

AMERICAN LEGATION, BEIRUT

October 12, 1948

Review of the Local Arabic Press  
Appearing on October 11 & 12, 1948

BEIRUT

According to this paper, Economy Minister Philip Taqla yesterday met with Husakubarak and examined with him the list enumerating the commodities earmarked for import restrictions. Philip Taqla later on visited Finance Minister Hussain al-Uwaini and re-examined with him the list preparatory to its submittal to the Council of Ministers which was scheduled to meet at Beituddin in the afternoon. BEIRUT understands however, that the negotiations with Syria would be resumed after the Moslem holidays are over. It then goes on to say that a delegation of Lebanese industrialists and businessmen called on President Bishara al-Khuri yesterday and stayed about two hours with him during which the delegates urged the necessity of maintaining the economic union with Syria. After referring to the Council of Ministers' meeting at Beituddin, the paper writes that Philip Taqla was authorized by the Council of Ministers to discuss the disputed points with Syrian Minister Mikhail Liyan, and that the two Ministers are slated to meet Wednesday at Shtaura.

Monseigneur Marins, the Papal Nuncio in Lebanon, arrived in Beirut yesterday. BEIRUT understands that he has been charged to represent the Vatican on the UNESCO conference to be held in Beirut.

On October 11, the President of the Chamber of Deputies summoned the Deputies to meet October 19 to elect a new President and a Secretary for the Chamber. BEIRUT comments that there is no indication in parliamentary circles that there is a new candidate for this presidency and that the Deputies will renew the election of Sabri Hamada, the present incumbent.

The Acting Prime Minister told BEIRUT's representative yesterday that twelve out of the fourteen internees in the Ba'albek concentration camp will be released in the next few days.

The Founding Committee of the new Iraqi Petroleum Company's Employees Union announced the following on October 7, 1948:

"We are glad to advise you of the formation of a union for the employees of the Iraq Petroleum Company in the Lebanese Republic in accordance with decision No. 6242 of October 2, 1946. The union's objectives will be:

- 1 - To safeguard and improve the welfare of the employees at the Iraq Petroleum Company and to protect their rights.

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- b - To promote understanding and confidence between the Company and the employees and to foster co-operation among the union members themselves.
- c - To encourage a spirit of helpfulness for the benefit and interests of the union members
- d - To endeavor to raise the cultural, social and financial level of the union members.
- e - The union has no religious, racial or political objectives or characteristics."

AL HAYAT

Kamil Muruwa writes from Paris regarding the possible developments in the event of the outbreak of a third world war. He feels that the Anglo-Saxons will endeavor to protect Spain and Turkey, particularly the latter, in order to maintain their lines of communication in the Mediterranean. He also refers to Greece's strategic position and states that he has heard from a "military commander that the Americans have shipped to Turkey enough arms to equip a large army - the army the Americans will transport by air to Turkey in the event of the outbreak of hostilities. It is also reported that the Americans are stocking atom bombs in Turkey in order to drop them on Russian oil wells at the first instance." Kamil Muruwa then discusses the strategic situation in the Near East and declares that according to the consensus in Paris, the Anglo-Saxons will not be able to withstand the Russian advance on Iran and Iraq and will therefore retreat without fighting to the Suez Canal and East Africa since they will not be able to form a strong military front in the desert. Thus the Russians will cross Iraq, the desert and Syria on to the Mediterranean shores. The allies will concentrate their armies in the new front which they began to form since last year between Egypt, the Sudan and East Africa. These military possibilities, Muruwa concludes, are the principle reasons for the creation of the Eastern Bloc which has been mentioned in world despatches during the past two weeks and in which the Arabs are taking increasing interest following Riadh as-Solh's meeting with Mr. Bevin.

AL HAYAT'S Political Correspondent writes:

"Our contemporary L'ORIENT published yesterday a despatch from George Naqqash in Paris reporting a statement by Riadh as-Solh regarding his activities in Paris and regarding the Arab countries' success in postponing the discussions of the Palestine question until after the deliberations on atomic energy and disarmament are over. He expressed the hope that the voting on Bernadotte's report would be delayed until after October 25, when the American elections will take place for it is hoped that America will then change its attitude on the Palestine question. The writer then went on to comment on the international situation and pointed out that PRAVDA recently

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attacked the Israeli Government because it is oppressing the Stern gang, and implied that Riadh as-Solh anticipates Russia to change its attitude toward the Arabs and that the Arabs are depending on this change. It should be noted that as-Solh did not utter a single word on this subject. I understand that the article has created a stir in Beirut diplomatic circles and that a number of foreign Legations yesterday inquired of the official authorities concerning the validity of these statements. The reply was: The article embodied statements by Riadh as-Solh and comments by Naqqash and it is not possible to mix the two."

#### AL-'AMAL

in commenting editorially on Riadh as-Solh's statement to LE MONDE of Paris concerning the proposed Eastern Bloc, this paper declares that the Lebanese people are not willing to join any bloc<sup>o</sup> that they are already members in UNO and the Arab League which should be sufficient to safeguard Lebanon's international position and participation in the maintenance of peace,

This paper publishes a telegram from the Lebanese emigres in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, demanding that they be registered as Lebanese citizens and that their rights be recognized for representation in the Lebanese parliament on an equal footing with the residents.

#### AL-YAWM

declares that while it has no adequate information to permit it to pass any studied opinion on Riadh as-Solh's statement to LE MONDE concerning the Eastern Bloc, it sees no reason for the storm certain newspapers have created on the subject and for their allegations that Riadh as-Solh has expressed his views only and not the views of the Lebanese people. The editorial then goes on to say:

"We wish to ask the newspapers that have created this storm, If Riadh as-Solh does not represent Lebanon, do they represent it? We wish to ask our contemporaries to abate their extreme claim that they alone represent Lebanon... If Lebanon could speak, it would disown this group which claims it is acting in its interests.

Under a big headline titled: Is it true - How? this paper writes:

"Our special correspondent reports: Activities have, for sometime, been observed in the TAPLEN offices at Beirut. It is understood from a reliable source that the Company will resume its previous work and activities with effect from next month. What is looming on the horizon?"

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TELAGRAPH

publishes a statement by Pierre Jumayyel to the effect that the Phalanges "strongly oppose the Emergency Law which has been inherited from the French regime and resist all police measures which restrict the liberty of the Lebanese people and prejudice human principles. Therefore, the Phalanges demand that the Emergency Law be annulled immediately." TELAGRAPH supports Pierre Jumayyel's statement wholeheartedly.

AL NAHAR

urges the Arabs to take a definite stand on the new Palestine Government so that they might either recognize it or let another body bear the responsibilities.

AMERICAN LEGATION, BEIRUT

October 13, 1948

Review of the Local Arabic Press  
Appearing on October 13, 1948.

BEIRUT'S

editorial space is used by an article contributed by Sheikh Muhammad Tawfiq Khalid, the Mufti of the Lebanese Republic, on the occasion of Id al-Adha. In expatiating on the spiritual significance of this feast on which the Moslems stand on the Mount of Arafat to turn their faces toward God with pure feelings unmixd by racial or other considerations, the Mufti declares in part:

"This stand renews our faith in the future of the spirit in this universe. It engenders our belief that sound and instinctive faith is the noblest feeling. It strengthens our feeling that God is with us so long as we are with Him and that He supports us so long as we support Him. Our strength in creating this unity, which binds us to our Creator, derives from the ties that bind us one to another and from our struggle against our enemies in every field of endeavor: In Palestine firstly and in other places secondly. Our strength arises from our strong unity and unshakeable faith. If we arm ourselves and our community with this strength, we will be able to defeat all the other forces, even the forces that feel they are unbeatable."

This paper reports that Ministers Philip Taqla and Mikhail Liyan will meet today at Shtaura to continue the economic talks; that pessimism is now replacing the optimism which was felt at the beginning of the negotiations; that the points of differences still revolve around the restriction of the imports of certain luxurious commodities; and that the Lebanese side, being conscious of the deadlock, has decided to continue the contacts with the Syrians, leaving the final decision until Riadh as-Solh's return from Paris.

The Central Palestine Committee announced yesterday that the number of Palestinians taking refuge in Lebanon has reached 117,000 including 100,000 living at the expense of the Lebanese Government and the Arab League under the supervision of the Palestine Committee.

Muhyiddin an-Naguli wrote from Paris on October 9 that he was fortunate to meet at ~~Chamille~~ Chamille Palace on that day his friend Kan'an al-Khatib who is residing in London and negotiating with the Saudi Arabians in the name of the Superior Oil Company of California and the Central Mining and Investment Corporation of London. The first company is American and the second British. Al-Khatib is negotiating for an oil concession somewhere along the Persian Gulf coast.

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AL-HAYAT

Kamil Muruwa, who is still in Paris, discusses in today's editorial the reasons for the formation of the proposed Oriental Bloc. He first reviews the relations existing between Turkey, Iran, Greece, the Arab countries, and the Anglo-Saxons and then reaches the conclusion that the Oriental Bloc is now extant separately although the Anglo-Saxons will have to organize it jointly. He then goes on to say that the Anglo-Saxons are receiving full support from Greece, Turkey and Iran and that the Arab states do not find any justification for directly joining the Bloc after they were deceived by the Allied powers in the battle of Palestine. Muruwa continues:

"This is the basic point in the Oriental Bloc project, namely, the point of bargaining in the whole subject. It places the Arabs on the horns of a dilemma, for which they should muster their maximum sagacity and wisdom. War is inevitable. Because of their geographic position, the Arabs will not be able to remain neutral. We can not avoid joining the Anglo-Saxons as was the case in the last war. But what a great difference there is between joining them by our free will and by their entering our territories as conquerors as we regarded them in the last war. These are the only two present possibilities. The illusion of some quarters that we can remain neutral and keep the Anglo-Saxons and the Russians away from our territories is an unrealizable dream. This is because of our geographic position among the three continents and of our importance in the network of sea communication, in sea bases and in petroleum resources. Which alternative shall we choose? Shall we become allies by force or by our own free will. Shall we restrict our alliance to indirect assistance as Egypt, Iraq and others did during the last war, or bind ourselves to an effective and offensive alliance? The answer to this question lies in the answer to the entire Oriental Bloc project. You hear this answer directly or impliedly from the experts, observers, militarists and statesmen at Chaillet Palace. An American journalist told me:

'You might stick to neutrality if you wish. We can use the Jewish state as a military base in the Middle East from which we could expand wherever we want.'

"This view might strike one as sound at the first instance. But the Western Powers need more than one sea base in the Arab East. They need our lines of communication, our wheat, our oil and our men. I say this because I believe that the Oriental Bloc will require the formation of strong armies to be distributed to the anticipated battlefronts and to take part in fighting the Russians. Because the Anglo-Saxons will not be able, in the first phase of the war at least, to send great armies to the Middle East. At any rate, they prefer to win

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our armies to their side so that they might save part of their forces. I do not believe that the Arab countries look upon the Oriental Bloc with ease. Moreover, the Arab peoples, particularly in Egypt and Iraq, revolt every time they hear about any new alliance with the Anglo-Saxons. If the Anglo-Saxons are earnest in their bid to realize this project, they must begin by complying with Arab demands regarding Palestine, Libya and Morocco. It is only then that they will find listening ears. A delegate from South America told me: 'If you do not take part in defending yourselves with the Turks and the Anglo-Saxons, the Russians will overwhelm your countries at a terrific speed.' This statement might be true to a certain extent. But Arab public opinion is no longer sensitive to such matters. It says - following the Palestine blow - with complacency, faith and despair: 'Send your wrath upon us and upon our enemies, O God.'

#### AL-'ANAL

continues its unabated campaign for the registration of the Lebanese emigres abroad as full Lebanese citizens exercising all the political rights and privileges enjoyed by resident Lebanese. Today's editorial is inspired by the demand of the emigres in Rio de Janeiro (reviewed yesterday) for obtaining their rights as Lebanese citizens; and by Riadh as-Solh's statement in Paris, in which he admitted the usefulness of the emigres as follows:

"The Lebanese colonies are highly beneficial not only to Lebanon and Syria, but to all the Arab countries. It is through their good offices that the South American countries have shown sympathy and support in New York and Paris."

AL-'ANAL welcomes the Premier's words of appreciation but wants action. It demands that lip service is not enough and that effective and practical steps must be taken immediately to recognize the emigres as Lebanese citizens. As usual, the paper does not forget to enumerate the assistance the emigres have been extending to their motherland and to the other Arab countries.

This paper publishes an announcement from the Preparatory Committee for the Lebanese Economic and Commercial Conference to be held at the offices of George Kasir October 14, 1948, calling upon merchants and businessmen to take part in the conference in order

"to study the existing economic situation in the light of the current negotiations between Lebanon and Syria. The merchants and experts are of the opinion that the Lebanese trade is being threatened with an unprecedented danger"

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TELAGRAPH

publishes a long despatch from Tawfiq al-Hatni who is now in Paris, reporting his observations in Paris on various Lebanese, Arab and UN activities. He declares that most of the heads of the delegations who attended the banquet of the Lebanese delegates are of the opinion that the outbreak of a third world war is inevitable.

AL-RUWAD

reports that the Government has detained Khairi al-Ka'ki, publisher of ASH-SHARQ in the Nazara prison for trial before the appropriate court under the charge of having violated the Press Law.

AMERICAN LEGATION, BEIRUT

October 14, 1948

Review of the Local Arabic Press  
Appearing on October 14, 1948.AL-'ANAL

strongly reproaches the Syrian press for the abusive language it has been using against Lebanon on the occasion of the current Lebano-Syrian economic negotiations. The editorial bitterly complains that while the "Lebanese press is studying, analyzing and scrutinizing the subject in the light corroborated evidence and actual facts and experiences, most of the Damascus newspapers insist on filling their space with trash, nonsense and absurdities which indicate shortsight and paucity of evidence as well as morbidity and morbid logic."

This paper reviews the progress of the current Lebano-Syrian economic negotiations as follows:

"The most important provisions of the agreement proposed by Syria revolve around the following four points:

- 1 - The period of the agreement will be one year and will expire at the end of September, 1949
- 2 - The Syrian Lira will be regarded as legal tender in Lebanon just as the Lebanese Lira, provided that balances due to Lebanon will be payable in Pounds Sterling.
- 3 - Exports will continue in accordance with the laws and regulations now in force.
- 4 - Imports will be restricted and import licenses will be issued by a Lebano-Syrian committee. Agricultural, industrial and hotel equipment will be exempted from such licenses.

"The Lebanese side found that the first three points were acceptable, after making certain reservations regarding the currency question. Syria has not objected to these reservations. But the fourth point, which is the pivot around which the whole Syrian proposal revolves, has been and still is the obstacle impeding the progress of the negotiations. After consultations with specialists and with the appropriate authorities, the Lebanese side deemed it advisable to reject this point. But, in order to demonstrate its willingness and good faith, the Lebanese side asked the Syrian side to draw up a detailed list of the types of imported commodities it intended to restrict. The Syrian side then drew up a list which included about 150 types of commodities, in other words, all the commodities that feed the

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Lebanese trade. These types ranged from beer and liquors to toilette requisites, clothes and foodstuffs. It was only natural for the Lebanese side to reject this list. It thus asked the Syrian side to re-examine and reduce the list to fifteen or to twenty types at the most, with due regard to Lebanon's position as a tourism and estivation center. Yesterday's talks between the two Lebanese and Syrian Ministers covered the subject of this list. All Lebanese circles are against the idea of restricting or strangling the freedom of imports. The official authorities have grown so pessimistic regarding the possibility of reaching a satisfactory, reasonable and acceptable agreement that they are now even considering placing the question of complete separation on the agenda for discussion. The Council of Ministers will meet today to examine the results the Lebanese Economy Minister might have brought with him from Damascus. We regret to state, in this connection, that the Syrian official, private and press circles have revealed, during the course of the negotiations, certain aims and intentions which go beyond the pale of economics, exports and imports. We therefore appeal to the Lebanese responsible authorities to try separation, for once at least, now that all the experiments for union have failed."

AL-'AMAL reports that the Lebanese and the Syrian Governments have recognized the new Palestinian Government.

#### ASH-SHAFI

publishes a number of articles written especially on the occasion of Id al-Adha, all of which urge the Moslems and the Arabs to struggle for the independence of Palestine. One article is entitled: "The American scheme for exploiting petroleum in the heart of the Arabian Peninsula threatens the holy lands in Hejaz with infiltration of Zionist influence."

This paper reports that its publisher, Khairi al-Khalil, left for Damascus two days ago on his way to Cairo where he will spend a fortnight.

AMERICAN LEGATION, BEIRUT

October 15, 1948

Review of the Local Arabic Press  
Appearing on October 15, 1948AL 'ANAT

again reverts to the question of Lebano-Syrian economic relations. It argues that Lebanon can not exist as an independent state so long as it continues its present relations with Syria, and complains that there is a deep-rooted belief in Syria to the effect that "Lebanon has been created to belong to Syria; that its independence is 'symbolic and temporary'; and that before long 'the Syrian coast and the artificial state' - as the Damascus newspapers express it - will have to complement the Syrian state." After denouncing the Syrian press for its invectives against Lebanon and after pointing out Lebanon's friendly relations with all the other Arab countries and demanding that Lebanon exchange diplomatic representatives with Syria along the line followed with the Arab states, the editorial declares:

"The differences between Beirut and Damascus are taking a new turn because the Syrian press is going beyond the limits of common interests and customs and economic affairs. The veil has fallen away from many a face and the issue has become, in our view, more dangerous than imagined by the appeasers."

The editorial then strongly urges the necessity of economic separation from Syria because, it repeats, the issue is no longer one of revenues and expenditures or losses or profits but of freedom, honor and life. It concludes: "We have been accustomed to give our lives for life and to sacrifice everything for the sake of our existence and survival."

This paper reports that Lebanese merchants and businessmen yesterday attended the General Economic and Commercial Congress which was held at the offices of George Nazir to discuss the situation arising from the current Lebano-Syrian economic negotiations. The Congress adopted the following resolution:

- 1 - The Congress resents any idea calculated to restrict freedom of imports, because Lebanon is an importing, trading and transit center, and because such a measure would totally do away with its most vital economic and commercial resources in the interests of Syria and a small number of Lebanese and Syrian industrialists whose object is to promote their personal interests.

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- 2 - If it would not be possible to reach an agreement with Syria for safeguarding Lebanon's economic and commercial rights and freedom, the Congress would approve the principle of economic independence. Thus the Free Zone system would be introduced in Lebanon and consumption tax would be levied on commodities consumed in Lebanon.
- 3 - To protect industry by exempting the required raw materials; to supervise such industry so that it might benefit from the assistance of experts in improving its products; and to provide awards to products exported abroad.
- 4 - The Congress demands freedom for currency whereby the banks would have the right to deal in foreign currency.
- 5 - The Congress supports the telegram which has been submitted to the President of the Lebanese Republic and to the appropriate high authorities embodying the aspirations of the merchants of Beirut.
- 6 - The Congress has decided to form a permanent executive committee to promote the interests of merchants and to invite them ~~to meetings to be held in the near or distant future.~~ The committee shall comprise: George Gasir, George Kasatli, Elias al-Sayigh, Elias Qashqaji, Muhammad Sinnu, Michelle Khadji and Joseph Walhama.
- 7 - These decisions shall be submitted to the Lebanese high authorities.

TELAGRAPH

Tawfiq al-Ketni, who has returned from Paris, writes in his editorial that after twenty-two days' sojourn in Paris, he has come to the conclusion that the great powers are playing with the small powers just as a child plays with a doll, and that the Western powers and delegates are not showing any interest in the Palestine question.

KUL SHAIR (weekly)

declares that despite all that has been said and written about the new Palestine Government, it is the duty of all the Arab countries to recognize that government, "otherwise we would add a new farce to our many farces in Palestine."

AMERICAN LEGATION, BEIRUT

October 16, 1948

Review of the Local Arabic Press  
Appearing on October 16, 1948.BEIRUT

Muhyiddin an-Nasuli, this paper's Chief Editor, writes from Paris that the Arabs are now concentrating all their efforts on the Palestine question and are trying to delay the UN debate on Palestine until November 2, namely, after the U.S. Presidential elections. An-Nasuli then goes on to say that "America's attitude might change after these elections. This change might be in favor of the Arabs. This is evidenced by a letter Adel Arsalan has received from one of his influential friends in the White House in which he gives him somewhat pleasant news regarding the State Department's attitude toward the Arabs generally and the Palestine question particularly." An-Nasuli then reports a meeting he has had with Prince Faisal al-Sa'ud at the Iraqi Legation in Paris during which the Prince assured him that the last word on Palestine will be left to the Arab peoples themselves.

This paper reports that no definite decisions were reached during Taqla's and Liyan's meeting at Bhamdan last Wednesday regarding the current economic Lebanese-Syrian negotiations; that the two Ministers re-iterated their Governments' desire to continue the contacts; and that the negotiations will remain in their present stage until the return of Riadh as-Solh from Paris.

BEIRUT reports, like the rest of the vernacular newspapers, the arrival in Beirut yesterday of U.S. Ambassador Griffiths "whom the American Government has charged with visiting the Palestine refugees and observing their conditions. He will today visit the refugee camps in the South and in the Bekaa".

AL-HAYAT

Kamil Muruwa continues his discourse on the Oriental Bloc and declares that he is dealing with this subject to the exclusion of the UN proceedings because of its great significance to the Arabs. He reaches the conclusion that "the solution of the Palestine question on the basis of our rights in Palestine is impossible" and that the whole issue has now become a "commodity for bargaining because of the increased threat of war." He maintains that the Jews are prepared to place all their resources and territories in Palestine at the disposal of the Western allies. He gleaned this information, he writes, from American and other correspondents in Paris and declares that the Arabs could counter this by a similar approach because, again he ~~re-iterates~~ re-iterates, "the issue has become a matter of divisions, communications and fronts...all that can ~~say~~ be said is that the war question is overwhelming; all other considerations and the great powers are therefore looking at us through the spectacles of military interests. If the value of our shares has fallen below zero in international politics, that of our military shares is still the subject of bargaining and bargaining."

Questioned by AL-HAYAT's correspondent concerning his opinion on the purpose of the Oriental Bloc, Sami as-Solh replied:

"Obviously, its purpose is to have us join one of the two rival world camps. I don't see what benefits the small and weak countries would derive from leaning toward any one of these camps..."

AL-'ANBAL

again dwells on the subject of the Lebano-Syrian economic negotiations. The editorial repeats its old arguments for economic independence and criticizes the Lebanese administration for its continuous economic appeasement with Syria.

AD-DIYAR

discusses the proposed Oriental Bloc, points out the dangers inherent in this proposal in view of the imminent outbreak of war and wants to know what will be the price "we have to charge for these oppressive and extremely perilous obligations."

LEBANON NEGOTIATION, BEIRUT

October 8, 1948

Review of the Local Arabic Press  
Appearing on October 8, 1948.BEIRUT

reports that the Lebano-Syrian economic talks have now reached their final stage; that Huse Mubarak (Lebanon) and Hasan Jabbara (Syria) are drawing up lists of the commodities that are liable to import restrictions in order to submit them to the two governments next week; that Husain al-Uwaini (Lebanese Finance Minister) is optimistic; and that the Lebanese merchants will soon be invited by Philip Tannir (Lebanese Minister of Economics) to discuss with them the progress of the negotiations with Syria.

AL-HAYAT

publishes a long despatch from Kamil Muruwa, its Chief Editor, who is now in Paris. This despatch is censored in seventeen different places. Muruwa describes his meetings with press representatives of other nations all of whom, he bitterly complains, are deriding the Arabs for their failure to stick together and to fight it out with the Jews. He adds that Arab prestige has never been lower in international circles than it is today. He reaches the conclusion that the Arabs must either accept the partition of Palestine or fight the Jews to the last. He declares in part:

"My visit to Paris has strengthened my belief in the futility of our efforts at UN and in the fact that the only solution for the Palestine question is fighting."

AL-'AMAL

again devotes a long editorial to the subject of the current Lebano-Syrian economic negotiations and urges that it would be in the interests of both countries if each one of them followed an independent customs and economic policy. It declares in part:

"In demanding this independence, we are conscious of, and able to make, all the necessary efforts and sacrifices. Such independence will remove the causes of friction between Syria and ourselves and will be the best safeguard for Lebanon's absolute interests. It will also complete the elements of our political independence and sovereignty. If this is not regarded as significant by others, it is most important in our opinion and belief."

This paper writes that the Lebano-Syrian economic negotiations are now passing through their most difficult phase; that the Lebanese side is maintaining strict silence in anticipation of the final results; that the Lebanese Council of Ministers will meet tomorrow under the chairmanship of President Riach al-Khuri to discuss the progress of the negotiations; and that Riach al-Solh has been asked by certain quarters to

return immediately to Lebanon because of the possible break in Lebano-Syrian economic relations if the negotiations were to continue their present trend. The paper then adds:

"In this atmosphere through which the Lebano-Syrian negotiations are passing, rumors are gaining currency concerning the development of a ministerial crisis in a month's time. Despite the assurances of the Acting Prime Minister that co-ordination is complete among the Cabinet members and that there is no truth in the reports about the existence of differences between the Foreign Minister and the other members of the Cabinet, those who are talking about the crisis base their views on the isolation of the Foreign Minister in such grave circumstances wherein will be determined the fate of Lebano-Syrian relations and the fate of the Palestine and other issues. It was rumored yesterday that Hamid Franjiah is determined to resign immediately upon the return of Premier Riadh as-Solh from Paris. When asked about this rumor, the Acting Premier replied that Franjiah's present absence from his chancery is for convalescence purposes which will last for ten days only."

#### ASH-SHARQ

infers from the present international developments that the tension between the "capitalist and the communist" blocs is increasing and that the world is moving fast toward a third world war. This being the case, the editorial advises the Eastern countries to keep away from future conflicts in which they have no interests and urges the "Arabs and the Asiatics to accelerate their unity under a charter of peace and neutrality which will keep them away from any wars the Westerns might wage outside the Eastern world."

#### AN-NAHAR

is exasperated with the undecided way in which the Lebano-Syrian negotiations are developing and calls upon the responsible authorities in both countries to study the basic causes of the differences in order to solve them in the light of their intrinsic interests once and for all.

#### TELAGRAPH

reports an interview its correspondent has recently had with Camille Shamun and Pierre Jumayyel. As usual, the report is long, windy and contains nothing substantial but the correspondent declares in connection with Shamun's visit to President Bishara al-Khuri

"As we have previously reported, the high authorities have, for the last three weeks, been continuing their

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contacts with Camille Shamun for the purpose engendering national co-operation between the opposition and the Government on the basis of the implementation of the reforms advocated by the opposition. We said that it was intended to change the Cabinet in October in order to have Shamun take part in it. Developments are proving our prediction. It is possible that a Cabinet reshuffle will take place following the return of the Lebanese delegation from Paris. It is also possible that ~~from~~ the present contacts would result in firm co-operation which would lead to the dissolution of Parliament after the UNHCR conference is over, and to the introduction of new general elections next spring."

#### AL-BAYHAQ

also reports an interview its correspondent has recently had with Camille Shamun following his meeting with President Bishara al-Khuri. Camille did not divulge anything but said that he hoped his contacts with the President would be in the welfare of the country as a whole. In answer to a question whether or not he will leave Lebanon, for instance, as a member of the present Lebanese delegation to UN, Shamun replied:

"I will not leave Lebanon before I am assured that the people's demands for reform have been realized. I repeat that I do not want anything for myself. All that I want is to carry out the reforms demanded by the people."

This paper publishes the presidential decree ordering that all materials intended for publication on Palestine and the army be first submitted to the Directorate of Press and Propaganda (summarized in ~~this paper~~ ~~reiterating~~ the Legation's review yesterday) and makes the following comment:

"We want to ask the Government: what does it mean by this new decree? What has it done with the Censorship Law Parliament passed on the eve of the military campaign in Palestine? What is the meaning of this yoke in the neck of the free press? What does it mean by submitting the newspapers to the Directorate of Press and Propaganda? There is already a decree regulating Palestine and military news. What has happened to justify the issuance of this new decree? Will the Government kindly answer our questions."

#### SAWT AL-AHRAR

devotes its editorial to the censorship decree (treated by AL-BAYHAQ above), declares that it is not constitutional because censorship can be imposed by law only, and wonders whether or not the decree is the result of a general measure embracing all the Arab league states.

AMERICAN LEGATION, BEIRUT

October 15, 1948

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BEIRUT

Muhyiddin an-Nasuli wrote from Paris on October 13 that the postponement of the debate on the Palestine question at UN for twenty-three days is regarded as a victory for the Arab delegates at Chaillot. In this connection, An-Nasuli emphasizes that the Arabs will continue to fight for their cause and that they will neither accept Bernadotte's report nor recognize the Israeli state. In telling the Arabs that the ultimate welfare of Palestine is in their own hands, An-Nasuli concludes:

"The battle between spirit and matter will soon begin at Chaillot Palace. Although matter will win the first, second and third rounds, ultimate victory will be for the spirit."

This paper reports that the Lebano-Syrian economic negotiations have been temporarily suspended because of the differences which have arisen regarding the proposed import restrictions. The paper adds that the talks might be resumed after the return of Premier Riadh as-Solh from Paris.

AL-HAYAT

Kamil Muruwwa concludes his series of editorials he has been sending his paper from Paris by pointing out the importance of the Arab countries; by severely censuring the Arab governments for their failure to unite and by declaring in part:

"Imagine, reader, the outbreak of a third world war has become a great possibility while the Arabs have not yet agreed even on unifying their armies to face emergencies. They might do this in future but under Anglo-Saxon pressure. Would we, after this, talk about independence and sovereignty? The selfish ambitions which are directing the Arab cause have dealt decisive blows to this cause in recent years. In view of these blows we tell the Arab rulers whoever they may be: 'You must either unite in one way or another, or one must swallow up the other because continued strife among the ruling royal families has broken the backs of the Arabs.' The Palestine tragedy has revealed the disintegration of the Arab peoples themselves and their pre-occupation with material considerations. It is futile on our part to expect any immediate reaction from them, if severe blows do not fall on the country of each one of these peoples. By God, we now welcome these blows with the hope that misery might renew our lives. I came to Paris in order to seek a solution

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for the Jewish problem. I have found that the only sound solution is the solution of the Arab problem. O Arabs, solve your problem first and the Jewish and the Anglo-Saxon problems will be solved later. It is useless merely to wish to solve our problems if we do not actually endeavor to solve them ourselves. This is the lesson I have learned in these ten days.'

#### AD-DIYAR

Hanna Ghosn, this paper's Chief Editor, writes from Paris that although the general atmosphere in UN has improved in favor of the Arabs, it does not call for great optimism.

This paper criticizes the Lebanese elements that are clamoring for economic separation from Syria and states that these elements are prompted by selfish considerations. The paper advocates continuation of the Lebanese-Syrian economic relations which it regards as essential to the welfare of both countries.

#### TELAGRAPH

does not want Lebanon to join the proposed Oriental Bloc. It declares in part:

"We repeat that we prefer to remain free of all obligations to Eastern or Western blocs because the Arab League is our bloc and because we are contented with the United Nations Organization. We therefore remind those who are receiving their inspiration from others to recall the ~~statements~~ statements the nationalists as well as the government officials made four years ~~ago~~ ago against the conclusion of treaties with foreign powers. Nothing new has transpired to change our views, to oblige us to conclude such treaties, and to hurl ourselves into the furnace of the next war.

#### SAWT AL-AHRAH

declares that the standard of living in Lebanon is much higher than it is in Syria; that Lebanon is a tourism and estivation center which must always be in a position to meet the requirements of its guests; and that the system of free imports into Lebanon must not be impaired.

#### ASH-SHIRA' (Catholic weekly)

discussed the proposed Oriental Bloc and declares in part:

"It is understandable that Greece should endeavor to strengthen itself and to search for support in its efforts to resist its Balkan neighbors. It

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is also understandable that the Arab statesmen, who are in complete harmony with Downing Street, should make efforts aimed at implementing an inspired high policy. But we can not understand that there could be leaders in Lebanon who wish to have their country join one of the two great camps without deriving any direct benefits, or in other words, without definitely knowing that such participation would be demanded by Lebanon's high interests."

AMERICAN LEGATION, BEIRUT

October 19, 1948

Review of the Local Arabic Press  
Appearing on October 18 & 19, 1948.

BEIRUT

On the occasion of Habib Abu Shahla's arrival in Beirut from Paris yesterday, this paper's correspondent interviewed Abu Shahla and learned the following from him about the development of the Palestine case in Paris:

"The situation in UNO is not re-assuring in relation to the Palestine question. But the Arab countries have scored a number of victories. Although these victories are not positive as far as Palestine is concerned, their importance can not be discounted. The credit for these victories goes in great measure to the Lebanese delegation. For example, I mention the postponement of the debate on the Palestine question, Egypt's success in the Security Council, and Arab propaganda efforts.

Abu Shahla then referred to the work of the Arab delegates and declared that they are now concentrating their efforts on the following two points:

"First - To postpone the debate on the Palestine question until after the U.S. Presidential elections

"Second- To prevent Count Bernadotte's report from receiving two-thirds of the votes."

He then said that the Arab delegates have succeeded in realizing the first point and that they are now endeavoring to realize the second.

BEIRUT writes in connection with the Lebano-Syrian economic negotiations that it was felt up to last Saturday that the negotiations would be suspended and that they would be resumed after Riadh as-Solh's return from Paris. But, it continues, Jamil Mardam yesterday phoned Finance Minister Husain al-'Uwaini and asked him to proceed to Damascus to discuss important matters with him. Al-'Uwaini went to Damascus and talked with Premier Mardam for about one hour after which he returned to Beirut and reported to President Bishara al-Khuri. In this connection, BEIRUT reports:

"We have learned from a reliable source that al-'Uwaini brought with him new Syrian proposals containing Syria's willingness to change its attitude toward the importation of certain types of commodities. It is expected that the appropriate authorities will study these proposals with a view to submitting them to the Council of Ministers in the next two days."

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The Palestine Central Committee has decided to form an Executive Council to attend to the welfare of the refugees. The Council will comprise: Elias Haddad, President; Da'ud al-Qasir, Vice-President; George Hushaimi, Archivist.

AL-HAYAT

reminds the Lebanese youths of the great dangers now threatening Lebanon in the international and national spheres and urges them to wake up, to abandon their lethargy, and to enter the field of energetic and organized action.

AL-'ANAL

once more devotes its editorial to the Lebano-Syrian economic differences and again reaches the conclusion, after reviewing the progress of the economic relations of the two countries since the cessation of the French Mandate, that it would be in the interests of Syria and Lebanon if they would annul their common interests agreement.

AN-NAHAR

refers to the reported Jewish attacks in the Negub area in Palestine and declares that in doing so the Jews are trying to hasten the submission of the Palestine question to the General Assembly and the Security Council because they know that time is in favor of the Arabs. The editorial then urges the Arabs to take strong action to frustrate this new Jewish maneuver.

Abdullah al-Yafi, the chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, invited the members of his committee to attend a meeting to be held at Parliament building at 12:00 Wednesday. It is understood that al-Yafi invited Foreign Minister Hamid Franjiah to attend this meeting because he proposes to ask him to enlighten the committee on the Oriental Bloc and Lebanon's adherence thereto, on the progress of the Palestine question, on the condition of the Palestine refugees and on the current Lebano-Syrian economic negotiations.

AD-DIYAR

In deploring the recriminations the Lebanese and Syrian newspapers have recently been exchanging in connection with their governments' economic differences, this paper blames the responsible authorities in both countries for this undesirable state of affairs.

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AL-BAYRAQ

also dwells on the present economic misunderstanding prevailing between Lebanon and Syria and declares that the Lebanese people want their relations with Syria to be based on a principle which would respect the rights of both countries; that any leniency which Syria might show would be reciprocated by Lebanon; and that Beirut's right to free importation must be respected.

SAWT AL AHRAR

declares that it rejects all measures calculated to restrict the free importation of commodities into Lebanon.

AMERICAN LEGATION, BEIRUT

October 20, 1948

Review of the Local Arabic Press  
Appearing on October 20, 1948.BEIRUT

The Chamber of Deputies held the first session of its present term yesterday under the presidency of George Zwain, the eldest member, to elect a new president for the Chamber. The session was attended by 48 deputies and ministers. Those absent were: Riadh as-Solh, Henri Far'on, Yusuf al-Zain, Adil Husayn, Dr. Ra'if Abu al-Lama', Kamal Jumblat and Michelle Mufarrij. George Zwain opened the session by making a long speech in which he reviewed the work accomplished by the Chamber during the last term and said that there was much to be done. For instance, he cited the proposed promulgation of an election law which is being "impeded by most of us because it prejudices our election interests", and the creation of a control department "which I am afraid may not be realized" as it will prevent us from grabbing funds from the treasury to spend them lavishly on travels, banquets, et cetera." Zwain also criticized the manner in which the secret funds were being spent, said there were many "false things lurking in the corners of the State" and reproached the Government for having failed to implement its program of policy, complaining that "certain districts have benefitted from that program while others have not because of the presence of favoritism in the Government and even at this Chamber." Finally, Zwain reminded his colleagues of the necessity of upholding the rights of the Lebanese emigres abroad and hoped that the Government would pardon his frankness which "emanates from loyalty and goodwill." It may be observed in this connection, that Zwain did not make a single reference to the Palestine question. Following this address, Sabri Hamada was unanimously re-elected as President of the Chamber of Deputies. He made a speech in which he thanked the Deputies for their confidence in him and dwelt on the Palestine question. Jibran Nahhas was then elected as Vice-President and Joseph Dhaw and Raf'at Qas'un as secretaries.

BEIRUT makes the following report on the progress of the Lebano-Syrian economic negotiations:

"Several meetings were held yesterday between the Finance Minister, the Economy Minister and Musa Mubarak for the purpose of studying the results of the Finance Minister's visit to Damascus. Musa Mubarak carefully examined the proposals which the Finance Minister brought back from Damascus. This optimism is due to the keen interest President al-Quwatli has shown for maintaining the Lebano-Syrian economic unity to Hamid Franjiah and Hussein al-Uwaini. We were told yesterday by a responsible official that the differences were not limited to one point, namely, import restrictions. The contacts which took place in Damascus the day before brought closer the viewpoints of both sides.

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The appropriate Lebanese authorities are studying the new Syrian proposals and it is possible that this study will be completed today. The Council of Ministers will meet Thursday to examine the results."

AL-HAYAT

deplores the indifference the Lebanese people are showing to the Palestine question, states that the Palestine refugees are suffering from lack of food, lack of clothes and lack of shelter while the people of Beirut are pre-occupied with their usual daily living as if they are in the South Pole and not only a few miles from where these tragedies are taking place. The editorial then declares in part:

"The carelessness which characterizes our entire community will be fatal to us. The time will arrive - it is not distant - when we will be sorry for what we are now doing. We will be homeless ourselves, without food and without drink. We must place this truth before our eyes day and night."

AL-'AMAL

declares that it was surprised when the Chairman of the Parliamentary Foreign Affairs Committee told AL-'AMAL'S representative yesterday that "it appears that the Government regards us as aliens in Jerusalem. It is taking important decisions, recognizing the Palestinian Government and negotiating for the formation of an Oriental Bloc without seeking our views..." The editorial which denounces Parliament as "born crippled after a labor of fearful and suspicious nights" tells the Chairman that he should not wonder at the Government's behavior toward Parliament because it has never referred to Parliament any of the negotiations it has conducted and the decisions it has taken. For this reason, the editorial concludes, "We have always demanded and still demand to wash away this stain of infamy, the stain of May 25..."

This paper writes that 90 typhoid cases have already been reported in Beirut.

TELAGRAPH

writes the following report concerning Ambassador Griffiths' visit to refugee camps in Lebanon:

"We referred previously to the arrival of Mr. Griffiths, the American Ambassador in Egypt. During his brief stay in Lebanon, the American Ambassador contacted a number of government officials. He also made an inspection tour in the refugee areas in the South and the Beqaa. When questioned by TELAGRAPH'S representative regarding the real nature of his mission in Lebanon, the Ambassador replied that he was particularly interested in the refugee question and added: My mere visit to their places and my talks with the refugees made me realize the extent of their pain, of their requirements, and of the assistance necessary for them....I shall

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explain to the American authorities the real condition of the refugees and I hope that the American people will contribute enough funds to provide food, clothes and shelter for the refugees in winter. I also hope that the American press will do its part in urging public opinion to extend aid to these destitute people."

SAWT AL-AHRAR

writes in connection with the current Lebano-Syrian economic negotiations that Lebanon must reject any union with Syria based on controlled economy.

LE JOURNALISTE ERRANT

understands from a high and well-informed source that when Riadh as-Solh met Mr. Bevin, he agreed to the conclusion of a treaty with Britain provided the British would side with the Arabs in the Palestine question.

AMERICAN LEGATION, BEIRUT

October 21, 1948

Review of The Local Arabic Press  
Appearing on October 21, 1948.

BEIRUT

reports that the Council of Ministers held an extraordinary meeting yesterday and discussed the Palestine question and that prior to this meeting the President of the Republic received in audience Majid Arsalan, Minister of Defense and Fu'ad Shahab, the Commander of the Army.

AL-HAYAT

devotes its editorial to the battle of Negeb. The editorial is censored in twelve different places and its meaning is therefore not clear. However, it criticizes the Arabs for their failure to unite and to fight the Jews earnestly. It argues that if the Arabs had sent all their forces to the battlefront, the situation in Palestine would have been different now.

AL-HAYAT'S Parliamentary Correspondent writes that the Parliamentary Foreign Affairs Committee met yesterday and heard Foreign Minister Hamid Franjish speak on Lebanon's general foreign relations. The Minister referred to the policy of the Arab delegates to postpone the debate on the Palestine question at UN; to the recognition of the new Palestine Government by all the Arab governments, except Transjordan; and to reports coming from Paris to the effect that the situation is now developing in favor of the Arabs. The Minister said that the current reports regarding the Oriental Bloc should not exceed the Prime Minister's view in which he favored the creation of this Bloc, although no official talks or negotiations are under way on the subject.

This paper's Special Correspondent has the following to say on the current Lebano-Syrian economic negotiations:

"Despite the masks of optimism which our representatives are putting on their faces, the Lebano-Syrian economic talks have not yet advanced beyond the stage at which they halted. The Syrian Government is still waiting for the Lebanese Government's decision on the matter. Finance Minister Hussain al-Uwaini promised the Syrian Government, when he visited Damascus last Monday, to forward Lebanon's reply Wednesday (yesterday) containing new proposals. The Council of Ministers met last evening to study this matter. It may be mentioned however, that Syria asked that Lebanon's reply be in writing and that the negotiations should, in future, be conducted in writing also in order to avoid situations similar to that which occurred last week when one side retreated and the other hesitated."

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SAWT AL-AHRAR

which criticizes the Syrian newspapers for their attacks against Lebanon in connection with the Lebano-Syrian economic negotiations, reports on page two that its Paris correspondent "understands that the Italian Government has invited Riadh as-Solh to visit Italy formally and that as-Solh has accepted this invitation." The correspondent also understands that the Greek Government has invited Riadh as-Solh to visit Greece formally, that he has accepted this invitation and that he is now arranging to fix the time for these two visits.

AL-BAYRAQ

complains in its editorial that the present lavish government expenditures are leading Lebanon to financial ruin and that Lebanon is unable to continue its extraordinary expenditures on the Palestine question and on the 100,000 refugees.

Camille Shamun will meet President Bishara al-Khuri today in order to submit to him a memorandum embodying the demands of the opposition, headed by the dissolution of Parliament.

Sami as-Solh has declared that the postponement of the Palestine debate at UN until after the U.S. presidential elections, does not call for optimism because all the presidential candidates in America are pro-Zionist and because the Jews are availing themselves of each moment to smuggle arms and men into Palestine.

AL-BAYRAQ writes that Khairi al-Ka'aki has left Beirut in order to escape the pursuit of the government authorities following his publication of an article in Ash-Sharq attacking the policy of the Arab League and its attitude toward Palestine. Al-Ka'aki will be tried in absentia next Monday.

AL-YAWM

strongly criticizes those who are advocating severance of economic relations with Syria, and emphasizes that the continuation of these relations is essential to the welfare of Lebanon and Syria.

AR-RUWWAD

comments editorially on Deputy George Zwain's speech at the Chamber of Deputies and declares that he was "generally severe and cruel in his speech which has been regarded by some people ~~xxx~~ as having violated the customary procedure in these traditional ceremonies. But public opinion has welcomed the speech."

TELAGRAPH

complains against the Government's extravagant expenditure and declares that those who are fortunate in holding parliamentary and ministerial seats think that the public treasury is their own, from which they grab for themselves, their friends, their families and their favorites.

AMERICAN LEXINGTON, BEIRUT

October 22, 1946

Review of the Local Arabic Press  
Appearing on October 22, 1946.

BEIRUT

publishes the following brief report in its editorial space:

"We have received from the Chief Editor of this newspaper who is now in Paris an important message on the present situation. The message, which comprises 94 lines, has been deleted by the Censor in its entirety."

This paper reports that Syrian Finance Minister Walid al-Hariri arrived in Beirut yesterday and called on and discussed with M. Bussan the details of the proposed Franco-Syrian Monetary Agreement. The paper says that no new developments have taken place in connection with the Lebano-Syrian economic negotiations.

The Chamber of Deputies will convene at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, October 26, 1946.

BEIRUT writes that a responsible official at the Ministry of Finance has informed its correspondent that press reports to the effect that the expenses of the Lebanese delegation in Paris have amounted to half a million Lebanese Liras are totally wrong and that the actual amount so far expended by the delegation is 53,000 Lebanese Liras. An official communique will be issued on the subject in due course.

AL-HAYAT 9

editorial is terribly mutilated by the Censor. It deals with the recent Jewish attack on the Negat area in Palestine and declares that "we have been saying since the first truce that the enemy does not want peace and that he considers the cessation of hostilities as a means for preparing himself." The editorial then goes on to say that "we have often warned the Arabs. We are now reaping the results of neglect, our indifference and our cowardice.... We are confronted by an enemy who does not know the meaning of promises and pledges. He has one objective to which he is devoting everything, namely, occupation of the whole of Palestine and expansion to other countries, headed by Lebanon, Syria and Transjordan.... Despite the truce, despite the cease-fire, despite the orders of the Security Council, and under the very noses of the UN observers, the Jews have mobilized great armies.... Our silence is a major crime because our turn will come after Negat. Forwarned forearmed."

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Columnist Basil Daqqad dwells on the development of the Palestine question and warns the Arabs against undue optimism. In declaring that the postponement of the Palestine debate at UN is due to the efforts of the United States and Britain "both of which control at least two-thirds of the UN members", Basil Daqqad states in part:

"It has been said for sometime that the delay of the decision on Bernadotte's report is in itself a great victory for us, on the grounds that the American Government will change its attitude after President Truman gains the Jewish votes. Does this statement constitute a dependable safeguard after having observed the manner in which the Powers are handling the Palestine question and ourselves.... For this purpose, we must hesitate in our optimism over the postponement and its attendant circumstances. For this reason, we have the right to suspect promises and to be on our guard."

AL HAYAT has received the following communique from the office of the Arab High Committee in Beirut:

"KUL SHAI' review has published a report titled KING FARUQ ORDERS ARREST OF GRAND MUFTI OF PALESTINE to the effect that the Egyptian Government desired the Mufti to remain in Cairo during the formation of the Palestine Government but that he took off his religious vestment and replaced it by a soldier's uniform and left for Ghazza.

"It is known that the Mufti went to Ghazza on an Egyptian plane which was placed at his disposal by the Egyptian military authorities. He attended the meetings of the National Assembly as reported by KUL SHAI'. In his first utterances, the Mufti thanked King Faruq for his gracious patronage of the Palestine cause. The Mufti's return was for the purpose of holding an important meeting with a leading Arab statesman prior to his departure from Cairo. The Arab High Committee therefore categorically denies this report. It hopes that the Lebanese press will exercise discretion before publishing news which might confuse public opinion in these critical circumstances."

Translator's note: The above report appeared in today's issue of KUL SHAI' under a banner headline. It states that it obtained the pertinent information from "a leading politician who has recently returned from Cairo and who is known for his wide contacts and experience. The details have also been confirmed by a high Arab source..."

AL-HAYAT'S Roving Correspondent reports the following concerning the dispute which has arisen between the Iraq Petroleum Company and its local employees in Beirut:

"We referred yesterday to the negotiations which have been going on between the Iraq Petroleum Company and its Lebanese employees in connection with the transfer of the Company's offices to Tripoli and with the necessity of providing its employees with living quarters and travel allowances.

"A delegation representing the Company's workers and employees yesterday saw the Minister of National Economy and Social Affairs. The Minister referred them to the Acting Director of Social Affairs who will in turn contact the company in this respect.

"The employees have resented the Company's charge that the communists are having a hand in their movement.

"We have received an announcement from the Company's employees expressing regret that foreign and local exploiting companies have been accustomed to play the communist tune whenever their employees demand fair treatment.

"We have also received an appeal signed by a large number of Palestinian employees in the company resenting the accusation that they are communists and stating that their only concern at the present time is to ~~maintain~~ safeguard their livelihood, that they have nothing to do with the movements attributed to them, and that they do not entertain any political ideologies.

"The Lebanese employees of the company yesterday submitted appeals to the President of the Lebanese Republic, to the President of the Chamber of Deputies, to the President of the Council of Ministers and to the Minister of National Economy seeking their personal mediation so that the company might grant them allowances similar to those the company granted to the employees whom it transferred from Haifa to Beirut."

This paper publishes a statement made by Shukri al-Awadi, the Syrian President, to its Special Correspondent in Damascus. In emphasizing that there would be no severance of economic relations between Lebanon and Syria, despite all the existing differences, the President declared in part:

"In our view, the Palestine question overshadows all other issues. The enemy is continuously mobilizing his forces. He is preparing himself day and night. Would it therefore be possible to say, in view of this situation, that Syria and Lebanon were disagreeing, while the enemy is at the door? Lebanon and Syria are in the fire line. They are the first objective of Zionist expansion. We are separated from the enemy by a few steps only. It is therefore futile to entertain any thoughts other than those of resisting

and destroying this enemy. What will Syria and Lebanon benefit from economics if the enemy will finally swallow all of us? In view of these perils, we must admit that the economic problem between Lebanon and Syria is nothing in relation to the Palestine question. These trivial issues should not overshadow our joint efforts to defend our borders and to save Palestine."

#### KUL SHAI'

describes the plight of the Palestinian refugees in Lebanon and wonders why the Najjadah, the Phalanges, the Palestine Permanent Bureau, the Government, the Municipality and the Ministry of Health are not earnestly endeavoring to aid these miserable refugees before the cold weather sets in. In urging the Government to invoke the confiscation legislation now in force for the purpose of commandeering houses owned by rich people who have not contributed a single cent toward alleviating the plight of the refugees, the editorial declares in part:

"What prevents the Government from using this legislation for commandeering a number of Jewish houses in Lebanon for the purpose of sheltering the refugees. The Palestine refugees have been made homeless by Jewish aggression and by Jewish confiscation of their homes and properties."

This review publishes the picture of Ambassador Griffis, refers to newspaper reports regarding his visit to Lebanon and declares in part:

"As a matter of fact his mission goes beyond this. Although the United States is convinced of the necessity of helping the refugees, it is afraid lest they include communists who may be attempting to exploit the miserable state of the refugees by spreading and engendering the communist ideology. Those who saw Mr. Griffis in al-Qar'awn, Ba'albek and Bint Jubail, noticed that he asked the refugees many questions with the hope of receiving answers indicative of the principles upheld by the refugees. America wishes to restrict its aid to those who embrace democratic principles. It has sent its agents to tour the refugee camps in Egypt, Palestine, Transjordan, Syria and Lebanon. It wanted to confirm their findings and thus delegated Mr. Griffis who did not stay more than forty-eight hours in Lebanon and Syria."

#### AL-'AMAL

welcomes the speech Deputy George Zwain recently delivered in Parliament, quotes liberally from it, and declares that his testimony which is given by a member of a family about his own family constitutes the truest and most positive evidence.

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AN-NAHAR

also devotes its editorial to Deputy George Zwain's speech and states that "it echoes the pain which afflicts the hearts of the loyal sons of this nation when they look at the various aspects of their political life....The fundamental merit of George Zwain's speech is that it is a cry which has arisen from the depths of the Lebanese heart."