also stipulates that the setting up of this system, i.e. the self-security system, must not result in obstructing production.

The people's justice committees and the installations have been notified of the decree and it is my belief that the people's committees have begun to implement it.

People's Security

The other decree which we are preparing and which has not been issued yet is the people's security decree. The stipulations of this decree will be very close to those of the self-security decree. However, this decree is connected in fact with the police station. The first decree concerning self-security is connected with the installation or the utility whereas this decree is connected with the police station. Let us take as an example a certain police station--let us assume it is al-Nahdah police station. This station has certain sections under its jurisdiction. These sections have their people's committees. The people's justice committee can, in cooperation with these sections, assign persons to take up night watch duties in rotation, perhaps to safeguard the security of the vital installations and utilities within the section, under certain conditions that are coordinated and arranged by the police station concerned, which also provides training on these conditions. These guards will be under the jurisdiction of the police center which will supply them with weapons and instruct them on their use and which will observe the behavior of these guards so that no flaws may develop in this regard. The guards will collect their weapons from the station and return them to the station at the end of their shift. These guard duty shifts will only be night shifts, will begin at definite hours that they [guards themselves] deem suitable and will be under the supervision of the people's justice committees in their capacity as the executive committees that implement the resolutions of the people's congresses or the resolutions of the General People's Justice Committee that promulgates the resolutions issued by these congresses originally.

This decree will be issued shortly and will be complete and we will launch the experiment. The purpose will not only be to provide a people's guard but will also be to get the citizen accustomed to self-reliance.

Why People's Security?

This means that the policeman that we get to perform guard duty is an individual from the section and belonging to the section. Therefore, it does not make a difference if his work is temporary. He participates and feels that he shoulders responsibilities and, consequently, will not remain negative. He will feel that he must participate in performing

these duties and that he does not have to be a regular policeman wearing a special uniform, with special qualifications and working on specific hours to participate. The policeman will continue to carry out his duties but he must be left to devote his time to certain work, such as investigation and apprehension and to guide these people [guards] as assistants. This is what is meant by the people's security. We are explaining this so that people may not imagine that our thinking of the people's security came as a result of our feeling that there is unrest or security troubles.

[Question] We, and the reader, would like to know the tasks of the civil defense and the goals behind it.

Whose Responsibility Is Firefighting?

The civil defense consists of two elements. One is a purely technical element and this element requires, no doubt, long experience, technical preparation and people with experience and with certain qualifications. The second is an ordinary human element in which anybody can participate. This often happens in cases of fire. However, technical preparation is the element predominant in civil defense. What I mean is that there has to be specially equipped fire trucks and specially trained people who can use special materials, either water or chemicals, to extinguish fires and to save lives. In case of certain catastrophes, the civil defense carries out its duties through the various security agencies. Civil defense needs traffic police to open the way for it when proceeding to a certain place, needs policemen to investigate whether an incident is premeditated or accidental and even requires thumbprint experts and experts to analyze such incidents. Therefore, as a section the civil defense cannot be complete except with the presence of these components. This work is difficult for ordinary people to perform because it is many-sided and requires many things. But they [the people] may not need the rescue [squads] and others because they can get any incidents under control before these squads arrive.

We are about to strengthen the civil defense which needs to have many gaps filled. Part of our plan, which is included in the resolutions of the General People's Justice Committee, calls for providing these components with what they need and for training people to carry out this task. Thus, there will be integration in each municipality insofar as civil defense is concerned.

[Question] Let us move to another question. What are the tasks of the people's judiciary and what are the cases that this judiciary deals with? Where has the General People's Justice Committee reached in implementing the resolutions concerning this issue?

What Is People's Judiciary?

[Answer] We have the people's judiciary but not according to the general concept of the people's judiciary. The people's judiciary follows several ways in the countries that adopt this system. There is the joint people's judiciary which is comprised of specialized and unspecialized judges. There is the purely people's judiciary which has jurisdiction over certain crimes and certain cases. There is also the general people's judiciary that deals with all levels of litigation. The fact is that the people's judiciary has several aspects and several concepts in the countries that adopt the system of the people's judiciary. However, these countries have recently become small in number because the crimes have become diverse and the criminals themselves have become capable of skilfully hiding and concealing their crime. Therefore, the presence of specialized people to unravel these problems and to discover the criminals has become necessary.

In the Jamahiriyah, we launched nearly 4 years ago the experiment of giving the section people's committees jurisdiction over the issues of reconciliation and arbitration. This jurisdiction deals with the simple administrative and shari'a issues, including divorce, alimony and similar cases, and with civil issues, whether simple or not. In the jurisdiction concerning the first type of issues, consideration was given to simplifying and facilitating the procedures and to creating a group of people capable of performing this duty within the section itself. When any problem occurs in a section, this committee, which is elected by the section people themselves, can summon the plaintiff and the defendant. The committee has a special register and a special clerk and records the incident. It seeks to reconcile the two sides. If the committee manages to perform its task by persuasion or if it manages to end the problem either by arbitration or reconciliation, then the problem becomes insignificant and there will be no need to resort to the courts in this case.

But if the committee fails to end the problem and if one of the parties concerned is intransigent or dissatisfied with the committee's opinion or decision, then he can sue in the courts. But before resorting to the courts, the law commits the citizen to resort to this committee and he must resort to it. However, we do not confiscate his right to resort to the courts if this committee fails, i.e. after the citizen provides a certificate from this committee that it has examined the dispute and has not been able to settle it. In this situation, the case can be presented to the ordinary judiciary. This beginning was limited, i.e. it was confined to the lowest courts or to the simple cases pertaining to misdemeanors entailing a sentence of no more than a 3-year prison term, civil cases involving no more than 250 dinars and other cases such as alimony and child custody, as I have already pointed out.

Last year, we raised the level of this jurisdiction. Before moving to the higher level, the results in some municipalities were very good and encouraging and the committees were able to settle 50 percent of the cases

that would have had to be presented to the [ordinary] judiciary. In some municipalities, the results were small. Generally, the committees were able to settle 30 percent of the cases. This encouraged us to raise the level of their jurisdiction. We have said that the committees are now empowered to consider the civil cases, previously restricted to 250 dinars, without limitations and up to thousands of dinars. We have also given the committees additional powers so that they may consider felony cases, even if they are cases of killing or of assault and battery or others. These committees are now empowered to deal with, examine and decide on such cases. The decision reached by the committee is then presented to the authority concerned which approves and ratifies it, thus making it binding to all the parties concerned. Even though we have given the committee these powers concerning felonies, we have not tied the hand of the police or of the prosecution in conducting investigation because if we prevent these committees or the individual concerned from resorting to the courts or to the prosecution in a case of felony until after the committee ends its work, then we may miss the evidence and the committees may not be able to reach a solution to the problem. As a result, we may not be able to pursue the case and to punish the criminal. Therefore, in the cases of felony the prosecution and the police begin their investigation, their gathering of evidence and their interrogations. If the case ends with reconciliation [on the hands of the people's justice committee], then all is fine. If not, the case will continue in the courts.

The wisdom behind the first law [sic] and behind the latest amendment is to eliminate compulsion in such cases. There is no doubt that any sentence issued against a citizen will have a psychological effect on this citizen. This is natural. Therefore, all the cases that end with reconciliation or arbitration end with them all grudges and problems. In such cases, everything is discussed, everybody states what he has to say and feels that the reconciliation or arbitration has been reached with his desire and absolute freedom. Thus, all negative effects come to an end. The proof of this is that the sentences issued by the lowest court without bringing about a reconciliation are appealed before the higher courts and may move in one way or another from court to court, thus starting an endless whirlwind. Under this system [of the people's justice committees], the citizen's efforts are saved, the number of lawsuits is reduced and many problems are lifted from the shoulders of the [ordinary] judiciary. There is no doubt that the committees will produce good results that realize the desired goal--results not achieved yet.

[Question] How are the crimes of smuggling, rumor mongering, theft, etc. eliminated? How can the citizen be motivated and enlightened to understand these issues and to participate positively in eliminating them?

Smuggling Wolves

[Answer] Smuggling has its causes and its means. Its causes are, and I say this with utter confidence, that the goods smuggled from the Jamahiriya

are the least expensive in the entire world. All the essential commodities are the least expensive in the world. These inexpensive goods can turn a profit for the smuggling wolves. This smuggling and this profit are not small. If the prices in the neighboring countries were not high, there would be no call for anybody to engage in smuggling. The low prices of these goods [in the Jamahiriyah] is what has led to and encouraged committing these crimes. This does not mean that I am demanding that the prices of these goods be raised. I am only pointing out the reasons that make people commit these crimes. What I mean is that the low prices are the main reason urging them to commit the crimes. We now come to the means. There is a certain type of vehicles (Toyota Land Cruiser) that is used for smuggling and that enables the smugglers to engage in this kind of work. I am not saying that smuggling is confined to the use of this kind of vehicles. Animals and trucks have been used. We seize the means used and may think that we have wiped out smuggling. However, smuggling will continue through the use of similar vehicles in neighboring countries for smuggling operations. This is something over which we cannot remain silent. We have initiated numerous measures to wipe out this phenomenon. We have also begun to prepare special vehicles fitted with special equipment and with radio communication to watch our borders. These vehicles have not been put to use yet. When used, we will be able to control all the outlets and to wipe out, or at least curtail, the smuggling activity. Moreover, we are inclined to use helicopters to watch the borders constantly and to discover the smuggling caravans, be they animal or vehicle caravans. We will be thus able to wipe out this phenomenon after a short time.

Citizen's Role

There remains the citizen's role. As I have already pointed out in my statements about the people's security, the issue cannot be kept in the hands of the executive agencies alone and cannot fall on their shoulders solely because such a thing happens when there is a barrier separating the government from the people. In such a case, we say that there is a government that shoulders the responsibility for everything. The people take a certain position toward the government and the government continues to be the side which has to do everything. But in the Jamahiriyah, the government is the people and the people are the government. Therefore, every citizen and every official--whether he is in the political wing of the people's congresses and of whatever pertains to them or in the executive wing of the people's committees and of whatever pertain to them--is ultimately responsible for following up these matters. I will say this with utter honesty, had the citizens and the officials, especially those present on the border checkpoints, exerted full efforts, they would have wiped out this phenomenon, regardless of the personal motive of the smuggler. The smuggler is undoubtedly a thief. He steals the citizens' food and takes it to other people for a limited material gain. There should be no mercy and no compassion for such people and they should be fought relentlessly either by the executive agencies or by the citizens.

We will thus be able to control the smuggling activity with utter ease.

Hording of Goods Is Crime

There is another kind of smuggling that takes place within the Jamahiriyah. This kind of smuggling is equal in its danger to the first kind of smuggling. This is the hording of goods unjustifiably. I believe that this kind of smuggling is not different from the first kind. The first type is committed by a certain individual motivated by greed to make certain material profits. As for hording of goods, I have heard recently that there is a big demand for the purchase of sugar and other goods. This is not done by a good citizen or even by anyone who merits the title of citizen. I mean that the selfish and greedy individual is the one who commits such an act and I--this is, at least, my personal opinion--will not give such a person the title or the honor of belonging to the Jamahiriyah because he has no patriotism. A believer wishes for his brother what he wishes for himself. How can you horde goods, half of which will perhaps perish, and deprive of them other people who are searching for such goods in the markets? There is no supply crisis but there is in fact a crisis of ethics. This is an ugly form of smuggling committed by sick and greedy people and is no less serious than the act of the others who smuggle goods outside the Jamahiriyah. This leads us to the answer concerning the rumors.

Black Cat

It may be rumored, for example, that sugar and other kinds of goods are not available. The fact is that rumors are a malignant disease that is disseminated by people with no morals. Often we cannot fight the rumor except by eliminating its causes, i.e. by providing nothing to be used as a source of rumors. The problem with a rumor is that it turns something small into a big issue and that it exaggerates. A certain incident may occur but a rumor follows two courses: It exaggerates the incident and gives it dimensions beyond its real ones on the one hand and then fabricates similar incidents.

Frankly, this has happened recently regarding the so-called Black Cat. I have heard frequent rumors on this issue: So and so contacted the Black Cat and so did such and such a person and the Black Cat contacted such and such a school. Very frankly, there may have been one or two incidents. But this doesn't mean that the incidents are so many or that they are this big. The incidents were exploited by small children, whom we have caught. I am not talking about them as a rumor because the children are actually under devention [maqbud 'alayhum] now. These children contacted others in other houses and various other contacts were made by individuals related to the children, such as the one who contacted his uncle. These incidents have been exploited and the rumor has spread among the people. The truth that what we are talking about is a rumor is proven by the fact that nothing has turned out from all the notifications and contacts that have taken place because they are nothing but jokes among friends. The fact is that such jokes should not be made.

Unfortunately, the jokes have been made. The high economic and living standards have enabled many citizens to get their telephones. I also do not exclude the fact that calls have been made from offices and from the telephone booths in the streets.

Incidents Ended and Rumor Persists

While talking about these incidents, I am not denying that some actual incidents did take place but these incidents were controlled on the spot and those perpetrating them are either before the prosecution, in jails or before the courts. All the incidents have been eliminated but the rumor persists through contacts and telephones. I remember that one of the incidents took place in a school. What happened there is that a student got into an argument with the school principal. Then threats reached the school and this caused the parents of the teachers and of the students to stop sending their daughters to school. The student who got into the argument with her principal was ultimately arrested [presumably for being the source of the threats] and is now in jail. In the final analysis and regardless of whether the security agencies are present or not, the duty of protecting a home is the responsibility of its owner. He who cannot protect his home does not deserve it. In any case, we will perform the duty entrusted to us, namely to safeguard the citizen's security and to give him reassurance. We will not shirk this duty of ours.

We now come to the question of thefts, particularly car thefts.

Car Thefts

The problem is that car thefts are a special kind of theft. It is of course impossible to guard every house, especially now that there is a car or more in front of every house. We cannot station a policeman in front of every house all the time, even though Tripoli has 20 police patrols at night. We are about to increase the number of patrols, both in Tripoli and outside it. Car thefts are easy and all people know all the cars [sic]. All that is needed is to break the glass and to have a special key and the thief can then turn on the car engine, drive it to do whatever he wants to do and then leave it in any place. I can say that we have been able to find most of the stolen cars. But some of the cars may have been damaged. The thefts have their causes. A citizen who has a garage and fails to park his car inside it exposes his car to theft. The other thing is that there are some people who steal the cars to perform private errands, especially people who are caught in certain situations and who have no moral or religious deterrent. If such people ask the car owner to take them to the place they want, the owner would respond to their request. This is in addition to the presence of groups of wanton youths who commit such acts. Another kind of people steals the cars to get spareparts. There are numerous reasons

for such thefts, in addition to the large numbers of cars and the ease with which they can be opened.

Traffic Law Being Amended

[Question] Let us turn to the traffic police. What new provisions have been added to the general traffic laws and how will these laws be amended?

[Answer] In its latest meeting, the General People's Justice Committee found that many of the traffic laws, in addition to other laws, are inadequate and undetering. The municipal people's justice committees have been entrusted to examine the obstructive provisions and the provisions that are incompatible with the declaration of the people's authority and, consequently, incompatible with the new status of the Secretariat of Justice--i.e. with the formation of people's committees in this secretariat. We have asked the municipal people's justice committees to formulate their visualization and to draft their bills for the provisions that they deem fit and to send us these visualizations and bills so that we may examine them, try to draft them in a certain form, present them to the General People's Committee in its entirety and then refer them to the promulgating authorities. Some committees have begun to send their suggestions on the traffic law and the Central Traffic Department has begun to coordinate and prepare these proposals, even though they are not complete yet. We will amend the traffic law. However, this does not prevent us from adopting certain measures and from implementing very strictly the maximum penalties stipulated by the existing law provisions. I do not think that they [provisions to be amended] are numerous but in their present form, they are incompatible with the new situation. In any case, there are deterring penalties at present and I hope that they will be implemented soundly and correctly. We will amend not only the traffic law but all the laws that are incompatible with what is being projected now.

[Question] In his latest meeting with the General People's Justice Committee, the revolution leader dealt with the issue of the free-of-charge lawyer, the Supreme Judiciary Council and the Police Council. What has been done in regard to abolishing these issues?

Abolition of Supreme Judiciary Council

[Answer] The police and judiciary system laws stipulate the presence of the Supreme Judiciary Council and the Police Council, considering that these councils were essential for coordination among the various agencies. The Police Affairs Council coordinated the efforts of the various control departments existing in the Jamahiriya previously. To establish coordination among these control departments, they had to be tied to a certain council including controllers [muraqibun] so that each controller may know what is happening in the other control departments. Moreover, the

security plan adopted by one controller could be used by another. So, it was necessary for this council to be present for the purpose of coordination, in addition to examining the affairs and needs of a control department. The judiciary council was also necessary, considering that the men of the judiciary are distributed throughout all parts of the republic. It was also necessary to have an authority to coordinate and select people with certain qualifications to fill the positions of chairmen of the courts of first instance and chairmen of the courts of appeal. It was also necessary to have such an authority to select people with certain qualifications to form a judiciary council to supervise the members of the judiciary, to study their affairs, to determine their appointment and promotion and so forth. Then came into existence the municipal people's justice committees. Each committee has a secretary and each secretary is a member of the General People's Justice Committee. Thus, coordination came into existence and there was no further need for the presence of these specialized councils which had been previously formed for this same purpose [coordination]. This objective is now realized by the fact that the committees meet, represented by their secretaries, in the form of the General People's Justice Committee. As a result, we are all familiar with the picture. The resolutions adopted by the General People's Justice Committee are distributed to the [municipal] committees to implement them. A bill has actually been drafted providing for the abolition of the judiciary and police councils and for transferring their powers to the General People's Justice Committee. The [powers of the] judiciary council and of the police council have been actually transferred. The General People's Justice Committee has issued numerous decisions which used to be previously issued by either the judiciary council or the police affairs council--decisions concerning the appointment, promotion or transfer of members of the judiciary and decisions concerning the appeals made by some members of the judiciary. They [councils] have been actually abolished for all practical purposes. They will be abolished formally when the decree is issued in the future.

Free-of-Charge Lawyer

As for the free lawyer, the elements of trial are, as you have heard from the leader, three: (The plaintiff against the defendant is the prosecution and a third neutral person that strikes a balance between the two [the judge]). The prosecution is against the defendant. It is not against him in the narrow sense but in the sense that it is against the criminal. It is not in the interest of the prosecution for the defendant to be a criminal or to create a criminal out of him. But it is in the prosecution's interest to protect society from vice and crime and to produce the evidence that condemns such a person so that he may get his punishment and become a deterrent to others. So, there is a side against the defendant, even in the narrow sense of the word. Therefore, the defendant needs a person to stand by him. This person is the lawyer. The side against the defendant says what it has to say and the side

supporting the defendant says what it has and the judge then settles the argument between the two sides. The third element, namely the lawyer who supports the defendant, is actually missing, as the revolution leader has said. The defendant may bring a lawyer at his own expense and of his own volition or he may bring a counsellor who is not a lawyer or he may defend himself. But his defense cannot rise to the level of that of the prosecution attorney because this attorney is experienced and can refute whatever the defendant says in his own defense.

Therefore, justice must be truly established. As the leader has said, there must be a person with the same level of qualification and knowledge of that of the prosecution attorney and with the ability to refute the arguments that this attorney cites so that we may ultimately reach one result, namely the truth. It is true, as I have already said, that the defendant or the plaintiff could select a free lawyer to defend him in return for a certain sum of money. This situation existed. But to achieve justice and to complete the elements of justice, this lawyer must be available to every citizen. This is the instruction that the leader issued at the meeting of the General People's Justice Committee.

We have actually formed a committee to draft a decree that realizes the goal of having the [defense] lawyer as one of the complementary elements of the court. This means that we should not imagine the presence of a court without such a lawyer. It also means that such a lawyer should be available to all, both those who can afford and those who cannot afford to pay. Such a lawyer will be available free of charge to everyone. In return for the lawyer's performance of this task, society will take care of his needs. We have actually begun the measures to bring this into existence and, consequently, to realize the goal of having the defense lawyer next to the prosecution attorney and to the judge. Justice will be thus realized. This means that as long as there is a defense lawyer with the same ability as that of the prosecution attorney, then the suspicion of faults and of mistakes disappears and all the elements of [fair] trial are realized. A man is thus tried while feeling reassured. I believe it is the epitome of justice that a perpetrator of crime should find somebody to defend him [sic].

[Question] The question before last: What are the problems that confront and encounter the people's justice committees?

Concerns of People's Justice Committees

[Answer] The people's justice committees are, as I have already pointed out, newly emerging committees. The other secretariats had control departments [muraqabat] and before these departments they had directorates. The directorates turned into control departments and then became people's committees. Thus, the other secretariats have places, vehicles, furniture and everything else available to them. When they first emerged, they

were like us. But after their emergence all resources became available to them. As for the Secretariat of Justice, it is now beginning from scratch. It is true that many of the people's committees that are not lodged in the headquarters of the previous control departments experience shortages in many things, both material and human. Insofar as the material shortages are concerned, the General People's Justice Committee adopted several decisions in its latest meeting and we are in the process of providing these shortages. It is easy to supply the material things. As for the human elements, we hope that the municipal people's committees will provide these elements to the congresses through recruitment. People, such as a policeman or a civil servant, cannot be purchased from the market. We can get the material things and we have actually taken measures to supply these needs. However, the emergence of these needs does not mean that they are not available to the people's committees. Every people's committee is present in a municipality and this municipality used to provide security, court and judiciary services. So, there is a foundation. What has been introduced is the presence of the people's committees. I am not talking about the management of the people's committees but about the means through which they offer their services to the masses within the jurisdiction of their municipality. As a result, there are still shortages because the services that used to be offered by the municipalities did not have the same ambitions as those that are now present in the people's committees. This is why the need emerged for a person to face the congresses and to make an account of the services he has offered. As long as he is going to be brought to account, this person will take the precautions that do not make it possible to throw the blame on his shoulders or to condemn him before the masses. This is why we have exerted ceaseless efforts to provide these resources for which the need emerged after formation of the committees and after the committees' assessment of the services offered previously and of their own ambitions. The bringing to account will take place, regardless of whether we provide the needs or not because we may provide the needs but not use them well. This operation is not one of providing assistance. The motive is to establish and provide services to the people within the jurisdiction of a municipality.

[Question] Our last question: We would like the citizen to know his role and what he can offer in regard to what you have said.

Citizen's Responsibility

[Answer] First, I will say that if the citizen feels and believes that he will be brought to account and punished for any faulty action or failure, then I am certain that all these problems will come to an end. Even if the thief can steal, the smuggler can smuggle and the rumor monger can spread rumors and even if such a person is not caught, this person still knows that this act has been recorded against him and that if he doesn't get his punishment in this world he will get it in the hereafter. But

what I would like to stress is moral commitment among people and their steering clear off the perpetration of such crimes because they are unjustifiable. If such crimes are committed in a needy society, there may be a justification whereas those who commit such crimes here are people who are well off economically. Those who steal cars own their own cars. So, the issue is an issue of ethics and of moral and religious commitment. There is no call for a man to commit such acts when he doesn't need them. On the other hand, these sick persons should not be given the opportunity and every citizen must be alert and must make known whatever he sees.

Finally, we are ready to explain matters. When anything develops, I am ready for all kinds of meetings and I will be frank with you and will conceal nothing from you. We are now in a jamahiri [pertaining to the masses] system and everything is presented to the congresses and to the masses so that they may solve their problems. I have been frank with you and have concealed nothing at all from you. I have said everything and I pledge to always be frank with you.

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MAURITANIA

EIGHT CEAO FINANCING AGREEMENTS SIGNED

Nouakchott CHAAB in French 16 Oct 79 pp 1,8

Text Ahmed Ould Zein, minister of finance and commerce, and Moussa N'Gom, secretary general of CEAO West African Economic Community, with their assistant, yesterday signed eight financing agreements in the total amount of 185,970,755 CFAF, or 37,194,151 UM.

By the terms of those agreements the CEAO will contribute to the financing of several projects in our country, with the resources of the Common Development Fund and through subsidies. Involved is the creation of:

- a national seed center in Kaedi, the cost of which is estimated at 6 million,
- a national soil laboratory that will cost 4 million UM,
- applied research in rice growing at a cost of 5 million UM,
- a coordinating center for the management of small rural areas, and logistic support for those areas, at a cost of 4,194,151 UM,
- 14 million UM will be invested in the fields of pathology and animal nutrition,
- 2.2 million in research for the creation of a craft-type plaster works,
- 800,000 UM will be invested in scholarships for agricultural training, and
- 1 million UM in research on new energy sources.

In addition, the finance and commerce minister and the secretary general of the CEAO initialed addenda to two financing agreements signed on 14 July 1979 concerning:

- a study on the M'Bagne 1 natural equipment unit for a 17,097,960 UM backing,
- and help in acquiring logistic resources for the Mauritanian Cereals Office in the amount of 4,382,290 UM.

It should be noted that the overall amount for the totality of those financing agreements made between our country and the West African Economic Community (CEAO) during the year 1979 comes to 58,671,401 UM.

In the name of the CMSN Military Committee for National Salvation and the government, the minister of finance and commerce expressed his satisfaction with this contribution of the CEAO to developmental activity in our country.

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MAURITANIA

SAUDI FUND SECTION CHIEF VISITS, ANNOUNCES PLANS

Nouakchott CHAAB in French 15 Oct 79 pp 1, 8

/Text/ Mr Ja'far Usamah, director of the capitals department of the Saudi Development Fund, arrived in Nouakchott late yesterday afternoon.

Mr Usamah issued a statement upon his arrival pointing out that the purpose of his visit to our country is, first, to sign an agreement within the framework of the financing of the Guelb project and, second, to join the World Bank mission in Mauritania in examining this country's chief economic projects.

On hand to welcome Mr Ja'far Usamah as he arrived was Mr Ahmedou Ould Hama Khatter, secretary general of the Ministry of Planning and Fisheries.

It must be pointed out that a delegation of the Saudi Development Fund has been staying in Nouakchott since last Monday in order to research the execution of several projects in Mauritania.

With that purpose in mind the delegation has embarked upon a series of talks with the heads of the departments involved in carrying out those projects, including those in the Planning Ministry.

Signed Saturday morning with the directors involved were /documents concerning/ the nature and terms of the projects which the Saudi Development Fund intends to carry out for the benefit of our country.

Thus the Fund estimated the cost of the work to be accomplished at 1 billion 400 million ouguiyas. The work to be done includes among other projects:

- construction of 1000 classrooms,
- drilling a number of wells,
- construction of a police academy, and
- construction of a dispensary in Nema

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MAURITANIA

MINISTER DISCUSSES PROGRESS OF EDUCATIONAL REFORM

Nouakchott CHAAB in French 22-23, 24 Sep 79

[Interview with Minister of Civil Service and Professional Training, Mr Yahya Ould Menkouss, by D. O. Hamden]

[22-23 Sep 79, p 3]

[Text] Following its accession to power, the CMSN [Military Committee for National Welfare] established several special commissions to reorganize all sectors of national life. One of these commissions is assigned to educational reform and has just suspended its proceedings after several meetings which did not produce any concrete results. But despite the differences of opinion which emerged in the course of these meetings, Mr Yahya O. Menkouss, minister of civil service and professional training, informed us during this interview of his total optimism concerning the success of this commission, for as he said, it is composed of national officials.

CHAAB: Mr Minister, you are the chairman of the commission assigned to educational reform, which has already met several times. What are the results which you have already achieved? Do you believe that this commission will succeed?

ANSWER: This commission has been working for some time. In its most recent meetings, it has taken up all the issues concerning education in our country. It is an advisory commission which receives directives and it has suspended its proceedings in order to acquire more intensive information so that it can continue its work.

With regard to its success, this is certain, since it is composed of competent national officials.

CHAAB: According to certain rumors, there is some question of two separate educational systems, one in Arabic and another in French. What is the real truth, Mr Minister?

ANSWER: The man on the street is not a source of reference. What I can tell you--and which is totally natural when a national cause is discussed-- is that everything was discussed and views were divergent.

Foreign languages can be studied without that affecting national languages. In this regard, the commission has not yet reached a decision. However, several views were expressed. In any case, no decision has yet been made for the simple reason that the commission has not completed its work.

CHAAB: Does the establishment of this commission mean that certain shortcomings have been noted in the case of the previous reform?

ANSWER: The previous reform has its good points as well as its drawbacks. The government and the CMSN therefore considered it necessary to review it, which is completely normal, since every reform is subject to continual review.

CHAAB: We are on the eve of a new academic year. What provisions have already been taken in this connection? Has the improvement of students' conditions been considered?

ANSWER: For the time being, no increase in student aid is being considered because of the country's current particularly difficult situation. However, we have insisted that a proper administration be set up to make students as comfortable as possible and to eliminate their material worries, which could negatively affect their studies. This is a functional improvement which could eliminate the problems which we faced last year. This does not rule out the possibility that a future improvement may take place.

With regard to the opening of this academic year, all necessary provisions have been taken.

CHAAB: Mr Minister, what do you think of the rumor according to which our students in Morocco could be turned away, especially now when you are holding talks with a delegation from that country? Is it possible to get some idea of these talks?

ANSWER: Our students in Morocco have been there under excellent conditions and will continue to be. They will by no means be turned away, contrary to any rumor. Proof of this is that we have been holding talks since Thursday with a delegation from that brother country, a delegation led by the general secretary of AMAMCO [Mauritania-Morocco Cooperation Agency], with which we have studied all possibilities for strengthening our cooperation in all areas. But in general, it is absolutely natural that we have to be vigilant and to expect any eventuality.

Concerning our talks with the delegation from the brother kingdom of Morocco, they have dealt with the excellent relations uniting us with that country and the possibilities for tightening those relations.

CHAAB: After completing their studies, most of our students remain unemployed for a long time before finding a job. What measures have been taken to solve this problem?

ANSWER: The government has always worked so that our students who have completed their studies will be accommodated as they should be. But as you know, sometimes there are more of them than available budgetary positions. This means that they are often unemployed for a long time. This situation is mainly due to our limited means of recruitment. Thus our recruitment possibilities are by far inferior to our educational possibilities.

We will spare no effort to alleviate this situation, which will be ended as soon as the country completes this critical stage in its history.

[24 Sep 79, p 3]

[Text] In our previous edition, Mr Yahya O. Menkouss, minister of civil service and professional training, spoke with us about the results of the proceedings of the national commission assigned to educational reform and expressed his optimism concerning its success. In this second part of the interview, the minister talks about the situation of civil service and believes that this sector's major problem is that civil servants and government officials are totally ignorant of current laws and regulations. He also evaluates for us his recent mission to Assaba and Guidimakha to explain and popularize the peace and austerity policy adopted by the CMSN and the government.

CHAAB: Mr Minister, you are also minister of civil service; can you tell us a little about this sector, which is not very familiar to the public?

ANSWER: Civil service is experiencing several problems. In this regard, it must be said that its major problem is that civil servants and government officials are totally ignorant of current laws and regulations. In fact, the texts of laws are not disseminated.

Therefore, to solve this information problem, on 9 May the government approved a decree establishing a translation service assigned to translate all texts and to distribute them to the various government departments, which are in turn assigned to distribute them to their divisions.

In fact, we have translated the civil service regulations. But problems are not limited only to information. There is also a spirit of negligence that characterizes civil servants and the slow pace of administrative measures (decisions, recruitment, etc.). The austerity policy recommended by the government has solved most of these problems. Civil servants have in this way been compelled to render the service demanded of them and thus to work in compliance with current laws and regulations to help as much as possible with the country's economic development.

To tell you how this situation has been handled in practical terms, I need only point out the dismissals, reprimands and warnings issued to civil servants not complying with regulations.

Regarding the second point, I want to take this opportunity to say that civil service is not responsible for the slow pace of administrative measures, particularly the decision-making process. In fact, the files of civil servants themselves are often nonexistent or incomplete.

CHAAB: The relatively large gap between government officials' wages and those paid by government and private companies is due to the continuous movement of government officials to companies of a commercial or industrial nature. What has been done so far to arrest this problem or at least to alleviate it? Hasn't an improvement of civil servants' situation been considered?

ANSWER: In this regard, we have conducted a study to determine how it is possible to reduce this gap between employees of the public sector and those of the private sector. However, a small gap--due to the nature of the private sector's activities--will persist.

As you know, in the private sector employees have many obligations, such as working beyond normal hours and strict job precision. In contrast, in the public sector a certain degree of flexibility can be noted and employees work very definite hours. In applying the austerity policy, the decision was made to reduce the gaps between the two sectors, but that will be to the disadvantage of employees of the private sector.

In reply to the last part of your question, I will say that since our only solution is to strictly apply the austerity policy, no immediate improvement in the situation of civil servants is anticipated.

CHAAB: You have just presided over the government mission assigned to popularize the peace and austerity policy in the regions of Assaba and Guidimakha. What are your impressions of the outcome of that mission?

ANSWER: I was actually the head of a large delegation in the regions of Assaba and Guidimakha to explain the viewpoint of the CMSN and the government concerning the peace and austerity policy which our national leadership has proposed.

During this visit, we found only understanding and support among the people of those regions. Thus we were given a warm reception. At the same time, the people explained to us their problems and complaints, which we will convey to the national leadership. This meeting was especially important, since it enabled us to make contact with the mass of the people and to inform them directly, as our information media are as yet very limited.

CHAAB: Getting back to speculation concerning the proceedings of the national commission assigned to reform, do you have an appeal to make to the people?

ANSWER: As I said previously, the role of the national commission for educational reform is purely advisory. It makes no decisions, but simply discusses the country's cultural problems in order to make suggestions to the CMSN, which alone has the power to make a decision. However, it may already be said that all members of the commission have unanimously acknowledged that in the future only national languages must be taught. But no decision has been made as yet.

The cultural sector is a sector as important as that of the economy and that is why I urge all Mauritians to discuss problems concerning this sector, as they do concerning other sectors.

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SULTANATE OF OMAN

DEVELOPMENTS BEING MADE IN TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES

Oman 'UMAN in Arabic 18 Nov 79 pp 29 & 30

[Excerpts] The ministry of communications, which was created in 1972, has made the following accomplishments in recent years:

Civil Aviation

The decision to create the Muscat Aviation Information District.

Al-Sib International Airport

The directorate general of civil aviation has undertaken to develop the services of aerial navigation. It will extend runway 26.08 by 1,760 feet to a total length of 11,760 feet to encourage more aviation companies to use the airport or to increase the number of their direct flights. The project includes the construction of a new taxi strip about one-half mile long, as well as improving the existing runways and adding shoulders to them.

The aviation information and regional supervision center (a joint unit) is to be equipped so that it will soon be able to perform the services of air traffic control in the Muscat Aviation Information District.

The sultanate is to be covered with a network of aerial routes served by the most modern navigational aids and communications for the safety of air traffic.

Navigation aids are to be installed in the airport to help create unified air lanes.

A draft is to be prepared of a guide which the sultanate intends to issue and distribute internationally before the beginning of operation of the Muscat Aviation Information District.

Radio and Telegraph Communications and Aerial Navigation Aids

Among the most outstanding accomplishments which have been made in the

field of communications and aids are the following:

The installation of a network of navigation aids in several locations to serve the existing and proposed air lanes and air fields in the sultanate.

The installation of a VHF communications system in Timrit to be controlled remotely from al-Sib.

The installation of three new 10-kilowatt HF transmitters and antennas.

The installation of eight new VHF transceivers and antennas to meet the requirements of the Muscat Aviation Information District.

The installation of a computer.

Working to set up an electronic system which will deliver all telegrams immediately.

Weather Observation

Providing transportation for the weather observation and forecasting service to its new headquarters in the technical devices building.

Developing observation and forecasting activities and providing training.

Introducing improvements in devices and equipment.

Expanding the observation services for maritime affairs in the coastal district from Khasab to Raysut.

Cooperating with the world weather organization and participating in the execution of the seasonal weather observations project (Monex), which was organized in the Arabian Sea district.

Providing the section with a new facsimile transmitting device and beginning for the first time to broadcast information and maps received from a facsimile receiving device and a cloud picture receiving device for following the course of weather satellite Tiros-N.

Installing equipment for measuring clouds by light and measuring wind speed.

Ground Services

Work has begun on the new aircraft fueling building, which is one of the largest in the Middle East and the most modern in the Gulf area.

Completing the construction of the two aircraft repair hangars.

A comprehensive program has been introduced for training and development and providing opportunities for qualified citizens to assume supervisory posts in the field of aircraft service and maintenance.

Salahah Air Field

This air field was constructed because of the development and expansion of commercial aviation in Oman. It is equipped with electronic and other devices for weather observation and radar traffic control. The following enlargements have been carried out there:

The construction of a taxi strip parallel to the runway.

The completion of a system for indicating angle of descent in visual approach.

The installation of an automatic switchboard, a reserve power source, and a remote control device for outdoor lighting.

Anticipated Expansions of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation

The activation of the Muscat Aviation Information District and the beginning of operation of the new traffic control center.

The 24-hour operation of all weather observation stations and the opening of new weather observation stations in Fuhud, Timrit, and Suhar.

The construction and activation of a civil air field in Khasab and another in Sur.

The expansion of the traffic control services throughout the sultanate.

Harbors

On 25 November 1976, Sultan Qabus issued a decree incorporating the Qabus port authority and the Oman Harbors Service Company into a single establishment bearing the name of Harbors Services Establishment, Limited. There is a plan to adapt two of the anchorages in the harbor for handling containers, and studies are also in progress to carry out numerous improvements in the harbor.

At the present time, Raysut harbor accommodates ships of not more than 3,000 tons displacement and sailing vessels. The ministry intends to improve and develop this harbor by constructing deep anchorages and equipping them to accommodate vessels with capacities of up to 15,000 tons of cargo and 35 tons of petroleum. Work is expected to begin on these activities in March 1980.

Roads

There are about 1,500 kilometers of paved roads and about 21,000 kilometers of graded roads in the sultanate. Among the most important roads which have been constructed is the road between Matrah and Khatmat Malahah, linking the sultanate with the UAE.

Work was begun early in August 1979 on the construction of a road between Nazwah and Timrit, a distance of 790 kilometers, to link the southern region with the north. The completion of it is expected in February 1983, 3 months ahead of schedule.

CSO: 4802

WESTERN SAHARA

SDAR PRIME MINISTER REVIEWS SAHARAN PEOPLE'S STRUGGLE

Algiers AL-SHA'B in Arabic 6 Nov 79 pp 1, 5

[Interview with SDAR Prime Minister Mohamed Lamine by El-Hedi Benyakhlef:
"The Saharan People Face an Army of Mixed Foreigners; In October 1975 We Had
Only World I Weapons and yet We Faced With Them Moroccan Tanks and Planes"--
Date and place not given]

[Text] On the occasion of the fourth anniversary of the Moroccan armed invasion of Western Sahara, Mohamed Lamine, the prime minister of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic (SDAR), answered questions by AL-SHA'B reporter El-Hedi Benyakhlef on the present status of the Saharan people's struggle and evaluated that struggle which has imposed itself on the international scene and made the supporters of the Saharan people's cause around the world grow day after day.

[Question] The "Green March" was the unmasked face of the plot aimed at the Western Sahara. Can you shed some light on the nature of the plot from its very beginning?

[Answer] The question which is being constantly asked by the Saharan people is: If the rulers of Morocco believe that this country was originally theirs, why then had the Moroccan kingdom failed to act when Spain colonized the Western Sahara? Without trying to review past history, and by confining ourselves to modern history, we note that Morocco gained independence in 1956 and made no move whatsoever against the Spanish colonialist presence in the Western Sahara. Indeed, it was satisfied with it.

However, the sudden [Moroccan] action in 1974, with the collusion of the Spanish government, proved that the intention was not to liberate territories belonging to Morocco but to try to stifle and abort an armed liberation movement which had emerged to wage a foracious war against Spanish colonialism. This struggle, however, was not fairly treated by the international media. Had the Popular Front for the Liberation of Saguia EL-Hamra and Rio De Oro (POLISARIO) succumbed to Spanish demands, namely, to set up an artificial

mini-state akin to other states in the Third World, the Moroccan government, not to mention the Arab states, would have been the first to acclaim that mini-state. The conspiracy is, therefore, clear. The same thing has befallen Mauritania. Although our Arab morals prevent us from disparaging persons who are historically finished, we believe that Mokhtar Ould Daddah would have been a victim of Moroccan ambitions, although he later allowed his country to fall prey to those ambitions.

Strangely enough, everybody was claiming the Sahara. Morocco claimed all of the Sahara and so did Mauritania, while Spain said that the Sahara was Spanish. Overnight, the claims turned into a plot to divide a people and their land, as if that was a land without owners. Even at the International Court of Justice, the question that was posed before that tribunal involved a trap. Answering it would have led to a preconceived conclusion. The question Spain posed was: Is the Sahara inhabited by a people? Given the insinuation intended here, it is strange that a people had suddenly materialized during the era of Spanish occupation. The Moroccans and Mauriticians had acknowledged that the Sahara was inhabited, but why have they failed to respect the will of those inhabitants?

The [POLISARIO] front was a weak liberation movement, and the Saharan people were plagued by ignorance, homelessness and division. But a bane might well turn out to be a boon: the division of the Sahara soon became the genesis of the unification of the Saharan people under the banner of national unity proclaimed on 14 October 1975. Meanwhile, the International Court of Justice ruled that neither Morocco nor Mauritania has had a relationship of sovereignty with the Sahara. The king of Morocco, however, clung to the court's contention that there had been a pledge of allegiance. As an Arab and Moslem people, we know what an act of homage involves and entails. Assuming for the sake of argument that, indeed, a pledge of allegiance had been made to one of King Hassan's ancestors, such a pledge expires and lapses with the death of the person to whom it was made. The modern age necessitates the existence of sovereignty relationships and associations, and the International Court of justice was clear in its view that no such association had existed.

The "Green March" was not prepared and planned just before it took place. It had been in the making for a long time in collaboration with (Salas), who used to be a minister in charge of the affairs of Franco's party. Mokhtar Ould Daddah did not have prior knowledge of the march and he first heard about it from the radio. The Saharan people, however, were aware of what was being schemed against them. The "Green March" was launched on 6 November, but it had been planned long before that date. The Moroccan forces had entered (Al-Farisiyyah), Echedeiria and Hausa on 31 October 1975, and there was coordination between the Spanish and Moroccan forces whereby the Moroccan forces moved in as soon as the Spanish forces withdrew from it.

The king openly told the participants in the march: "If you come across Spaniards, embrace them and share whatever you have with them. But if you

find others, then the army is there to protect you." Who, we wonder, would those "others" be but the Saharan people? This means that the march was principally targeted against the Saharans.

Since the Moroccans are citing historical evidence and claims, we can counter their arguments with arguments of our own. In 1968, Spain sold a part of Saguia El-Hamra and Rio de Oro, and the Saharan people chose not to take any action or raise the issue, because it believes in Arab unity. But the Saharan people does not believe in unity by coercion--the unity imposed by tanks and the killing of the elderly, women and children. Our people also kept quiet when Spain sold the Tarfaya province in 1958 without consulting them. Spain, the Moroccans and the Ould Daddah government thus thought that the Saharans would sit still when their land was sold in 1975. But things had changed over the years. Going by the wrong calculations and speculations of the competent Spanish authorities, everyone thought that the Saharan people's resistance which had begun to impose itself would be a transient and temporary one. But those calculations neglected to take into account that our people have time-honored traditions and Arab and Islamic customs and that, because of such traditions and customs, our people were bound to confront the new plot in a manner which they [the adversaries] have not expected.

[Question] Rabat's propaganda campaigns claim that, historically speaking, there has never been a Saharan entity. The king today wants to manipulate such a loophole by calling for an "extended cooperation" among all the states bordering the Sahara. How would you respond to those new maneuvers?

[Answer] If the Saharan people had had no entity in the past they would not have been able to wage a liberation war that has been going on for 7 years. Only an organized people with an entity can organize such a liberation war. Throughout its presence in our country, Spanish colonialism was unable to impose its full control and faced continuous resistance which crystallized into a well-knit political organization backed by a time-honored and old tradition of struggle and guided by a long-term goal of building a real homeland. All this should prove to those who are trying to seek the facts about the Western Sahara that there is a people who have an entity like all other peoples who have struggled against foreign occupation, such as the Algerian people and the Moroccan people as well.

The enemies of the Saharan people go beyond ignoring those facts. They are now saying that they are fighting an international army, or a legion of mercenaries. The question that should be asked of them is: Can a force of mercenaries sustain a struggle for 4 years? Is it logical that a soldier of fortune would continue to fight a savage battle for all that time?

The charge that there is no Saharan entity is being principally used to mask the fact that the Saharan people are in fact facing today an international force--an army of mixed foreigners. Regrettably, the Moroccan Army has become a polyglot foreign legion led by foreign experts and intelligence services--French, Egyptian and American. That is to say that the Moroccan officer no longer has any value today, since he receives orders from foreign officers.

As for the king's call for "cooperation," the Sahara is not an ocean, a sea or a river. There is a specific area called Western Sahara which has a people with an entity, history, customs, traditions and morals.

The file of truth is a large one, and those allegations are an attempt to distort reality. Morocco and a few other states are the only states in the world which claim that there is no Saharan entity, despite the fact that the entire world recognizes the Saharan people's right to self-determination and independence. Witness the recent United Nations (resolution) which acknowledges that the forces presently stationed in the Western Sahara are colonialist forces which should withdraw to their positions. Moreover, the UN fact-finding commission which visited the region in 1975 not only recommended that the Spanish colonialist forces should withdraw but also recommended withdrawal from the Saharan border area in southern Morocco. The king's call is a fallacy which can only dupe the naive.

[Question] The royalist propaganda has been saying that its military presence in the cities is only part of a war plan designed to contain the Saharan resistance, and not due to the mounting and intensifying blows of the Saharan fighters. How would you comment on those allegations?

[Answer] No one who claims a country would forsake one inch of it. Even the cities which the Moroccan regime claims to control have had their gates rattled, not only in the Western Sahara but also in southern Morocco. There are now Moroccan cities and towns which have no troops. The plans that they talk about confirm the colonialist nature of the Moroccan rulers. Such plans had been applied in Algeria, Vietnam and the Portuguese colonies in Africa. Some of the practices carried out by the Moroccan Army are similar to those undertaken by colonialist armies in many countries. I don't think that anyone who claims a country would vacate any part of it. If he were to do so, it must be because he is breathing his last. The vacating of Echdeira, Hausa, Bir Lehlu, Tifariti, Mahbes and Buirat and 25 localities in southern Morocco, an area sold by Spain in 1958, suggests that the Moroccans do not really consider those areas to be theirs. Even the king himself shares this belief. Southern Morocco, for example, is under military rule and a military administration that does not fall under the jurisdiction of the army but that of the royal gendarmery. Take the small town of Mahbes. It has no civilian population and, therefore, the presence of royal gendarmes there is unnecessary. We have, however, captured a number of those gendarmes during the victorious attack launched by the Saharan fighters against the town.

[Question] The colonial powers have gradually recognized the popular liberation struggles wages against them. Yet after 4 years of war, the Moroccan regime still refuses to ignore the essence of the struggle. How would you explain this attitude?

[Answer] Hitler, of course, clung to his obduracy to the last breath. This is in the nature of all fascists. Spain clung to its intransigence in the Western Sahara, America in Vietnam, France in Algeria and so forth. The French can be intransigent because they are a major military and economic

power with old and venerable institutions. I do not deny the civilization, struggle and strength of the Moroccan people. They have demonstrated those qualities throughout history and against the throne itself. They have had activities against the corruption of the rulers since the time of the Almoravides and Almohades. But any nation, regardless of its civilization, will court failure when its civilization turns into colonialist ambitions. There was wild jubilation in Morocco in 1975, for example, when the king declared that he wanted to drink tea in (L'yun). It seems, however, that the tea is still too hot to drink. The situation in Morocco is moving from bad to worse. For 3 years, news of the war remained bottled up in the palace and among the officer corps. The people did not know that a war was raging in the Western Sahara except from the Saharan radio and the prisoners of war who were making statements over that radio. The (Tantan) unveiled the war [in Morocco] as the Nouakchott operation had earlier unveiled the war to the Mauritians.

You also have the Moroccan soldiers who do not believe in the war which they are fighting. If they really believed in it, they would fight us fiercely, because the Moroccans are brave and heroic. But the Moroccan soldier's lack of belief in the fairness of the cause--the fairness of the war--forced him to surrender before the Saharan fighters who are imbued with a deep belief that the land is Saharan land.

The Moroccan regime's intransigence is the result, deep under, of a weak position. As the regime becomes more intransigent, its pillars become shakier. In fact, we are helping the national forces in Morocco--if any--so that they may take the initiative in order to extricate the Moroccan people from a war that poses a serious danger to their future--a war that is equally dangerous because it drives a wedge between the Saharan and Moroccan peoples.

[Question] The Saharan people's revolution has smashed the walls of isolation that has been imposed on them internationally. Do you expect this to have an impact on the position of the king of Rabat, and is there hope for a negotiated settlement?

[Answer] The Saharan people are a modest people. War is not a hobby of theirs but was imposed on them. They are fighting today to preserve their existence, because this is a destructive war. Our people were not known [to the world] because of the large prison--the Spanish prison--in which it was placed. The Saharan people have been subjected to unparalleled massacres. They fought silently. When they first began their struggle, the Saharan people were isolated on the African, Arab and international levels. But thanks to their tremendous sacrifices and to the heroes who fell in the thick of heroic battles, from Echedeiria to Mahbes, and thanks to their combat and steadfastness, the Saharan people were able to earn the sympathy of all the democratic forces in the world--the peace-loving forces which are opposed to the perpetration of genocide against small or large nations.

Our people are facing a great colonialist force consisting of 150,000 soldiers seasoned in colonial wars. We have POW's who had fought in World War II,

the Indochina war, the Algerian war, both before and after liberation, and in Zaire. The international respect commanded by our people--a people numerically small but morally strong in their belief and determination--is the byproduct of great sacrifices. No colonialist power, big or small, can manufacture that kind of belief and determination in its factories. This is what the Moroccan soldier lacks--indeed, what the king himself lacks. That king does not believe that the war is his war and the land is his land. It is this belief and determination which have enabled the Saharan people to command respect in Africa, Europe and the Arab world, although our Arab brethren have not been able thus far to rise up to the level of Arab ethics and dignity in order to support the just struggle of the Saharan people.

Strangely enough, even those states which are threatened with extinction by some of its neighbors in the Arab world are regrettably on the other side, that is on the side of the aggressor. Saudi Arabia, for example, which has been touted by the press, is undertaking a "mediation" endeavor, and yet it stands with the other side at the United Nations. This support nevertheless would not engender a conviction among the Moroccans that the land is their land.

As I said, we are peace lovers. For example, we have not taken the Mauritians to account for the massacres their soldiers have wreaked upon our daughters and sons, but turned the page although it had been recorded in history and will be repeated by the coming generations. We made nobody account for anything because we sought peace and sought to close the rift which the war was about to create between the Saharan and Mauritanian peoples. This is the direction we are taking in our attitude toward the Moroccan people. In the future, we are bound to reach common grounds with the Moroccan people, if they share the same intention. Otherwise, the war will continue and expand. It is easy to start a war, but it is difficult to control its size and its consequences and results.

The Moroccan people are today suffering a severe economic and social crisis which will eventually explode, if not today then tomorrow, as a result of the present war in the Sahara. A negotiated settlement is the only way to re-normalize relations among the peoples of the Arab Maghreb.

[Question] The Saharan question has scored a major victory in the United Nations. What is your comment of the nature of the vote on the resolution?

[Answer] The resolution per se is normal and the vote in favor of it was a logical one. I cannot but thank the African, Asian and Latin American countries which supported the resolution for their courage. Right, like truth, can be sweet to some and bitter to others. No doubt, the majority favored the sweet taste of right. As for the states which have opposed the resolution, I cannot comment on them individually. I would only say that some of them have expansionist ambitions. Guatemala, for example, claims Belize and its people. Zaire's identity is well-known and Saudi Arabia's direction is equally well-known. As for Gabon, we leave it to Equatorial Africa to tell

about its ambitions. The [U.N.] recommendation is responsive to the struggle of the Saharan people and to the fairness of their cause, and is in keeping with the other resolutions adopted by the world organization since 1964. All those recommendations can be implemented, thanks to the struggle of the Saharan people, because the law of the jungle is no longer in keeping with the logic of our present age. If the Moroccan rulers wish to continue to operate according to the law of the jungle, we are operating with the support of [international] legitimacy.

[Question] A meeting has been held in Bamaku between some of the king's advisors and representatives of the POLISARIO. Can you tell us about that meeting?

[Answer] We have referred to that meeting on a previous occasion. The Moroccan regime wanted that meeting to be one of the secrets of the palace. But it became apparent that the king's advisors had not come to Bamaku to seek a peaceful settlement with the POLISARIO but to affirm their intention to carry on with their colonial war one way or the other. Our representative took the position that we are for peace, brotherhood and cooperation, that this is our war. He told them that as long as you prefer the other war--the war of destruction, dispersal and rifts among peoples, then we have no choice and will answer you in the fashion that you have come to know and expect from us, either in the battlefield or in international forums.

At one time, the Moroccans denied that such a meeting was ever held and lied to the people and to their officers--the officers who are being killed either in the battlefield or by execution. There are two forces in Morocco today: a force that seeks to get rid of the army and its factions--because there is no real opposition and because everyone is either in the government or the parliament; and then there is the army whose members are dying in the Sahara. I can assure you that for the first time in history, fully operational tanks have been seized as a result of the soldiers' lack of belief in the war which they are fighting. And yet, Dlemi, Rida Ghadira and Ibn (Sudah) come and tell us that "we are ready to continue the war."

[Question] Do you believe that the increasing armament of the Moroccan regime will have an effect on the course of the struggle, particularly since the equipment Rabat will receive are reconnaissance and detection equipment, that is to say that they will restrict the chances of mounting surprise attacks?

[Answer] Toward the end of 1977 and in the early part of 1978, French Jaguar aircraft intervened, but France announced its intervention after the fact. The first intervention caught us by surprise, and hundreds of victims fell. And yet, France, with all its capabilities (Brequet Atlantique, (Nour Atlas) Jaguar aircraft), could not stop our operations in Mauritania. Therefore, France and some Mauritanian officers opted for an end to the war, although the Brequet aircraft can fly day and night for 18 hours.

We are fully aware that psychological warfare is part of war. The introduction of new equipment will not affect the battle, since the Moroccan ground force, as I have explained earlier, does not believe in the war, while the Saharan fighters constitute a force that has a deep belief in victory. No weapon can defeat such a force. If some Moroccan officers are saying today that the war has started, we reply that the war started on 31 October 1975 when we only had old weapons dating from World War I. And still we faced tanks and planes with them. Today, we have in our possession American and French weapons which we have captured from the Moroccans. With them we can face the most modern weapons.

[Question] What is France's real position, as can be seen on the ground, not in international forums?

[Answer] I believe that there is imperialist coordination against the Saharan people, and France is undoubtedly part of it. How else can we interpret the American decision which came at a time when the UN General Assembly was on the verge of addressing the Western Saharan question. The decision was announced on a Monday, and the UN committee was scheduled to take up the issue on the next day. At the same time, French forces moved into Mauritania (Nouadhibou), and there were moves by Arab "mediators" who have not been able to accept the main issue, namely, the existence of a Saharan people. All those moves indicate that there are premeditated designs against this numerically small people who are fighting with rare courage and bravery in an open land that has no water or trees.

We have ended the war with Mauritania, so what is the reason for the presence of French troops in Nouadhibou? Are Mauritania's 1960 borders threatened? The Moroccans cannot wage war against Mauritania without an OK or a green light from France. There are arguments contending that the new weapons are being delivered to Rabat to encourage it to enter into negotiations. I believe that the king refuted those arguments when he stated on the day the American decision was made public: "We will exercise the right or pursuit." What negotiations are they talking about then? It is a process of continuing and expanding the war. If the Americans believe that the continuation of the war will save the king, we tell them that it will shorten his life. A commander of national liberation wars once said that the imperialists are stupid students. They are also stupid teachers.

[Question] Have you started considering the establishment of an independent state, and what measures have you taken to prepare for the cadres of the future, prior to waging the battle of construction?

[Answer] The Saharan people are no exception to the general rule. We already have institutions and ministries which are functioning normally. Thousands of our children are studying in friendly and sisterly countries, such as Libya and Algeria and other states. We have done all that to avoid the problems gripping Third World nations which suffer a shortage in such cadres. This is essentially our future outlook as a liberation generation which will gradually pass on. To mobilize all the energies of the people and dedicate them solely to the liberation war would involve the Saharan people in a future trap so that they would not be able to avoid the use of foreign expertise.

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WESTERN SAHARA

BRIEFS

MILITARY SHIFT FAVORS MOROCCO--Military observers in Europe say that the Saharan war between Moroccan and POLISARIO forces began to shift in favor of Morocco after POLISARIO forces failed to take the town of Bu Craa which is the main center for the production of phosphates. Military people attribute this shift to the steadily increasing capability of the Moroccan forces in mobility, rapid movement, lightning strikes, and total control. That has strengthened the morale of the Moroccan soldiers because observers are noticing that Moroccan fighting capability has increased remarkably. The Moroccan Government has been busily engaged in a program to increase the mobility of its forces through the purchase of fast troop-carrying vehicles which are suitable for desert warfare. Among them are 600 Landrovers which were purchased from the United Kingdom this month. [London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 30 Nov 79 p 8]

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