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Near East/North Africa Report

(FOUO 17/82)



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IRAQ

POSITIVE WAR DEVELOPMENTS PREDICTED

Paris AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI in Arabic No 261, 12-18 Feb 82 pp 25-26

[Text] Arab volunteers are pouring into Iraq. The Iraqi military position is sound. Saddam Husayn says that Iraq is stronger today than it was at the outbreak of the war and will be stronger still in 3 months. However, there are still some Arabs whose hands and tongues are stained with the blood of the Iraqis.

What is the military situation along the Iraqi-Iranian front?

The most significant development in the war is the battle that the Iraqi forces are waging in the southern sector of the front to seize the al-Basatin position. This battle follows a lightning attack launched by the Iraqi forces last Saturday. Battle reports confirm that the Iranian advanced positions fell to the attacking forces within a few hours after the attack began while the confrontation continued with light weapons and intermittent air support in an effort to gain the remaining positions.

The Iraqis assure any visitor, guest, and eager questioner that the position is sound and that they are still there in Iranian territory despite all the Persian counterattacks and the claims of the Western press. They say they are capable of advancing further at any time.

The Iraqis tell you that, for understandable reasons, the Western newspapers want to raise the broken morale of the Iranians, if only on paper. Thus, they ascribe alleged victories and new gains to them. That is to say, the individuals who are behind the control of these newspapers do not want an Arab army of the size and importance of Iraq's army to win because a victory would raise the morale of the Arabs, thus weakening Israel and forcing it to attach importance to a large and battle-proven army.

President Saddam Husayn says that Iraq is stronger today than it was when it entered the war and "will be stronger in 3 months." He says that the Iraqi forces recently occupied new Iranian territory in the central sector and that the Iranian leaders know this.

- If the Iraqi military position is sound, then why is Iraq asking Arabs to fight in support of it?

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Iraq is extremely sensitive on this point. It feels that the war is not just Iraq's war but rather an Arab-Persian war. It is fighting and sacrificing not merely to defend Iraq but to defend its Arab homeland and nation against the new Persian attack--cloaked in the arguments of religion--on the Arab character of the Gulf and the national unity of the Arab people there.

The regular Iraqi army consists of nearly 300,000 troops and officers backed up by the nearly 400,000-strong Popular Army and special missions brigades. There are plans to raise these numbers to a combined total of more than 1.5 million Iraqis under arms.

Therefore, several thousand Arabs fight alongside the Iraqis. While these troops may not be of much consequence, they are sufficient to stimulate the Arab conscience and express the Arab sense of honor and gallantry in fighting the common enemy and maintaining solidarity together for better or for worse, to use the Iraqi president's terms. As far as the Iraqis are concerned, they are sufficient to let them know that the Arabs are with them in the same trench--the Arabs who have never failed to respond to the call of duty on any Arab battlefield and against any enemy.

On this basis, the Iraqis salute the position taken by the king, people, and Government of Jordan. For not only has Jordan offered Iraq logistic aid, but it is now hastening to join the battle by sending its sons to the battlefield.

Jordan has officially taken an open stand in support of Iraq. Other Arab officials are calling for a similar position. It appears that other Arab states, led by Morocco and the Yemen Arab Republic (North Yemen) will offer to take practical measures to manifest their partnership with Iraq in the conflict.

There are currently 12,000 Arab recruits fighting alongside their brother Iraqis or training in preparation to go to the front. The prevailing belief here is that this number could be multiplied by several times in the near future.

On the other hand, there are still some Arabs who recite slogans supporting Arab nationalism and Arab solidarity and then backstab Iraq and attempt to thwart every Arab effort to aid it. During one period, the Libyans contacted Barazani's defeated supporters and Qadhdhafi's voice was raised in support of them while the Iraqis were paying a blood tax on the Persian front. And on top of this, then comes news confirming that the Syrian regime is training Iranians in sabotage operations behind the Iraqi lines. In fact, official Damascus considered King Husayn's announcement opening the door for Jordanian volunteers tantamount to a "provocation" of it.

The funny but sad fact is that those who shoot off their mouths about Arab nationalism are in the same camp--wittingly or unwittingly--with Israel, which is arming Iran, and with the United States, which persists in issuing warnings of the disintegration of Iran's unity, advises the Jordanians not to wage war alongside the Iraqis, and pressures the Gulf countries not to offer logistical

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aid to Iraq. And then while on a tour through the Gulf, American Secretary of Defense Casper Weinberger insists on claiming that America is maintaining "neutrality" in the war and refuses to provide any weapons to the Iraqis, preferring to help Egypt and Sudan rather than Iraq, "which has a long history of hostility to the United States."

The Iraqi newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH responded to this American "neutrality" by calling for a boycott of America, the destruction of its interests in the region, the halting of oil exports to it, and the withdrawal of Arab deposits from its coffers.

The United States expresses its hostile position to Iraqi practically. For example, it has proceeded to "punish" Jordan since Jordanian relations with Iraq improved. Statistics provide the best indication of this. The United States has halted its economic aid to Jordan, which used to be more than \$100 million per year, and military aid has shrunk from \$110 million in 1979 to only \$42 million last year.

In any case, there is no escaping history. It is the best recorder and witness. The Iraqis do not reprove the Americans for their position of hostility toward them. America's history of hostility to the Arab nation is well known. Rather, they reprove their "brothers," whose hands and tongues are stained with the blood of Iraq--blood shed in defense of its Arabism and its nation.

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IRAQ

WAR PROGRESS, SYRIAN MEDIATION DISCUSSED

Paris AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI in Arabic No 257, 15-21 Jan 82 pp 21, 22

[Article: "Baghdad to Syrian 'Mediation': Stop Supporting Iran, and We'll Talk About Liberating Golan"]

[Text] In his speech on the eve of the celebration of the commemoration of the establishment of the Iraqi army, Saddam Husayn dropped the veil of Arab solidarity from the Syrian "mediation," and said with a logic not lacking in strong argument that if anyone wants the liberation of the Golan and the participation of Iraq in confronting Israel, he must stop assisting the enemies of the Arab nation.

What is the real military position on the front?

The war began with an Iraqi thrust all along the border line, content with entering al-Muhammara without occupying the main cities. This was followed by a war of battles lasting about a year, including an Iranian attack last February in Susangard (Khafajiyya), which ended in disaster for the Iranian forces.

In September the Iraqis reorganized their lines and took up positions beyond the Karun river in the southern region on the hills of 'Abadan.

In the latter part of last November the Iranians tried to carry the battles to the middle area of the front. They launched a wide attack on the region of Basatin for propaganda purposes, since it is the Iranian area occupied by Iraw that is closest to the common borders of the two countries.

Lieutenant General 'Abd al-Jabbar Shanshal, Iraqi chief of staff, talked about the battle of Khafajiyya-Basatin at the time, and said that the Iranians poured huge numbers of men into the battle and flooded some of the road junctions with river water to prevent the advance of the Iraqi forces, and plunged headlong along six axes. But the Iranian raids crumbled, and there remained only one remaining access for the Iranians to get to Basatin. The Iraqi leader estimated their losses in that battle at 6,000 dead and 260 tanks.

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With the beginning of the new year, the Iranians launched a massive attack on the region of West Kaylan and Sumar in the province of Kermanshah, with the goal of regaining control of the Iranian border city of Qasr-e Shirin, situated on the Tehran-Baghdad road. This was the third Iranian attempt in this region; it was preceded by two similar failures last April and September.

In the first 2 days of the attack the Iranians were able to occupy two small areas, though the Iraqis launched a counterattack on 5 January in which they recovered them, after surrounding the Iranian forces and cutting off their supply line in that rugged mountainous region. Iranian losses in that failed attack were estimated at 1800 dead, while their losses since the intensification of fighting on 7 December were estimated at 20,000 dead all along the front.

It is obvious that the Iranians are relying on their numerical superiority (3:1) by pouring large numbers of their reserves in the attacks which they launch. Iraqi television continued for several days to show scenes of the large numbers of Iranian dead and prisoners in the various parts of the front.

Iraqi President Saddam Husayn affirmed that Iraq will never allow Iran to cross into its territory. He said that the outcome of the war will remain in the hands of the Iraqis.

The large celebrations commemorating the sixty-first anniversary of the founding of the Iraqi army was an occasion for the Iraqis to express their attachment to their president, their army, and their fighting forces. After Saddam Husayn's speech on this occasion, Baghdad and other Iraqi cities witnessed spontaneous rallies in which citizens shouted their request to enlist for the fight with their brothers.

It is well known that the Iraqi army is one of the oldest modern Arab armies. It was founded with the founding of the modern Iraqi state in 1920, and its history contains radiant and noble pages testifying to the Arabness of Iraq and its national aspirations. The revolution of July 1957 worked to recover its evolution, support and construction in such a way that it played gigantic roles on the Syrian front in 1973 and in eliminating the Iranian-supported Barzani revolt in a mountainous region of rugged roads. Today in battle it gives proof of the sacrificial Arab spirit in the Iraq of Saddam Husayn.

It is worthy of note that with the intensification of fighting on the Iraqi-Iranian front, Israeli planes resumed their activities and attempts to violate Iraqi skies. In less than a week, Israeli planes attempted to violate Iraqi air space in the region of Makr al-Na'am (note the name--"The Cunning of the Ostrich"), a stormy desert region 65 kilometers from the western borders. The second attempt took place on Sunday, 3 January, i.e. during the Iranian attack in West Kaylan and Sumar. It appears that the Israelis wanted to divert Iraqi planes from resisting the Iranians.

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In any case, radar surveillance played its role in detecting the Israeli penetration in both attempts; Iraqi jets soared into the air, but the Israeli jets chose to withdraw to where they came from as soon as their penetration was detected. The incident confirms that the Iraqis have backed up their air surveillance network with force following the Israeli raid on the Iraqi nuclear plant last 7 June.

If the Iranians were able to pour large numbers of forces into the battle, relying on their numerical superiority over Iraq, the Iraqis also affirm that they have no lack in that area. The most recent thrust from the forces of the people's army which reached the front in the first days of the year contained Arab fighters from Egypt, Syria, Palestine, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunis, the Sudan, and Eritrea. Mr Taha Yasin Ramadan, deputy prime minister and leader of the people's army, said in his farewell to these forces that the Arab forces are always able to conclude the battle in their favor "whatever force the opposing enemy throws at us."

Whatever the case, Iranian attempts at confusion, supported by attempts to disregard Iraqi military strength in the Western press, do not meet any interest here on the popular level, and the Iraqis in the sixteenth month of the war appear confident of the ability of their armed forces and their political leadership, and of the truth of its statements, especially when Saddam Husayn said to them on the eve of the anniversary celebration of the founding of the army that Iraq is close to a decisive victory.

At the same time as the Iraqis affirmed their readiness to pursue the war if Iran did not respond to their demands, they also affirm their determination to continue the battle of construction and increased population. The Iraqi president urged this in a manner that aroused interest in all the words that he spoke in the last few weeks, as an embodiment of Iraq's dual goal with which the military proceeds.

From here also observers estimate how much effort the enemy has expended to impede the production battle in Iraq. Classified in the framework of these hostile efforts is the demolition of the pipeline which conveys Iraqi oil to the harbor for transport to Tripoli in Lebanon within a few days of its re-opening following an interruption of about 6 years. Then the explosion of the pipe which carries Iraqi oil through Turkish lands to the Mediterranean. It has also been noted in both demolition efforts that they took place in close proximity to the Syrian border: the first in the village of Tel 'Abbas, which is only 3 kilometers from the Syrian-Lebanese border, and the second in the Mardin region, facing the Turkish-Syrian border.

Iraq's affirmation of its determination to pursue the fighting does not mean that it is not ready to accept initiatives toward peace, but the Syrian initiative circulated in the Arab media in the last two weeks does not meet any serious interest here on either the popular or official level, due to the lack of confidence in the truth of Syria's official intentions toward Iraq.

Then he added in a significant allusion that "some quarters say a lot about what is called national mobilization and Arab solidarity against the Zionist enemy, and praise Iraq for its share in this solidarity. Iraq did not discuss Arab solidarity with words, for the Iraqis were always at the forefront of those who fought for Palestine and supported their brother Arabs in their liberation battles in the East and West, and it has always been a true confrontation state."

Saddam Husayn picked up on the weak point in the Syrian "mediation," which is Damascus' official partiality toward the Persian side against Iraq. He said, "Whoever talks about the Zionist entity's annexation of Golan and wants to truly liberate it and wants Iraq and the Arabs to participate in resisting the Zionist aggression, must first of all stop supporting the enemies of the Arab nation, and liberate itself from the designs to which Iraq and the Arab nation are exposed...Arab territory is equal in value."

From a national standpoint the Iraqis do not understand Syria's official position of supporting Iran in its aggression on Iraqi land and waters. Saddam Husayn says in this regard, "Whoever agrees to assist foreign occupation of any part of Arab soil cannot be a defender and propagator of the protection of another part against other foreign ambitions..."

Iraq's bitterness at the Syrian attitude reached its peak in the Iraqi president's words: "The Arab brothers know who has helped Iran against Iraq, and who has worked in collusion with it and placed its lands and its skies at the disposal of the Iranian air force to bomb specific targets within Iraqi territory, and who has concentrated its army with Iran at the beginning of the war on the borders of Iraq, then after that amassed it on the Jordanian border."

Iraqi doubts in the Syrian "mediation" to end the war, then Damascus' initiative to raise the banner of Arab solidarity after Israel's annexation of the Golan while it is up to its neck in supporting Iran...does not mean that Iraq is against any honest and sincere effort to achieve peace.

As Saddam Husayn said, Iraq is not imposing any illegal conditions and has no ambitions in Iranian territories; all it wants is an explicit and legal acknowledgement of its historic rights in its territory and waters. Baghdad has confirmed by decisive proof that Iran is the one who is obstructing arrival at a just solution.

Some observers here attribute the Iranians' desperate efforts in launching attacks on the front line to the deterioration of the domestic situation in Iran. Whenever the domestic situation deteriorates further, the Iranian leadership pushes new forces into the oven of battle. It wants to continue to occupy the army in the war with Iraq, and it secondarily wants the war to be a justification to suppress the people and deprive them of their basic needs.

Teheran news coming to Baghdad reports that official terrorism has reached its peak, and the Iranians exchange frightful tales of terrible, barbaric

torture in the prisons, where the eyes of prisoners have been plucked out and their tongues cut out before driving them to execution courts. Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri, Khomeyni's deputy, admitted to the torture of prisoners, and called for its "mitigation" in order to preserve Iran's international reputation.

The latest development in Iran is the attack on the Tudeh Communist party, a client of Moscow, after a 3 year cooperation and alliance with the regime of the Ayatollahs. The authorities launched a sudden purge in the government administration which dealt with about 1,000 upper-level functionaries and managers of the public sector, especially in the area of industrial plants and wire and wireless communications. They are all members or supporters of the Communist party.

Hoseyn Musavi, president of the government, paved the way for the purge with a propaganda campaign in which he said that all Marxists must be brought down. It is believed that the campaign will continue, so that it will deal with thousands of Communists who have penetrated the body of the administration since the establishment of the Khomeyni revolution under an unwritten motto of alliance between the Ayatollahs and the Tudeh party.

The prevailing belief is that the goal of the campaign against the Communists is rapprochement with the West to obtain arms and loans, in spite of the fact that that will expose the regime of the Ayatollahs to the wrath of Moscow, which still gives a show of official love for the Iran of Khomeyni. If the Ayatollahs' goal of pleasing the U.S. behind their campaign against the Tudeh party is not achieved, Iran's isolation will increase its loneliness, after Moscow is added to the list of "the enemies of Islam."

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MINISTER OF INDUSTRY COMMENTS ON DEVELOPMENT

Paris Al-WATAN AL-'ARABI in Arabic No 261, 12-18 Feb 82 pp 55-57

[Interview with Iraqi Minister of Industry and Minerals Tahir Tawfiq: "Tahir Tawfiq: Development Accomplishments Compete With War Victories"; date and place not specified]

[Text] The Iraqi-Iranian war was, in reality, two wars: a military confrontation on the field of battle and a developmental confrontation in the interior. Both of these are inseparable. Those who have accompanied Iraq in its developmental explosion before and during the war and have followed the reports of the war day by day have come to realize how the internal front supports the battlefield with a continuous and heroic production impetus. This is a race between development and steadfastness in an experience never before known by Arabs.

The following interview with Tahir Tawfiq, Iraqi Minister of Industry and Minerals and member of the Revolution Command Council, revealed the development victories and promised more. In the language of statistics, the Iraqi minister explains the rates of technical and technological progress and traces the horizons of the new phases that will achieve Arab economic integration in interaction with the Iraqi and Arab needs of the future.

[Question] We would like you to sketch a picture of the industrial progress that Iraq has achieved under the 17 July national socialist revolution. What is Iraq's position among the developing states and when will self-sufficiency be achieved in a number of strategic industries?

[Answer] I would like to say that prior to the blessed 17 July revolution, the industrial sector was a neglected sector. It was in the same shape as the rest of the national economic sectors at that time. There are actually specific indicators and figures that show the extent of the development that occurred after the revolution. While the accumulated capital totaled no more than 185 million dinars on eve of the revolution in 1968, the revolution invested more than 4 billion dinars from 1970 to 1981. On this basis, you can see the tremendous difference in this category and a comparison is basically inconceivable.

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The Iraqi industries were insignificant and peripheral and were incompatible with the potentials of our country and our resources, which the corrupt regimes were unable to exploit nationally.

With regard to the second part of the question, Iraq belongs to the group of developing countries, but there are differences among these countries. They differ from one another considerably with respect to their political regimes, their natural economic resources, their financial and human resources, and so forth. Iraq is considered one of the front-ranking of these countries that liberated their natural wealth from the foreign monopolies and followed an independent political path which serves the national interest of the country. The revolution adopted a series of integrated policies to achieve a rapid industrial resurgence based on the exploitation of the abundant natural resources in the country. The industrial map was changed during the years of the revolution. The industrial products were extended to all governorates of the country. We began establishing industries that rely on advanced industrial technology. Because of this, the country became one of the foremost among the developing states in which the industrial sector plays a prominent role and a role that is beginning to expand and develop as time goes on.

With regard to the part of your question pertaining to the achievement of self-sufficiency, the material resources of the country and the capacity of its market does not permit it to achieve self-sufficiency except with respect to a limited number of goods, taking into account the traditional economic calculations for evaluating costs and benefits. Among the most important of these goods are certain construction materials such as cement and oil derivatives, certain basic petro-chemicals, fertilizers, and a number of food and textile products. Actually, the country achieved self-sufficiency with respect to most of these goods within the recent past or will do so within the near future. However, Iraq's policy calls for national self-sufficiency in a number of goods, especially those that are strategic in nature or have a relationship to Arab national security. This is out of keeping with the methods of some foreign agencies which, by circulating the slogan of complete self-sufficiency in all the industries within the developing countries, are seeking to waste time, cause the developing countries to lose opportunities, and block their way toward progress by forcing them into a many-branched maze. This is shown by the entry of some of the developing countries into many fields of industry under the slogan of "self-sufficiency" when they really do not have either the subjective or the objective conditions necessary for this.

Foundations of the Mining Industry

[Question] What about minerals in Iraq? What is the ministry's plan to stimulate exploration for minerals?

[Answer] It is a well known that the mining industry in Iraq, in the modern sense of the word, is based on the revolution of July 1968. Prior to the revolution, this industry consisted merely of quarries for raw materials for construction exploited by the private sector. Then we initiated scientific work in this industry. A specialized state organization was established and

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charged with this task. This industry went through different phases that ranged from general and on-site geological surveys and mineral exploration to extraction and conversion industries in the field of minerals.

Despite Iraq's lack of experience in the mining industry, this industry has become an actual and advanced reality. This industry has been built with the efforts and sweat of Iraqis and they have succeeded in making it an experience to be proud of. Our mining industry has gained expertise that has enabled us to provide benefits to our brother Arabs.

Iraq has many mining projects at the present time. One such project is the sulfur project which produces purified sulfur, sulfuric acid, agricultural sulfur, alum, and filtration clays. Another example is the saltworks project which produces salt for industrial purposes and human and animal consumption. There are also many projects that produce raw construction materials according to established technical specifications. These projects, which are distributed throughout all areas of the country, produce products such as graded gravel, building sand, building stone, marble, and marble slabs as well as supplying the glass, ceramic, and white cement industries with their mineral product needs. As for the phosphate and phosphate fertilizer project, it will produce crude phosphate, phosphate fertilizers, compound fertilizers, and a number of other products as by-products of phosphate processing.

In the field of mineral exploration, the ministry has pursued two parallel courses through its specialized organization. The first of these is detailed exploration for mineral ores discovered in the geological surveys and the second is the implementation of a general geological survey project for the country, which we hope will be completed in 1983. One of the effects of this survey will be a complete evaluation of sources of mineral wealth by type and site.

I would also like to say that the ministry is providing geological and mining services to meet the purposes of other development sectors. These services include the evaluation of groundwater sources for a number of areas, the provision of studies pertaining to uses of land for agricultural purposes, forests, and irrigation, and the preparation of maps and geological information for construction purposes. These functions are being carried out by the specialized organizations in the General Organization for Minerals.

Development and War Together

[Question] The Persian aggression against Iraq is aimed primarily at destroying the booming economic development now being achieved in Iraq. Has this aggression succeeded in having a real effect on the continued implementation of these plans, particularly those pertaining to industry?

[Answer] The leadership realized this matter regarding the purpose of the Persian aggression. Therefore, Iraq drafted plans and decisions aimed at continuing the development plans under the circumstances of this aggression. But this is not all. We achieved increases in growth for funds allocated in

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the investment program from 1980 to 1981. This rate of growth was 29 percent and a total of 5.24 billion dinars was allocated for the development plans in all sectors combined for 1981. Our country is now in the process of announcing the plan and allocations for 1982. These allocations will be calculated on the basis of development and actual need within the framework of the central goals of the 1981-1985 five-year plan.

[Question] What is the ministry's plan for the coming phase?

[Answer] Before discussing the ministry's plan for the coming phase, which falls within the scope of the national development plan for 1981 through 1985, one must explain some of the special considerations we applied in implementing the general structure of this plan. These considerations and the objective circumstances that our country is experiencing had to be taken into account in the overall development process along with ensuring the requirements necessary to implement the industrial projects. For this reason, priority in implementation was placed on those projects that rely on domestic raw materials for their production with the aim of exploiting the national resources and utilizing them in the optimum fashion. Those projects related to the urgent consumption needs of the citizens are sharing these resources equally in the implementation process.

The trend in the industrial plan for the coming phase was toward eliminating the bottlenecks, adding certain units to existing projects with the aim of achieving better utilization of them, and **acquiring** and accumulating technical expertise in operating the projects. In addition, we have employed the vertical expansion process in the existing projects and have introduced modern mechanization with the aim of saving manpower, because we are presently suffering from a shortage of manpower in our projects despite the fact that our projects have employed and accommodated a large number of Arab and foreign workers who have come into the country.

In the coming phase, there will be a real transformation in our entry into many strategic industries which will form the material base of our national industry and the balanced economy of our country. The first step in this phase will be the manufacture of motor vehicles and agricultural machines. Perhaps the distinguishing feature of our plan in the coming phase consists of the processes of transferring and nationalizing modern technology and our goal of building men who are capable of absorbing and developing this technology. The latter will be accomplished by establishing centers for study and research and cooperating with the specialized organizations in the Iraqi universities and institutes, as well as by emphasizing the establishment of training courses inside and outside the country, the establishment of training centers for the various industries, and the utilization of international sources of expertise that have preceded us in technical development.

Industry of the Arabs

[Question] How do you assess industrial relations between Iraq and the countries of the Arab homeland? Are there joint industrial projects between Iraq and some other Arab countries? What resources and efforts is Iraq devoting to Arab industrial integration as one of the main pillars in the building of unity among the Arabs?

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[Answer] In its dealings in this area, Iraq proceeds from its fundamental belief in the necessity of Arab unity in the future. Based on this principle, we are moving in the direction that will lead to unity. We are acting within the scope of two principles: bilateral cooperation and cooperation through joint Arab organizations. Without a doubt, industrial integration is a significant goal which will achieve for us the firm material base for the larger goal. The importance of this integration becomes clear when we consider the tremendous resources that God has given us, since these resources are depletable. For this reason, this particular Arab generation has a big responsibility that makes it incumbent on us to utilize these resources as a means to achieve industrialization and other economic activities so that we can ensure the future of our countries and our coming generations. This is our view on the matter of industrial integration, which will raise the level of Arab industrialization and help eliminate the disparities in resources and development processes among the Arab countries.

For our part, we say that the current state of industrial relations with the other Arab countries gives evidence of some basic steps, but it does not measure up to our ambitions. Therefore, the Arabs are in need of greater efforts and more extensive steps. Our hope may lie in the specialized Arab organizations--such as the Gulf Organization, for example--to achieve the basic and important steps to build Arab industrial integration.

In the context of joint industrial projects, there are in fact several important projects undertaken through the specialized organizations, including the aluminum plate bending project in Bahrain, the railroad car manufacturing project, the plate glass project, etc. With regard to what Iraq provides in this area, our country is an active member in the organizations I have already mentioned as well as the Arab Organization for Mineral Wealth, the Arab Mining Company, the Arab Iron and Steel Company in Bahrain, and other Arab mining companies. The resources that Iraq has provided to many of the specialized Arab federations provide confirmation of our belief in the importance of all forms and types of Arab cooperation. Baghdad is presently the headquarters for the Arab Industrial Development Organization, the Arab Industrial Investments Company, and several specialized Arab federations such as the Arab Food Industries Federation, the Arab Federation of Engineering Industries, and the Arab Federation of Paper Industries. We provide 50 percent of the budgets of these organizations.

Support of the Private Sector

[Question] The private sector in Iraq has begun a new revival and is helping the socialist sector with many of its tasks. What bounds has the ministry placed on the private sector and what is the role of the private sector in the ministry's plan?

[Answer] In actuality, Iraq gives private industrial activity--which we call it here because it is not linked directly with the official organizations--a specific importance and a well defined role so that it is one tributary in the development plan. Therefore, we in the Ministry of Industry and Mines--through the General Organization for Industrial Development, which is directly

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concerned in this matter--formulate the investment plan for this activity. The amended plan for 1981 included new projects involving this sector based on an important fact, namely, that the socialist industrial sector is charged with big and strategic responsibilities in the industrialization process and we do not want to add to it a large number of responsibilities that are small from the standpoints of productivity and investment so that we would be required to divert large amounts of manpower that we need in the strategic industries. It is not in the interests of the socialist sector for it to direct the petrochemicals industry along with the small factories for the production of plastic devices used in the home, for example. Therefore we concentrate on the strategic industries that demand big investment and advanced technology.

As for the bounds placed on private activity, these were announced in the amended plan of 1981 pertaining to this activity, which exhibited extensive development over previous plans inasmuch as we gave free scope to the private industrial projects with respect to the size of investment. Because of this, the amended plan achieved an increase of 128 million dinars, providing for 190 million in total investment volume as opposed to only 62 million dinars in the past. The total investment volume was distributed among 989 projects. These projects were extremely diverse, including construction industries producing products such as tile, brick, ready-mixed concrete, and concrete blocks, as well as food industries, textile industries, and chemical industries.

Through the industrial bank belonging to our ministry, the state provides loans and incentives to private sector industrialists ranging from 40 to 60 percent of the size of the investment. An exception to this is the brick industry, which is given special attention and therefore receives loans amounting to 80 percent of the investment.

We Are a Rich State

[Question] With regard to the role that the private sector will play in the future of Iraqi industry and the incentives that the Iraqi leadership will provide in this field, the minister of industry said:

[Answer] On more than one occasion, President Saddam Husayn has stated that the private sector is the eternal traveling companion of the socialist sector. We cannot conceive of building an imposing and prosperous country without the participation of the private sector.

We have taken earnest steps toward the development of laws and regulations to support and encourage the private sector and expand the scope of its responsibility. The coming period will bring new laws to support this sector and enable it to achieve great progress.

As you know, we are a rich state. No matter how much the socialist sector expands, it will not take up more than a small and limited area compared to the big investments that the state ensures in the strategic industries.

[Question] Concerning the expanded conference which Saddam Husayn called for to discuss the role of the private sector, the minister said:

[Answer] This big meeting will take place next week and will include officials in the political leadership and representatives of the private sector. We will discuss with them the possibility of their participation in the building of Iraq and possible methods of providing means of support for them.

This conference will be a real takeoff point for the private sector in Iraq.

The minister praised the foreign companies working in Iraq, which have continued their activities without a break, even at the beginning of the war.

He stated that the Arab private sector has the same privileges and rights as those the Iraqi Government provides to the Iraqi private sector.

Collapse of the Persian Dream

[Question] What projects has the ministry approved during the war and what is their total final cost?

[Answer] When we say that Iraq has not been affected negatively by the war, the figures and the measures taken in this ministry and the other ministries are the practical proof of the correctness of our slogan which was raised during the war. This slogan was, "Continued development side by side with the operations to defend the eastern flank of our nation." During the period of the war, the ministry authorized more than 60 projects encompassing many industries, particularly in the fields of construction and the generation, distribution, and transmission of electric power and in certain projects in the engineering and food industries. The cost of these projects totals over 1.18 billion dinars, which is equivalent to \$3.894 billion. I think that these figures demonstrate the great responsibility of our revolution with regard to the industrialization of our country. They also indicate our rapid pace in the process of development and show that we are beyond the reach of the aggression and wars contemplated by Persian racism in an effort to destroy our country. While we were preparing plans for the purpose of developing and advancing our country, the Khomeyni regime was contriving a war for our people aimed, among other things, at destroying our economies, our developmental accomplishments, our traditions, our religion, and our Arab reality.

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JORDAN

DECISION TO SEND VOLUNTEER TROOPS TO IRAQ ANALYZED

Paris AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI in Arabic No 260, 5-11 Feb 82 pp 20-22

[Article: "Jordan Enters Qadisiyah Battle"]

In an emotional tone, King Husayn announced Jordan's decision to enter the battle at the side of Iraq. While thousands of Jordanian volunteers are going to volunteer centers to register their names, Israel is expressing its fears about the revival of the Eastern Front. Meanwhile, Syria considers the Jordanian announcement to be a provocation, and America is hastening to repeat its "advice" to Amman not to become embroiled in the fight. AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI assesses events from Amman and Baghdad, as a result of the Jordanian decision, which has revived sentiments and renewed possibilities to unite capabilities to serve the battle against all the Arab Nation's enemies.

This report that AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI received from Amman discusses Jordan in the aftermath of King Husayn's announcement about entering the battle on Iraq's side, analyzes the reasons that compelled Jordan to take this step, and reviews the bases of the close relations that bind the two countries together, as well as the Arab and foreign reactions.

Fifteen volunteer centers have opened in Jordan to register the names of those wishing to fight alongside their Iraqi brothers to stem the Persian attack. Despite the fact that less than a week has passed since these centers opened, officials estimate the number of registered names at 30,000, including active officers and nco's, others in the reserve, students, young men and officials.

Jordanian officials say that the rush to volunteer exceeded expectations, since it has exceeded the number wanted for the first batch of volunteers. The general thinking was that this group would number some 15,000, from which the most combat-experienced would be chosen. In any event, all Jordanians are considered trained, as young men have been subject to 2 years compulsory training since 1976.

The forces going to Iraq will be called the Yarmuk forces, after the battle that the Arabs won against the Byzantine armies at the end of the 7th century, fought around this river in northern Jordan, led by the hero, Khalid Ibn al-Walid. A follow-up committee has been formed, headed by Prime Minister

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Mudhir Badran, to demonstrate the official interest in this matter.

King Husayn considers himself to be the first volunteer. He says that he will go to Iraq at their head. The fact is that the emotional speech that the Jordanian monarch made to his people on Thursday, 28 January, had a far-reaching impact on the Jordanian people.

The king said that Jordanians had been with Iraq from the outset. He extolled the Iraqi sacrifices in defense of the Arab Nation against the Persian foe. He stressed that the Arabs were one nation, and said that if a part of it was threatened, all of it was threatened, especially when the challenge was against the Arab identity and people. He referred to the fact that Jordanians are not like those who told their partner: "Go thou and thy lord, and fight ye two, while we sit."

The Jordanian monarch discussed what he had seen on his recent visit to Iraq and about its steadfastness in the face of the Iranian enemy, who is supported by Israel and other enemies of the Arabs. He then asked: "If the Arab people do not stand heart, soul and blood with Iraq, how can you expect the Iraqi people to stand by the states of the Gulf and the Arabian peninsula, or any Arab state that one day faces danger, evil and aggression on behalf of the Arab Nation?"

He went on to say that Iraq has always sacrificed, and that we are indebted to Iraq, which sacrificed during the great Arab revolt and in all the Arab Nation's battles in Palestine, Jordan, Sinai and Golan. If the Nation had adopted a collective stance, as it should have, the fight would have ended before now.

The King said: "We have championed the right and have been with Iraq since the beginning. However, it was Iraq's dignity that caused it not to complain about its pain or to be a burden on anyone, taking into account our circumstances in confrontation along the longest line. Nevertheless, can our role only be confined to emotional participation?"

At the end of his speech, he declared the door opened to volunteer in the "Arab Jordanian forces, the Yarmuk forces, named after the immortal name and the heroism it symbolizes. I personally have the honor to announce that I volunteer for these forces, as a Jordanian soldier to perform the most honorable and sacred duty on the land of the Nation's battle."

Independence of the Jordanian Political Decision

Jordan's determination to enter the Qadisiyah battle at Iraq's side reflects its view and analysis of the Arab situation. They concentrate on one principle, shared by Iraq, that it is all one Arab battle, whether along the confrontation line against the Zionist enemy or to stem the Persian attack against the Arabism of Iraq and the Gulf.

The new Jordanian decision expressed the emphatic Jordanian wish to follow a more strongly independent line than ever before, a line in concert with its

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Arab sisters that supported its position regarding the late Egyptian President al-Sadat's initiative and the Camp David process.

Jordan feels the frustration of a profound hope regarding the West's positions, and especially the United States, regarding the Arabs' rights and aspirations. For its part, it has been careful to remain aloof from these positions, to the extent of announcing a basic dispute with the Carter administration over the Middle East question, and it staunchly resisted all the pressures that Washington exercised, in order to get it to adhere to the Camp David line.

The Jordanian position became set, after King Husayn considered his analysis of the situation to be correct from all aspects. He made sure that Jordan's position was clearly in contrast to that of the American administration, and in harmony with the general Arab position that was crystallized at the minimum summit in Baghdad in 1978, which agreed to reject Camp David and al-Sadat's actions in the pan-Arab cause.

King Husayn, in his position, has relied on his long experience and expertise in Arab policy and issues. His opposition to the Camp David process and the American role decreed for Jordan had a great influence on Jordan's avoidance of the problems and pitfalls that were destined to lead to disaster.

AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI's information indicates that just as Jordan received American "advice not to get involved" in the Gulf war. However, today Jordan --king, army and people--want to give practical expression to its commitment to its Arab loyalty, which goes beyond the sentiments of solidarity and enters into the fateful battle itself.

While concentrating on the "Jordanian entity" and the "Jordanian family" in the 50's and 60's, it has now accepted in the 70's and will accept in the 80's an emphasis on the Arab affiliation. Arabism today, in Amman's view, is a strong, unifying deterrent against all enemies, and in meeting all circumstances, difficulties and challenges.

There is a Jordanian connection with the Arab Gulf, represented by some 300,000 Jordanians who work there, including hundreds of officers and military and security advisers spread throughout the Gulf states. They are trusted by the Gulf rulers and officials. Consequently, Jordan has a self and pan-Arab interest in the continuation of the Gulf's security and in protecting its Arabism. Its military participation in the war there embodies this concern and is in direct defense of this identity. It is a reaction to the Iranian plots recently uncovered in Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar and elsewhere.

Therefore, Jordan joins with Iraq, Saudi Arabia and the Arab Gulf states in an unwritten alliance to defend the security, Arabism and independence of the Gulf, or a "silent alliance" as a senior Jordanian official told AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI. Jordan's participation in the battle is only an embodiment of this alliance and a statement of it.

Jordanians who know that war is not all bad, say that the confrontation with Iran will ultimately be one factor in unification, sharpening resolution and

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spreading the spirit of Arab steadfastness in opposing outside challenges.

The significant point here is that the Palestinians, who constitute nearly half of the Jordanian population, have begun to better understand the Jordanian position supporting Iraq, and the need to repel the Persian attack against Gulf Arabism. The reason for that is the increasingly frustrated Palestinian hopes for the Khomeyni regime and the belief that he is openly hostile to the Arab Gulf states, especially Iraq, which is diverting the Arabs from their fundamental confrontation with the Zionist enemy, exhausting their energies, squandering their material resources and fragmenting their unity. Moreover, his revival of sectarian feelings among Muslims is increasing the Arabs' fragmentation and tearing them apart, with the claim that the Arab call is incompatible with Islam.

The Jordanian decision reflects the close ties which bind Jordan to Iraq, and the support that Iraq receives from Amman in its opposition to the Persian attack. Jordan has thrown all of its weight behind Iraq since the first days of the confrontation. King Husayn has repeatedly visited Iraq since that time and has bluntly announced Jordan's support for its brother state, declaring its readiness to militarily participate when Baghdad requests that.

It is rumored here that a joint, supreme military command was formed during the first months of the war, which includes President Saddam Husayn, the Jordanian monarch Lt Gen Zayd Ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Jordanian armed forces, and Lt Gen 'Adnan Khayrullah, the Iraqi minister of defense. This has not been officially announced.

The fact is that the disturbed relations between the two nations in 1958 began to stabilize during the early 70's. When the fighting broke out between the Jordanian forces and the Palestinian organizations in 1970 and 1971, Iraq had a military force in Jordan, estimated at 14,000 troops, stationed there since the 1967 war. However, Iraq condemned the fighting between brothers, and did not become embroiled in it at all.

Iraq welcomed King Husayn's recognition of the PLO, at the 1974 Rabat summit, as the sole legal representative of the Palestinian people. The Jordanian position opposing Camp David was also received with a great deal of support in Baghdad.

Nevertheless, bilateral relations were greatly improved when President Saddam Husayn assumed full powers in Iraq in 1979. He hastened to offer aid and substantial financial assistance to Jordan, since the Jordanians were in extremely difficult financial circumstances. This assistance was given directly through bilateral relations or within the framework of Arab support for the Confrontation States.

AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI is able to state that Iraq pays Jordan \$186 million annually of the original \$1.25 billion that was decided on at the minimum summit in Baghdad in 1978 as Jordan's annual subsidy. Iraq pays this regularly, while a state like Libya has defaulted on paying its share, despite the fact that it was the most vocal both within and outside the conference.

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In 1979, Jordan received from Iraq financial assistance estimated at \$700 million, permitting it to eliminate the shortfalls in its balance of payments and cover the deficit in the budget, which at that time amounted \$1.75 billion. As a result of this aid, officials' salaries were increased by 20 percent, and the development plan was financed.

The Iraqi support included financing Jordan's rearmament program. Informed Jordanian sources say that Iraq has paid \$1 billion within this context, including a Chieftain tank deal with Britain for some 200 tanks, and an aircraft deal with France for 36 F-1 Mirages.

In addition, \$120 million was also allocated for various joint projects, and \$130 million to develop the Jordanian port of al-'Aqabah and to improve the road network that connects this port with Amman and Baghdad. A joint transportation company was established, with a capital of some \$25 million. The total value of this assistance had reached \$1.5 billion by the end of 1980, and by means of it, Jordan has been able to reduce its dependence of Western aid, in terms of financing and armaments, and has helped it to pursue its independent Arab policy.

The most important point is that this assistance has enabled Jordan to develop its public amenities, and to offer Iraq extremely important logistical assistance following the outbreak of the armed conflict with Iran.

The port of al-'Aqabah is considered a vital example of the value and importance of this assistance. Iraq has become greatly dependent upon it, since the closure of its ports along the Arab Gulf due to the war. There are estimates that indicate that Iraq, this year alone, will import through al-'Aqabah 2 million tons of material, goods and equipment, i.e., one-third of its total imports, while the total weight of its imports in 1981 was 1.5 million tons and about 300,000 tons in 1980.

The closeness and stability of the bilateral relations reached a point that encouraged the Jordanians to prepare a project to bring the waters of the Euphrates into their country across the Iraqi border. The Iraqis warmly welcomed this project and expressed their willingness to participate in it. This will help to solve the water crisis in Jordan up to the end of the present century.

In the Jordanian concept, a pipeline can transport the water from the Euphrates, after it crosses the Iraqi border, to the Jordanian city of al-Mafraq, a distance of 600 kms. Pumping, water treatment and storage stations will be built along this line.

The Negative Syrian Position

The courageous Jordanian decision to join Iraq in resisting the Persian attack had dissimilar effects and reactions. On the Arab level, it helped to revive feelings of Arab unity and solidarity. It emphasized the Arabism and independence of the Jordanian position, uninfluenced by traditional Western pressures.

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It goes without saying that the Jordanian decision caused alarm and anger in Israel, which considers it a practical revival of the Arab eastern front, after the suspension of the disengagement agreements in the Golan. Ariel Sharon, the Israeli minister of defense, expressed his government's fear of any military coordination taking place between Iraq and Jordan, even to the point of considering the presence of Iraqi troops in Jordan or Syria as being tantamount to a declaration of war, which would compel Israel to intervene rapidly.

Nevertheless, the Jordanian decision met with a clear understanding in the Gulf states, which have recently intensified their media campaigns against Iran, following the exposure of Iranian espionage plots in Bahrain and elsewhere. It was received negatively by both Syria and Libya.

The Jordanians say that the opposition of the Syrian and Libyan regimes to the Jordanian decision to enter the battle goes hand in hand with the military and material assistance that they are giving to Iran against Iraq. The Jordanians recall that President Hafiz al-Asad mobilized his forces on the Jordanian border last year in an attempt to pressure Amman to reduce its aid to Iraq. Perhaps he intends to repeat that, especially since signs point to a desire to fabricate a crisis with Jordan, beginning with armed clashes on the borders, and the explosion of a series of bombs in supermarkets in Amman, with the knowledge and planning of Syrian Intelligence. The Syrian regime considered the recent Jordanian decision as tantamount to provocation against it.

It is clear here that the Jordanians are determined to ignore any attempts by Syria to lure them into side battles. They regret that President al-Asad did not listen to the advice of the Gulf states, which he visited recently, to improve his relations with Jordan, cease his support and assistance to Iran, and to stop his harassment of Iraq.

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JORDAN

ARMY'S STRENGTH, EFFECTIVENESS EVALUATED

Paris AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI in Arabic No 260, 5-11 Feb 82 pp 23-24

[Article: "Jordanian Army Leads the Arab Armies in Effectiveness and Training"]

[Tex:] Jordanian volunteers are going to Iraq, but what do the Arabs know about these troops? What is their armament, training and history? This is the subject of this report, which AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI received last week from Amman.

The Jordanian armed forces are considered the most efficient of the Arab armed forces, despite their small number and armament. They have a strong military tradition, excellent training and discipline, and their combat morale is high. Their officers and leadership stay clear of political activity, which convulses other Arab armies, and concentrate their skills on their basic mission.

Semi-official information estimates the armed forces at 75,000 officers and men, distributed among five divisions, and possessing 1,500 tanks, 700 artillery pieces and about 100 aircraft, in addition to about 35,000 officers and men in the reserves, who can be called up very quickly.

The Jordanian forces did use a volunteer selection system for years, but it began to apply a conscription system in 1976. Young men are subject to 2 years compulsory service. The normal armed services' budget is estimated at \$350 million annually (25 percent of the nation's budget), in addition to a rearmament and training program that at times is financed through Arab and foreign assistance.

The Jordanian army is a harmonious mix of Jordanian Arab and Palestinian officers, both Muslim and Christian. Some of the officers are from the vigorous Circassian stock, who have been settled in Jordan for scores of years, as a result of their flight from Russia in the early part of this century, due to religious persecution. However, the majority of the enlisted men are from the desert Bedouin tribes, whose Arab roots are deep in the past, and who are scattered around the deserts surrounding Jordan.

The bedouin were the backbone of the Arab army that formed the first nucleus of the present-day Jordanian army. They were famous for their bravery and

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tribal loyalty, and then exchanged their loyalty for the Hashemite throne. They proved that during the fighting against the armed Palestinian groups in 1970 and 1971. They have always been less influenced by political movements and trends than city dwellers.

The Jordanian army could be described as a land army, adapted and suitable for Jordan's desert conditions and security. The land forces are composed of about 60,000 officers and men, distributed among four military divisions, two of them armored and the other two mechanized infantry. In addition, there are several special forces battalions, well-trained for city combat. There are also two artillery brigades.

Nevertheless, Jordan stands on a confrontation line with Israel, extending some 700 kms. Its limited manpower and meager material resources has prevented equipping a greater number of troops. Moreover, Arab assistance has not been of the size or consistent enough to permit recruiting young men in this small Arab country, whose population does not exceed 3 million people. At the same time, the active Israel army numbers close to 175,000 troops, and can be raised to 450,000 troops during the first days of the outbreak of war.

As for firepower, armament and equipment, the two cannot be compared. Israel has 3200 tanks, 2500 artillery pieces and 600 aircraft of the most modern types, with exceptionally qualified pilots. Suffice it to say in this regard that the Jordanian Arab army did not exceed 4500 officers and men when the year of disaster, 1948, approached. The British command had deliberately reduced the number from the 8,000 officers and men in the army during World War II. Nevertheless, its number had risen to 10,000 officers and men by the end of the first Arab-Israeli confrontation. They were contending, along with 15,000 Iraqi troops, 10,000 Egyptians and 3,000 Syrian troops in Palestine, against an Israeli force of an estimated 120,000 armed men that formed the first nucleus of the Israeli army.

Most of the Jordanian tanks are old or middleaged. There are about 200 British-made Chieftain tanks, which are lightly-armored. However, in the confrontation with Israel, they proved their effectiveness, thanks to their highly trained crews. They are equipped with a 105 mm gun and two machine-guns.

There are 320 American-made M48 tanks, whose design goes back to the end of World War II. They move at a speed of 40 kms, and are equipped with a 60 mm cannon. Jordan also has about 15 modern American M60 tanks, equipped with a 105 mm cannon.

Jordan has about 900 armored personnel carriers, suitable for use in reconnaissance operations and internal security protection, in addition to 600 amphibious personnel carriers for the same purpose.

Infantry personnel are armed with American M16 assault rifles, which are considered superior to the Soviet-made Klashnikov.

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The Artillery Corps has 88 mm cannon, with a range of 12 kms. Jordan also has various artillery pieces of the 203 and 205 mm variety. It also has American 81mm, 107mm and 120mm mortars.

The infantry forces have a large number of American TOW anti-tank missiles, with a range of 3.7 kms. They can be mounted on a Jeep or fired from a tank or helicopter. They are also equipped with American M47 Dragon anti-tank missiles, which are fired from the shoulder or a tank and have a range of 1 km.

The Jordanian Air Force is limited and cannot be compared either to the air forces in Iraq or Syria. It is composed of 6650 officers and men and about 100 aircraft, including 60 American F-5 fighter-bombers, armed with two 30mm cannon and various missiles and bombs. There are 18 F-104 Starfighter interceptors, armed with Sidewinder missiles.

Jordan has a Hawk missile anti-aircraft network. One of these missiles weighs 580 kgs. Jordan also has smaller missiles, which are shoulder-fired against aircraft, with both low and medium-range. In addition, there are 200 40mm anti-aircraft guns; these are American-made and operate without radar guidance.

The naval forces are limited and basically include 10 patrol vessels, whose mission is to protect the port of al-'Aqabah and surveillance of the surrounding waters.

Nevertheless, Jordan has an ambitious armament and training program, and wants to diversify its sources of weapons. It is said that it is trying to purchase 250 British laser-guided Super Chieftain tanks, and also that it submitted a bid to the United States to buy 200 M-60 tanks. However, it decided against this when Iraq provided it with 35 tanks of this type that the Iraqi forces had captured during battles with Iran.

It is said that Iraq is financing an aircraft deal that Jordan made with France some time ago. It includes 36 F-1 Mirage fighter bombers. Jordan has also submitted requests to the United States for F-5 aircraft and Bell helicopters.

It is well known that Israel always obstructs Jordanian arms deals with the United States. Therefore it is looking to diversify its sources of weapons and has recently bought quantities of Soviet arms.

The establishment of the Jordanian army began with the establishment of the Emirate of Transjordan in 1921, under the British mandate. At that time, it was called "the Arab Army" or the "Arab Legion," and was commanded by the British officer, Captain Peake. When the British General John Bagot Glubb took over in 1939, it only had 1350 officers and men, including 1000 troops who formed the police force in the desert emirate.

Glubb Pasha served in the Iraqi desert from 1920 to 1930, when he was transferred to duty in the Jordanian desert, where he came to know the bedouin. He lived among them, became proficient in their dialect and was known by the

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name of Abu Hayk, because he had a bullet wound in his neck, close to his ear, which had left a very noticeable scar.

One of the ironies of history is that the Jordanian army, which is preparing to enter the Arab Nation's battle against the Persian attack on Iraq, was once compelled, under the leadership of Gen Glubb, to accompany the British forces sent from Palestine to Iraq across Jordan to thwart the Rashid 'Ali al-Kaylani movement in 1941. Nationalist officers in the Iraqi army took leadership away from the martyr Salah al-Din al-Sabbagh and his colleagues. The dual force was able to fulfill its mission, as a result of the Iraqis cleaning their own house.

This rapid success encouraged the British to use the Arab Legion in an operation to "liberate" Syria from the forces of the Vichy French government loyal to Nazi Germany. The troops smashed their way across the desert from Jordan to Tudmur and then to a confrontation at Homs.

In the last year of World War II, the Arab Legion's forces totalled 8,000 troops, most of them tribesmen from Jordan. They were deployed in strategic posts in Iraq, Syria, Jordan and Palestine.

Despite the 1946 agreement that ended the British mandate over the Emirate of Transjordan, and made it a kingdom, the British remained in control of the Arab Legion in the person of General Glubb. At the same time, they deliberately reduced its number. When the Palestinian war broke out in 1948, their strength was about 4500 officers and men, while the force that the Jews mustered at the beginning of the war was 64,000 men, and which reached 120,000 by the end of that year.

However, General Glubb's methods in leading the army caused the Jordanians to resent him. In his memoirs, entitled "Soldier Among the Arabs," he personally recounts the story about when his government advised him to accept the ceasefire, King 'Abdullah, the grandfather of King Husayn, summoned him to a meeting at the palace, attended by members of his government, headed at that time by Tawfiq Pasha Abu al-Hadi. The king attacked him, saying: "If you are not prepared to loyally serve us, then there is no need for you to remain here."

However, General Glubb remained in his capacity as head of the army, until King Husayn, who succeeded his father King Tallal in 1953, was able to dismiss Glubb in 1956, and told him to leave the country within 2 hours. That was the act that liberated the Jordanian army from the last traces of the mandate, and restored it as an Arab army--men, officers and command.

In a few days or a few weeks, this army is going to enter the battle of honor, at the side of the Iraqi forces, defending the Arab Nation and its identity against the Persian attack.

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PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

BRIEFS

FLOODS HIT COUNTRY--Aden, 6 Apr (REUTER)--Nearly 500 people have died and at least 10,000 have been made homeless in the worst rains and flooding in 40 years in South Yemen, a cabinet statement said today. It estimated the loss to property and crops at 324 million dinars (about 950 million dollars), and appealed for international help to ease what it called the new heavy economic burden on the country. The floods killed about 50,000 head of cattle and destroyed vast agricultural areas as well as irrigation wells in the provinces of Lahej and Abyan, north and east of the capital, Aden. Roads, telephone and power installations in Aden were also damaged or destroyed, the statement said. South Yemen, with a population of about 1.9 million people, has very natural resources and is heavily dependent on foreign aid and remittances from thousands of nationals working abroad, mainly in the Gulf. [Text] [JN061713 London REUTER in English 1652 GMT 6 Apr 82]

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