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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO.

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Middle East

DATE DISTR. 18 July 1949

SUBJECT Transmittal of Literature

NO. OF PAGES 1

PLACE ACQUIRED

NO. OF ENCLS. 11
(LISTED BELOW)

DATE ACQUIRED

25X1C

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO. *14*

SOURCE

The attached material is sent for your retention in the belief that it may be of interest:

1. Reviews of the Local Arabic Press, Beirut, Lebanon.
2. Daily Reviews of the Syrian Press.
3. Extracts from the Iranian Press.

These attachments are of a free classification.

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*cut out a
file biography
of Zaim*

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AMERICAN LEGATION, BEIRUT

June 25, 1949

Review of the Local Arabic Press
Appearing on June 25, 1949.BEIRUT

addresses an open letter to Colonel Hosni al-Zaim on the eve of his election as President of the Syrian Republic. The letter praises al-Zaim for his undiminishing efforts to regenerate Syria, to strengthen its army and to promote the welfare and prosperity of the Syrian people. It says that the Syrian people's full confidence in him is a mark of their appreciation of his services to them. It tells al-Zaim that all the Arabs are watching him while passing through this phase of his life and that all the Arab youths are with him "because they have found in you the sincerity which is lacking in many an Arab leader, and the zeal for truth which we appreciate..." The letter then concludes:

"The material and spiritual forces of Syria are in your hands. Mobilize them for saving Palestine and for leading Syria to the fields of knowledge, civilization and immortality.

"We congratulate Syria on your presidency. We congratulate you. Lebanon offers you and Syria its love and extends its hand to you and to it so that we will all co-operate in weal and in woe.

"A page has been close in history and a new one has been opened which we hope will be a page of action and not of words, a bright and luminous page..."

BEIRUT writes that many parents of the detained members of the Dawmi Party have complained to it of the imprisonment of their sons and have asserted that their sons joined the Party with a view to serving their country only. The paper takes this opportunity to appeal to the government to release these youths and to give them a chance to withdraw from the Party "since they are ready to renounce its principles."

AL-HAYAT

welcomes the historic meeting between President Bishara al-Khuri and Colonel Hosni al-Zaim yesterday. It refers on this occasion to the atmosphere of ambiguity, indecision and tension which has dominated the relations of the two countries since the coup d'etat and declares in part:

"We are glad that the two leaders are inaugurating this new phase of relations between the two countries and are restoring them to their former state, thus

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rendering a great service to the interests of both countries. They are more than common interests. They are one interest despite reports about separation.

"We thank God that the sentiment of brotherhood and friendship has prevailed in the end....it has therefore become possible for us to look with hope and confidence to future developments, trusting that the relations of both countries would be blessed with tolerance and patience. This will be in the interests of all."

AI-DIYAR

In commenting on the Shtaura meeting of President Bishara al-Khuri and Colonel Hosni al-Zaim yesterday, this paper hopes that al-Zaim has at long last decided to forget his blustering and impetuous policy and to place his country's relations with Lebanon on the basis of understanding and co-operation. The paper says that it looks back with fear to the series of events and deeds which emanated from Damascus in moments of arder and anger and which electrified the Arab atmosphere and weakened Arab policy. It therefore hopes that the responsible authorities in Damascus will bury the past in order to face the future with clean hearts and good intentions. It concludes:

"We are not interested in the talks at Shtaura as much as we are interested in the meeting itself....Now that they have met, they have taken a step forward which we hope will be followed by similar steps from Baghdad. We also hope that the meeting will be followed by other meetings in which the rest of the Arab heads will take part."

AN-NAHAR

In reporting that the Qawmi Party case is still pre-occupying the Government and the people and that the Government is offering a reward of ten thousand Lebanese Pounds to any person who furnishes information leading to the arrest of Antun Sa'ada, this paper says that the authorities have arrested two members of the Information Service at the British Legation in Beirut. They are Habib Shahin and Jamil Sarkis. "It is reported that the first was making preparations to hold a Qawmi meeting at his house."

KUL SHAI' (Weekly - June 24)

publishes the Government's official denial of its last week's report re the negotiation of a treaty of friendship and assistance between Lebanon and the U.S. In stating that reports about the conclusion of a Lebano-U.S. treaty are not new, the paper reproduces an article it published on May 13, 1949 to the effect that American official quarters had pledged to safeguard

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Lebanon's frontiers against any aggression in lieu of its conclusion of an armistice agreement with Israel, and that Dr. Charles Malik felt that the Lebano-American treaty project must be independent of any other question, particularly the Palestine question.

Since that time, the paper continues, the Foreign Minister has not issued any communique denying or confirming the above report. It adds:

"We still remember, in this connection, what most of the Lebanese newspapers, including *KUL SHAI'* had published, namely, the credit for stopping the Jewish attack on the southern frontiers of Lebanon went to the diplomatic efforts of the United States. New understanding with America for preventing aggression against Lebanon's frontiers is therefore not out of place.

"When America intervened to check the Jewish advance on Lebanon's borders, the Jews were weaker and less prepared than they are now. The Arabs were less disintegrated and less disunited. Now, the danger to Lebanon is being daily intensified while the Arab countries are forsaking one another.

"Undoubtedly, the Lebanese Government, which realizes this danger more than others, has proceeded to negotiate with the Great Powers to safeguard its sovereignty and frontiers. We leave it to future events to say their word on the Government's communique!"

In stating that its publishers have been summoned to appear before the law courts because Defense Minister Majid Arslan has lodged a suit against them on account of their attacks on him, *KUL SHAI'* asserts that it will not withdraw the views it has expressed in this regard because ~~it~~ it did so on principle. The paper, however, is full of articles and excerpts from the vernacular press condemning the assault which is reported to have been made on its co-publisher Sa'id Sarbiyya by four followers of Amir Majid Arslan.

TELEGRAPH

devotes a long editorial to the subject of the Qawmi Party in which it condemns the Party and its leader and demands their extermination. It reports on page four that according to its judicial representative

"Mustafa al-Aris, head of the Federation of Unions; George Fraiha, Secretary of the Federation; Yusuf al-Shartuni and Asbar al-Samn, members of the Federation; have been summoned to appear before the law courts for trial on Tuesday, June 28, under the charge that the Federation is not licensed."

It argues, however, that the Federation of Unions has, for several years, been carrying on purely union activities

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and serving the working class with sincerity and sacrifices. It concludes: The fact that the unions have rallied to this Federation is the strongest proof of the workers' right in the Federation which must be supported.

AMERICAN LEGATION, BEIRUT

June 27, 1949

Review of the Local Arabic Press
Appearing on June 26, 1949.

BEIRUT

welcomes in its editorial the recent Shtaura meeting and, in hoping that the other Arab states will take a lesson in co-operation from this meeting, the paper concludes:

"The meeting in Shtaura of the Lebanese and Syrian Presidents is a clear indication that the two countries are closing a chapter in order to open a new one of sincere co-operation in all aspects of life."

In reporting Mr. Pinkerton's and Mr. Boswell's visits to the Prime Minister on Saturday, this paper writes that when the British Minister left the meeting with the Premier, the newsmen surrounded and asked him for news. He answered them: Wait for the arrival of Mr. Pinkerton, the American Minister.

The paper continues:

"Five minutes later, the Prime Minister received Mr. Pinkerton, the American Minister and met with him about half an hour. Upon leaving, our representative asked Mr. Pinkerton whether there was any relation between his visit to the Prime Minister and Mr. Boswell's visit. Mr. Pinkerton asked: Did Mr. Boswell precede me? Our representative replied:

"It appears, Excellency, that the British know more than you do. Sir Boswell has informed us of your visit to the Serai. The Minister stilled but did not answer.

"Our representative asked Mr. Pinkerton about the reasons for his visit to Premier as-Solh. He replied 'It was as-Solh who invited me to see him and told me certain things about which I can not talk to you because he entrusted them to me. If I had asked him for the meeting myself, I would have spoken to you on the subjects we have discussed.'

"The newsmen then felt that it was inevitable for them to approach the Prime Minister, although they knew that they wouldn't get anything out of him.

"Q. What for did the British and American Ministers come to see you, Excellency?

"A. They wanted to see me at the Foreign Office and when they learned that I was here they came to the Serai.

"Q. Then the meeting took place in your capacity as Foreign Minister.

"A. Yes.

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"One of our colleagues asked him whether the meeting dealt with the Shtaura meeting. He replied: We did not discuss the Shtaura meeting. Upon leaving, the Prime Minister told the newsmen to write what they liked about these two visits but on their own responsibilities.

"Our representative asserts, on the basis of reports received from our delegation in Lausanne, that the Prime Minister, in his capacity as Foreign Minister, advised the British and American Ministers of the results of the current negotiations in Lausanne and told them that the Arabs have, in their present talks, been lenient to the limit and that it was impossible for them to accept what the Jews were trying to get: conclusion of peace with the Arabs. He then requested them to convey this information to their respective governments which are interested in the current discussions.

"Undoubtedly, Premier as-Solh discussed with the two Ministers our relations with Britain and America in the light of the Shtaura talks...."

AL-HAYAT

writes the following in connection with the election of Hosni al-Zaim as President of Syria:

"The developments in Syria concern every Arab state. We have already said, more than once, that Syria was and still is, the axis of the Arab countries. It bears the message of the Arab cause more than any other state. For this reason, we trust that the Syrian President would release Syrian energy in this direction, thus rendering everlasting service to Syria and to all the Arabs.

"On the other hand, we ask al-Zaim to continue strengthening the Syrian army, regardless of the efforts and sacrifices involved, particularly as the Syrian army is actually charged with defending three fronts at least against the Jewish enemy. It may be called to do important work in the service of the Arab cause and our common aspirations. It is therefore essential that it becomes an army in the modern sense of the word. Otherwise, the Syrian state would be just a myth."

AL-'AMAL

praises Hosni al-Zaim on the occasion of his election as President of the Syrian Republic and writes in part:

"The Syrian leader has given the Arab world two great lessons: The lesson of his preference to democratic rule - he was able to stick to Czarist undisputed military rule; and the lesson of fairness, impartiality and respect for the people's will. If the Arab peoples would benefit from these two important lessons, the knots of their problems would be untied and their lot would be immeasurably improved....."

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It then says that Lebanon should have given these lessons of democracy but, it complains, the responsible authorities have realized neither Lebanon's message nor their duty toward the Arab countries. Therefore, it concludes, "Let us at least imitate the cleanliness of our neighbor...."

This paper reports that Dr/ Anis al-Saghir, Supreme Chief of the Najjada; and Adnan al-Hakim, Najjada commander in chief; and Sheikh Pierre Jumayyil, Supreme Chief of the Lebanese Phalanges; and Joseph Shadir, its secretary general; left for Damascus Friday last, upon the invitation of President Hosni al-Zaim. The paper describes, with great satisfaction, the reception the Syrian authorities accorded the members of the two organizations and the friendly sentiments President al-Zaim expressed toward Lebanon and its people.

AL-HADAF

On the occasion of the presidential elections in Syria this paper "wishes Syria all prosperity, glory and strength on the basis of this bold move which we hope will spur all the Arab countries to similar speedy moves."

ASH-SHARQ

welcomes the meeting at Shtaura of Hosni al-Zaim and Bishara al-Khuri and regards it as

"a prelude to goodness and prosperity, by which the two Presidents inaugurated the era of stronger relations between the two countries. The Shtaura meeting is great news. It is a blessing.."

SAWT AL-AHRAR

refers in its editorial to a despatch sent from Beirut by Mr/ Collin Reed, the Daily Telegraph correspondent in which he discussed the possibility of the creation of a ~~United~~ union of Arab states under American or British patronage. The paper ridicules the idea and says "The British correspondent's story is like a bomb he is throwing at a time when the plebiscite is on in Syria and when maneuvers are being made along the Syrian frontiers..." It adds:

"The Prime Minister yesterday received the British and the American Ministers. It is probable that he discussed with them the report published in the British paper. We ask the Prime Minister to explain this important point by issuing an official communique to enlighten public opinion which is shaken from time to time by reports and despatches of this kind..."

AMERICAN LEGATION, BEIRUT

June 28, 1949.

Review of the Local Arabic Press
Appearing on June 28, 1949.BEIRUT

complains that the opposition in Lebanon has gone to sleep and has therefore left the field to the Government to do what it likes. It then emphasizes that the opposition that believes in its mission and that believes in its right, "can not feel at ease and can not sleep.....because the painful situation from which we are suffering internally must spur it to double and not to abandon its efforts..." The paper mentions the ceaseless work of the Jews to organize and mobilize themselves and says that "they are working as hard in the summer months as they worked in the winter months without the slightest difference." It continues:

"If the opposition believes that the reforms it is seeking will be effected in September.... we do not share its belief. The drug that has affected the opposition has not affected us. We will oppose even if we remain alone in the field, because we oppose on principle. We oppose not because we want to destroy but because we want to construct, to spread peace, justice and prosperity throughout Lebanon, and to raise the standard of all the Lebanese and not of a few of them whose number is not more than the fingers of both hands.

"We hoped that the opposition would not sleep and would not be affected by the drug.....Will it wake up to this cry and or will it remain inactive in its summer resorts. Time will work against and not for it and the people's confidence in it will be shaken and once confidence is shaken it will be hard to regain it."

Muhyiddin an-Nasuli, the Chief Editor of BEIRUT writes that two days ago, he and Abdullah Mashnuq of BEIRUT AL-MANARA' went to Damascus to congratulate Hosni al-Zaim on his election as President of the Syrian Republic and on the people's confidence in him. An-Nasuli praises Hosni al-Zaim highly, ~~and~~ for his efforts to strengthen the Syrian army and says in part:

"It looked to me, while listening to him talking about the reforms he intended introducing, that I was listening to the father of the Turks, the late Attaturk. His Excellency al-Zaim wishes to follow in his footsteps and to return Syria in a few years into a modern European state...."

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This paper believes that the Government is seriously intent upon uprooting the Qawmi Party because, it writes, in addition to its determination to refer all the Party members who work for the Government, to the State Disciplinary Board

"an extensive campaign will shortly be launched in the various companies operation in Lebanon for determining the employees who belong to political parties. We understand that the Ministry of National Economy, in its capacity as controller of all companies in the country, has communicated with the Surete General and advised it of the necessity of undertaking extensive investigations with the companies to identify those who belong to political parties so that the government will order their immediate dismissal and their replacement by non-party employees. The Surete General has already started on its new work."

AL-HAYAT

writes that in the past, the Syrian government machinery, like the present Lebanese government machinery, suffered from the lack of youthful elements, namely, it entrusted important positions to old and ~~large~~ retrogressive elements only. It continues:

"The Syrian coup d'etat has been effected by youthful officers. They are the pillars of the existing order and the backbone of Syria's modern army. For this reason, we hope that this contagion will pass to the state machinery, at a time when the President and Marshal al-Naim is reconstructing this machinery.

"We will not judge the future by the shape of the Cabinet which was formed in Damascus on Sunday. We will hope that the new President will recommend the adoption of a policy of awakening and reform in the government machinery. If this machinery is not renewed, a large portion of the state's energy would be wasted."

AL-'AMAL

congratulates Syria on its bid for progress and, in wishing that Lebanon would also live up to its reputation as an advanced and democratic state, it asserts that all the Lebanese people demand the formation of a neutral government, the dissolution of the Chamber of Deputies and the holding of free and fair elections, far from the methods which attended the May 25 elections.

AD-DIYAR

laughs up its sleeve at the way Hosni al-Naim has been promoted in a few hours from the rank of a

Colonel to that of a Marshal, expresses skepticism about the high percentage of the people who voted for al-Zaim "this percentage is very high if compared with the percentage of electors in the oldest democratic countries" and declares in part:

"Al-Zaim has become the President of the Republic and the absolute master, authorized by the people to draw up the new constitution. Al-Zaim has become the President of a democratic state. Will the sound democratic system return to the field of practicalities in Syria?....."

"We are ready to bury the past in order to open the door of the unknown future. We congratulate Syria while it is at the threshold of its new era which we hope will be an era of stability and prosperity in which things will return to normal and the numerous restrictions will be removed, restrictions imposed by the unusual military rule, so that thought may enlighten and direct public opinion and so that the Syrians may be assured of their sacred liberties."

"Hosni al-Zaim has become the President of new Syria: The world looks forward to the future of Syria in order to see whether its republic will be a constitutional or a military republic."

AL-HADAF

writes that while the Arab world was, from the time of the Syrian coup d'etat until the election of President al-Zaim, divided into supporting and skeptical groups in view of its occurrence in unsettled circumstances, "public interests demand that we now accept this new era and wish its leader success in implementing his bold program....." The paper then says that the Arab peoples will be glad, after the calamities with which they have been smitten, to see their governments following in Syria's footsteps.

AN-NAHAR

briefly reviews the interval between the coup d'etat and the election of President al-Zaim in Syria and says regarding the Syrian elections: "Although they were formal more than practical, we feel, at any rate, that they truly represented the people's confidence in the man who has changed the conditions of the country for the sake of reforming it.....We believe that no one would doubt that the Syrian people, who elected Hosni al-Zaim yesterday without enjoying the freedom of choice, have sincerely placed their confidence in al-Zaim.....We also feel that al-Zaim will not forget....that government is a trust and that every rule vanishes but the rule of the people.....Let the President of the Republic be confident that the force by which he ruled until yesterday is not the path that leads to the hearts of the people; and that the ruler who would not be shaken by falsehood is the ruler who possesses the hearts of his people....Let Hosni al-Zaim be such a ruler."

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ASH-HARQ

states that it is positive that the Arab countries are being ruled by kings who are obsessed by their crowns only and who are interested in those leaders who serve and promote their welfare before the welfare of their countries. The paper also strongly criticizes the Arab League and says that it has served everything but Arab interests. This being the case, the paper suggests that each Arab country must work within its own scope: by consecrating all their efforts to defending their threatened frontiers until the time comes when each one of them becomes a military camp and a formidable fortress. Thus the Arab world will have a strong defensive-offensive machinery to protect itself against all unforeseen events. It concludes: "Indeed, let these governments make truce with one another just as they have made truce with the Jews.....Let each one of them raise the standard of its own people and strengthen its own army until God sends them a savior who will bring them together under one flag and will unite them into one existence..."

AMERICAN LEGATION, BEIRUT

June 29, 1949.

Review of the Local Arabic Press
Appearing on June 29, 1949.

BEIRUT

again harps on the subject of the government's distraction of the Lebanese people with the Qawmi Party and other issues, demands the dissolution of the Chamber of Deputies, the revision of the Constitution and the Election Law, the overhaul of the government machinery and the spread of sound rule in Lebanon. It emphasizes: "If the opposition is keeping silent for unknown reasons, the people will not forget the Chamber which does not represent them and will not forget the government half of whose members are either touring or come to their offices at late hours." It then points out how Syria is working in earnestness and energy, how justice prevails there and how constructional projects are well under way in Syria. It wonders "Are we different from sister Syria in radiating sound rule, while we rightfully claim that our people are amongst the most intelligent peoples? The responsible authorities must realize that we will not forget the reforms - the peaceful coup d'etat we are seeking - until they become a tangible fact."

AL-HAYAT

carries the following editorial on the smuggling activities in southern Lebanon:

"The most important news which is pre-occupying the people these days, is the brief newsitem which appeared in AL-HAYAT yesterday, reporting the discovery of four bands along the Lebanese southern frontiers which were smuggling foodstuffs into Israel. These four 'bands' are not everything. They are four out of one hundred, and probably out of one thousand bands, groups or cliques serving Jewish interests along the Lebanese frontiers. There is no country more miserable than that whose frontier inhabitants serve its enemy instead of being in the vanguard of resistance against him.

"But to what extent could we blame the frontiers villages? Our government has absolutely neglected these villages. The villagers are without food, because the Jews looted their farms and also occupied their villages last fall. They are without clothes. They are homeless. They are without water. They are without electricity. And there is no one in this state who cares for them or who thinks about helping them. Some of them resisted the Jews at first but ~~they~~ then they lost everything.

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Even now, the government has not compensated them with anything, as if they are not its subjects. Thus, their only means of livelihood is smuggling for the Jews!

"Woe be to the state which disavows its sons in the face of its enemies. Hunger and misery will drive them - by tens of thousands - to serve its enemies at its expense. This is a sickly state. Woe be to the state which commits such blunders, while no one in it feels or thinks of the consequences!

"Indeed, this state is heading toward a collapse if it fails to dress the wounds of its sons and to console them in their calamity so that they will become a wall against and not a hole for the enemy!"

AL-'AMAL

devotes its editorial and almost the whole issue to the birthday anniversary of Pierre Jumayyel, the Supreme Chief of the Lebanese Phalanges. Jumayyel was born on June 29, 1905.

AN-NAHAR

states that now that Hosni al-Baim has become the President and Marshal of Syria and is charged with ruling a whole nation "the best way for him in ruling his people is to take into consideration the various habits and tendencies of the people, particularly the views of the group which refuses to say 'yes, yes' always." The paper implies, in its somewhat vaguely worded editorial, that the Syrian people were not completely free when they voted for President al-Baim and answered the questions put to them in connection with the authorities which they were asked to vest in the Baim for drafting up a constitution, et cetera.

Jibran Hayik, who usually comments in this paper on foreign news, discusses today the reasons for the adjournment of the Lausanne Conference. He says the main reason is due to the fact that the Conciliation Commission "has failed to persuade the Jews of the necessity of implementing UN decisions regarding the repatriation of the refugees; and because the Arabs have refused, in this last phase of the Palestine question, to give up the right of the refugees to return to their homes out of which they have been thrown." The commentator concludes:

"So long as the Arab states are insisting on the repatriation principle, let them insist on repatriating all of the refugees. Let them reject half solutions. Otherwise, they must announce their intention to resettle all the refugees in the Arab countries - the American plan makes it essential for the Arab states to formulate plans for resettling a large portion of the refugees. Thus, they will find a way of escape from concluding a peace treaty with Israel. They will also be

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to prepare a strong army out of the Palestinians who will return to their country by the force of arms and not as servile slaves."

SAWT AL-AHRAB

writes that while it does not want to expatiate on the principles of the Arab Federation which is now being advocated by certain Egyptians in the Arab countries, it wonders how this Federation movement could succeed when the Arab League, which is supported by governments and not by individuals, has utterly failed to reach its goal. However, the paper wishes to point out that "While the members of the Egyptian *delegation* were engaged in establishing branches for the Arab Federation in Lebanon, the Egyptian government was refusing to visae the passports of those who wished to pass the summer in Lebanon. This is contradiction in its truest sense, unless of course, the governmental bodies feel differently from the popular bodies over the relations between states, particularly between sister states." The paper then feels that no Arab effort will succeed if it is not based on goodwill. It adds:

"Before reviving the League, and before establishing branches for the Federation, all barriers must be removed between the countries forming the League. This should be followed by the abolition of passports. Unless these two measures are taken, all other efforts will fail..."

AL-HADAF

appeals to Syria to endeavor to improve its relations with Iraq in the interests of the Arab cause.

TELAGRAPH

writes that it has received copies of letters from many unions which they have addressed to the government protesting against the laws; the responsible authorities have decided to lodge against the Federation of Unions. The paper also reports in another article that it has received two appeals, one signed by 35 women and the other by 50 youths and workers in Beirut, addressed to the Syrian Foreign Office and protesting against the arrest, imprisonment and persecution of free and democratic youths in Syria.

AD-DIYAR

"Colonel Hosni al-Zaim has raised a new storm. We say Colonel, because this storm blew before he became a Marshal and before he was elected during the historical plebiscite as President of the Syrian Republic. This storm started by a statement which he has made to the correspondent of the NEWS CHRONICLE in which he said: 'I will annex Transjordan to Syria after the death of King Abdullah'"

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After the above introduction, the paper complains that the Zaim spoke about annexation at a time when the world is demanding the maintenance of the status quo in the Arab countries and when he is still angry and approaching Britain and America because of Iraq's intentions toward Syria. It continues:

"He raised hell when he said that Iraqi forces were being concentrated along the Syrian frontiers. But he forgot all this in order to announce his determination to annex Transjordan. Why? Because Transjordan is a part of Syria and because he is endeavoring to realize an Arab dream!

"Isn't Iraq allowed to think like al-Zaim? Why does he want to monopolize the realization of the Arab dream? Can't Nuri as-Said and other Iraqi leaders work for annexing Syria to Iraq, or Iraq to Syria, or joining the one to the other in realization of the Arab dream? ~~XXXXX~~ Aren't Iraq and Syria regarded as Arab land? Isn't Arabism stronger than regionalism? If al-Zaim has the right to annex Transjordan to Syria because it is Syrian land, hasn't Iraq the right to annex Syria because it is Arab land?

"Al-Zaim says that the people of Transjordan are dreaming of returning to their motherland. Has he ever thought about the wishes of the Syrians? Does he want to know their national aspirations? Does al-Zaim want to realize the wishes of the Syrians? Those who ~~XXXXX~~ almost unanimously elected the President of the Republic, are burning for the hour in which their aims could be realized. Their aims are clear and known. It is a soft music to the tunes of which Barada goes to sleep every night, and it is a lively music which raises in Euphrates feelings of immortal glory. If al-Zaim has musical ears, let him listen: divine music played by a bedouin in the desert of Mecca. This music has been borne by angels on golden wings and it has been transformed into a yearning in the Arab world!"

AMERICAN LEGATION, BEIRUT

June 30, 1949.

Review of the Local Arabic Press
Appearing on June 30, 1949.

BEIRUT

In urging economic union between Lebanon and Syria and in pointing out that most of the Lebanese economic organizations favor such a union, this paper states in part:

"The Lebanese and Syrian sides must remember, in conducting their negotiations, that Israel is on their frontiers, watching everything and hoping to find a gap in the Lebano-Syrian economic union through which to infiltrate and then to enslave the Lebanese and the Syrians. Economic enslavement is a natural step toward political enslavement."

AL-HAYAT

carries the following editorial on the subject of the Lebano-Syrian economic union:

"It was natural for the merchants and industrialists to back the principle of economic union between Syria and Lebanon. This principle is the only guarantee for the continuation of the natural conditions in the two countries.

"The current talks have revealed a fundamental point in this isue, namely, the absence of specialists. Each side expresses its views through its own interests, and we have not heard any views explaining the issue on the basis of the joint public interests. It is essential for the government to co-ordinate these views and to derive from them a suitable solution. But how could it undertake this task, while it does not have financial and economic specialists?

"We have, during the past five years, sought the assistance of foreign experts. Each one of them submitted his report on the basis of quick and transient surveys. But the country's interests demand the existence of permanent experts to supervise and follow the progress of our economic welfare. We wish if the government would overcome this defect and send missions abroad at its own expense in order to specialize in fiscal and economic matters in readiness for the future.

"However, the Foreign Office's economic conference supported our repeated contention, namely, the economic union between the two countries is a matter of life and death in relation to both countries and it should not therefore be made the subject of any discussion. Therefore, we must reach understanding

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with Syria to place the union principles on practical bases. But these bases must be elastic, so that they might change with economic exigencies and might and might follow the progress of time."

AL-'AMAL

In praising the government's action yesterday by consulting the various commercial and industrial interests in Lebanon re the Syrian economic proposals, the paper wonders whether these interests were qualified to offer scientific opinions on the subject. It complains that it is difficult to determine the real nature of the economic union between the two countries in view of the absence of statistics and studies. It therefore argues that before the economic problems are fully understood, no final decision must be made either for permanent union or separation. It concludes: "In awaiting the results of this scientific study, we recommend the maintenance of the partnership for a limited time sufficient for the necessary studies, provided that some of the provisions of the Shtaura agreement are amended in the ~~meantime~~ meantime, because this agreement has been oppressive to the Lebanese economy and treasury."

AL-HADAF

asks the government to investigate the hundreds of the imprisoned Qawmi Suri youths with a view to their early release because, it states, if these youths were aware of the treason with which the government has indicted their leader, they would have fought and not supported their Party.

Farid al-Tayyara, who contributes brief articles to AL-HADAF on miscellaneous subjects, describes the Truman Plan for aiding under-developed peoples in the following novel manner. This description, according to the writer, also applies to the Marshall Plan:

"It is a long bridge...very long, at the head of which an opened hand is extended towards you. You stretch your hand towards it to the limit, and you get only 'crumbs.' You stretch farther, and behold, the hand closes and the arm withdraws. In stretching your hand farther and farther, you unconsciously find yourself falling into an abyss. A thread like gossamer is then lowered down to you. You hold on to it, and if its holder releases it a bit you are done with..."

"This will be the lot of any country in relation to the American Plan and this is its fate:

"It lends you hundreds of millions of dollars but gives you only little cash. The overwhelming balance will be in the form of dumped, useless and old American goods which you will use as a consumer. You then return the cash to America for American goods while committing yourself to the most important natural resources of your country and restricting them to America....You chain yourself by yourself, willingly,

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for the mirage of aid, recovery and reconstruction.

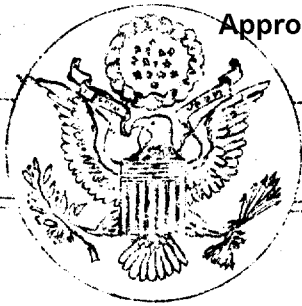
"O God, save us from a 'Plan' whose accounts have been scrutinized by Jews!"

This paper writes that according to reports received from the United States: "Abdullah Salih, our Lebanese colleague, has been appointed as an announcer and translator with the VOICE OF AMERICA. The broadcasting station has selected Salih because of his high education and ability. He went to the United States last year and was a member of the Council of the Union of Lebanese Newsmen."

TELEGRAPH

welcomes President Hosni al-Zaim's statement that he intends to make Syria an ideal democratic state, and declares in part:

"This TELEGRAPH which is anxious to cement the foundations of co-operation and brotherhood between the sister republics and the other Arab states, has been and still is - since the beginning of the Syrian coup d'etat - demanding the immediate revival of the republican system in Syria. Now that this system is revived, we can not but demand the implementation of Hosni al-Zaim's promise to turn Syria into a democratic state where freedom will be granted to all the parties which believe in Syria's independence and in its republican system, so that they may have a chance to serve and strengthen this system and to raise the standard of the people. We wish Syria, in its new era, all progress and prosperity to be attended by sound popular liberties."



AMERICAN LEGATION

= DAMASCUS =

Daily Review of the Syrian Press

The following is an informal digest of material from the local Arabic Press, and is in no way to be considered as an official translation. It should not be quoted nor attributed to the Legation.

No. 121

(FOR STAFF USE ONLY)

PRESS DIGEST, TUESDAY, JUNE 28, 1949.

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NEWSPAPERS REVIEWED:

Alif Ba', Al Nasr, Al Qabas, Al Ayyam, Al Inqilab,
Al 'Alem, al Shabab, and al Jabal.

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DOMESTIC AFFAIRS.

ZAIM'S MESSAGE TO THE SYRIAN NATION:

The following is the text of the message addressed by H.E. Zaim to the Syrian nation following the announcement of the referendum and elections:

My Noble People !

"I have consulted you on all the measures I have undertaken. My sole purpose has always been to please God and to serve your interests. I have consulted you on all my prerogatives since the 30th of March. You have given your view and answered in the affirmative. Regarding the status of the presidency, you have also approved all my proposals. I have invoked and won your esteemed confidence by an overwhelming majority. You have elected me as President of the Republic by your own free and direct will.

"While

"While addressing you, I cannot but feel the sanctity of your will, and express my sincerest gratitude for your confidence in me. It is indeed a great honor to be entrusted with the direction of your affairs. I, therefore, pledge myself to devote all my power, determination, and loyalty, to the realization of the noble mission you have called upon me to undertake. I have no other aim than to do the utmost in the cause of your welfare. My sole objective is the realization of your aspirations for glory and grandeur. I will spare no effort to ensure your progress in all the spheres of intellectual and practical activities. I will do the utmost to find the means which will safeguard your independence, secure your sovereignty, uphold your freedom, preserve your rightful position among the nations of the world, and finally make you impregnable against the designs of the ambitions.

"I should also like to announce to the Arab nation, my determination, inspired as it is by yours, to cooperate with all those who loyally work for the realization of the noble objectives of the Arab league to which the Arabs have for centuries aspired. I also declare my intention to adhere to the principles of democracy, and to serve the cause of justice and peace in the world.

"Finally, while reiterating my gratitude, I salute you all, together with your valiant army, in the true Arab spirit of loyalty, calling upon God to bestow on me his support in my effort to serve your cause and enhance your prospects."

EX-PRESIDENT QUWWATLI LEAVES SYRIA FOR SWITZERLAND:

Al Nasr: Yesterday afternoon, Mr. Shukri Quwwatli the former president of the Syrian Republic, left Damascus by air for Switzerland accompanied by his wife, his son, and two young daughters. He was seen to the airport by lieutenant Colonel, Bahij Kallas, on behalf of H.E. President Zaim. Mr. Faris al-Khuri, Dr. Muhsin Barazi, the Premier, Mr. Lutfi Al-Haffar, Mr. Khalid al-Azm, Mr. Sabri al-Asali, Mr. Michael Elyan, Lieutenant Maitham Kaylani, the Aid-de-camp of his excellency, President Zaim, and several business men and journalists. On getting on board the plane, Mr. Shukri Quwwatli was saluted by a contingent of the police forces". The Syrian national flag was hoisted over the plane.

SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE PRESIDENCY:

Al-Nasr: Al Nasr correspondent has learned that Dr. Khalid Shatila, the former Syrian charge d'affaires in Brussels has been appointed as acting secretary general of the presidency. Mr. Asad Kurani has been appointed as president of the court of cassation, Smeer 'Adil Arslan will be appointed as Minister of Syria to Spain or Brasil

(Pr. Dig. 121/3)

A ROYAL EGYPTIAN DELEGATION ARRIVES IN DAMASCUS:

Al Nasr: Ever since the coup d'etat was effected Egypt has been upholding the new regime in Syria, motivated by its brotherly feelings of friendship and loyalty, and by the noble attitude of H.M. King Faruk towards Syria as represented in the personality of President Za'im. No sooner had the Syrian people centered their hopes and confidence in President Za'im, than a Royal Egyptian delegation arrived in Damascus to congratulate the Syrian President on behalf of H.M. King Faruk.

At 9:15 yesterday (June 26) the delegation landed at Mezza air port. It was headed by General Umar Fathi Pasha, the chief aid-de-camp of his Majesty who was accompanied by Muhammad Yusif Bey, Major Shafiq Muhanna, Hassan 'Akif Bey, H.M.'s special pilot, squadron leader Muhammad Shareef, Mr. Hassan Fawzi al-Habbal, and second lieutenant Abd-al-Majid Numan.

The delegation was officially received by Dr. Muhsin Barazi, the Syrian Premier, General 'Abdullah Atfeh, the Minister of National Defence, and the Secretaries General of the Syrian cabinet and the Foreign Ministry.

The delegation was saluted by two contingents of the army and the gendarmes forces and the police band played the Egyptian and Syrian national anthems.

Later the delegation left the airport for the Orient Palace Hotel. At 12:45 it left the hotel for the presidency in a formal procession headed by the Republican guards.

At one o'clock the members of the delegation had the honor of meeting H.E., the President. They congratulated him on behalf of H.M. King Faruk, on having been elected President by an absolutely free referendum and elections.

At a press conference held at 1:30 yesterday at the Orient Palace Hotel, the head of the delegation said,

"His Majesty, our King, did not hesitate to send a delegation to Syria to congratulate on his behalf H.E. President Za'im and to express his attitude of friendship and goodwill towards Syria. His Majesty has asked us to congratulate President Za'im on the great confidence of the Syrian People in him. I take this opportunity to convey to the Syrian journalists His Majesty's regards and gratitude for the noble attitude they have manifested on the anniversary of his

accession

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accession to throne as well as on other occasions. Prior to our departure from Egypt, H.M. said to us, "Never forget that Egypt and Syria form one single country,"

A simple and short statement but how revealing! when H.M. speaks of Syria he does not refer to annexation or conquest. What he hopes for, he says, is a unity -- a free unity of two loyal sister - states in the cause of mutual benefit and the real interests of the Arab World. I also take this opportunity to express H.M.'s regards and appreciation to the soldiers and officers of the valiant Syrian Army. His heroic ancestor, Ibrahim Pasha, was the first to declare his admiration and appreciation of the Syrian soldiers. It is only too natural that the worthy descendant of a worthy predecessor should reiterate the same admiration. I also salute the noble Syrian people and thank them for their hospitable and cordial reception."

KING IBN SA'UD'S SALUTATION:

Alif Ba': Shaykh Fu'ad Hamzah, King Ibn Sa'ud's Counsellor, and Shaykh 'Abd-al-'Aziz Ibn Zayd, the Sa'udi Arabian Minister to Syria, received a cable from the king instructing them to call on the President of the Republic, Field-Marshal Husni al-Za'im, and congratulate him on his election to the Presidency.

Shaykh Hamzah arrived in Damascus from Beirut and accompanied by the Sa'udi Arabian Minister, Shaykh Ibn Zayd, visited the President and conveyed to him the king's compliments to his person and to Syria wishing him all success and prosperity for Syria.

PRESIDENT'S DRESSES:

Alif Ba': President Za'im was dressed in Morning dress when he proceeded for the first time to the Residence on Sunday morning. Yesterday, Monday, he was dressed in ordinary white suit, and in the after-noon he was in evening dress to receive the Royal Egyptian Delegation. Today it is believed that the President will dress as a Field-Marshal.

ARAB BANK'S CONTRIBUTIONS:

Alif Ba': Malak al-Azmah, the Director of the Arab Bank, informed the President of the Republic during his visit for congratulation of the Bank's decision to contribute to the "Army Day" program 15,000 Pounds Syrian.

AHRAM'S CORRESPONDENT IN DAMASCUS:

Alif Ba': The Egyptian Daily al-Ahram has entrusted Handi Babil, to be its correspondent in Damascus.

AN AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT:

Alif Ba': Two military airplanes collided in the air Sunday while on training flights resulting in the death of Lt. Kamal Nuri, Lt. Jamil al-Zu'bi and two soldiers.

PALESTINIANS CONGRATULATE THE PRESIDENT:

Al Qabas: On behalf of the Palestinian refugees in Syria, the Charge d'Affaires of the Arab Higher Committee in Damascus telegraphed to the President of the Republic congratulating him for his election and reminding him of the "Martyred Palestine which is calling for your assistance to save it from the catastrophe which befell it."

COMMUNISTS IN HOMS:

Al Ayyam: Ten-year old 'Abd-al-Karim al-Jindi was caught by the Police distributing communist tracts in Homs. Upon interrogation this child gave the name of 'Abd-al-Baqi al-Jamali as having instigated him to distribute these tracts. The instigator and a certain 'Abd-al-Shafi' Talambat, also a communist, have been transported to Damascus for trial.

SYRIAN REPRESENTATION IN EGYPT:

Alif Ba': Mr. 'Abd-al-Karim al Muhaffal, an official of the Syrian Legation in Egypt, has emplaned for Cairo returning as Charge d'Affaires of the Legation.

ARAB AFFAIRS

USSR CONCERN OVER REFUGEES:

Al Ayyam: From Beirut comes the information over telephone that official circles in the Capital have become greatly concerned over the visit of the Soviet Consul in Beirut to the Palestinian refugees in Saida.

EXCHANGE

EXCHANGE OF CABLES BETWEEN SYRIAN AND LEBANESE PRESIDENTS:

Al Nasr: His Excellency, Husni Bey Za'im, President of the Syrian Republic - Damascus.

"I have received with great pleasure your Excellency's cable announcing your election by the people as President of the Syrian Republic. It gives me pleasure to congratulate your Excellency, and to cherish the same feelings which you have as regards the friendly relations which link our two sister-states within the framework of the Arab League. On behalf of myself and the Lebanese people I should like to wish you all good luck and happiness, and the Syrian brethren people an everlasting glory and prosperity."

Bshara Khalil Khouri.

In reply His Excellency, President Za'im, has sent the following cable:

"His Excellency, Shakh Bshara Khalil Khouri, President of the Lebanese Republic - Beirut.

I have great pleasure in thanking for your cable of congratulations and your kind feelings and noble attitude towards the Syrian people and my own person, which you have manifested on the occasion of my recent election as President of the Republic. I take this opportunity to wish your Excellency all good luck and happiness, and our sister-state, Lebanon, the perpetuation of glory and progress.

Husni Za'im.

SYRIAN-JEWISH TRUCE NEGOTIATIONS:

Al Nasr: It is now certain that permanent truce negotiations between the Syrian and Jewish delegations will be resumed this morning. Today's meeting will probably be the last or the last but one. The only remaining source of difference relates to the explanation of certain points in the proposals recently submitted by Dr. Bunche, the acting mediator. Dr. Bunche has been asked to give his own explanation on these points, and his reply is believed to have been received. Consequently, it is not unlikely that the negotiations will be terminated to-day by the signing of the truce agreement. There is a rumor that Dr. Bunche has arrived in Damascus to preside over to-day's meeting. This rumour, however, has not yet been confirmed.

WHERE

(Br. Dig. 121/7)

WHERE ARE THE "FREE SYRIANS" OFTEN REFERRED TO BY NURI SAID?

Al Nasr: Now that the results of the historic referendum and presidential elections have been published, it is worth refuting the cheap propaganda of Nuri Said, the Premier of Iraq. The striking and unexpected results of the referendum and the elections will make our task much easier. Can Mr. Nuri Said utter one single word prejudicial to the coup d'Etat and its legality, or to the presidential post of H.E. Za'im and its legality? Has Nuri Said heard of the overwhelming majority which has given its votes in favour of Za'im? Or has he ever heard of any other individual, who, like Za'im, has won the complete support of an entire nation? If he has'nt yet had the opportunity to enlighten himself on these facts, he might well as his consuls and his Minister to Syria. He might even enquire from the officials of the British Legation about the procedure and results of the referendum and elections. He is then bound to realise that there has been no intimidation or compulsion, but absolute freedom characterised by a widespread and determined intention on the part of the Syrian people to elect Za'im.

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DARASCUS RADIO COMMENTARY

June 27, 1949.

Evening Commentary

Holland. The Dutch city of Arnhem, which was almost completely destroyed during the war, is welcoming this summer competent sculptors from six European countries. An open-air exhibition will be organized in a magnificent park. Bushes and trees will be especially planted in order that each piece of sculpture is presented in the best possible atmosphere. In a workshop built especially for this purpose, Dutch sculptors will demonstrate their craft, and visitors will have the opportunity to tour the park guided by the artists themselves. This exhibition has been organized on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Dutch Sculptors League.

Nigeria. The US Government has sent to Nigeria two scientists to participate in the struggle against two of Africa's worst enemies: the tse-tse fly and the mosquito. It is well-known that the Tse-Tse fly carries the sleeping sickness germ and the mosquito that of Malaria. Due to these two insects which infect man as well as cattle, millions of acres of land remain uncultivated.

International News. UNESCO has recently contributed to a report on motion pictures which states that during the last year, 1300 good-length films have been released. The United States which have alone released 1400 films are the most important film producers in the world. Next comes India, which produced 250 films during the last year. These two countries together with France, Mexico, Great Britain, Italy, the Soviet Union, and China, make up 70% of the world's production. These films are as different and varied as are the customs and climates of the countries which have produced them. In Europe and the eastern hemisphere, the average length of a film is 1 hour 20 minutes. In Egypt, China and India, films of two-and-half hours are numerous.

Some films, such as hollywood production have cost millions of dollars; others like those produced in Burma and Turkey have not cost more than \$10,000. In Siam, the technique has been simplified: the film is made with a 16 mm. silent film, while the sound is recorded separately on magnetic wires, and the two are run simultaneously giving the effect of sound films.

Mexico. The recent opening of the National Academy of Music in Mexico has confirmed that this country holds an eminent.....

eminent place in the musical world of Latin America. This Academy occupies a modern building in Mexico. A thousand students are able to study simultaneously in the 80 halls of the Academy. There are also 2 halls for the projection of films and an auditorium in open air which can hold 3500 people.

Peru. Representatives of 15 nations met in Cuzco (Peru) on the 24th of this month to study economic, health, and educational problems concerning the 30,000 Indians of the Western Hemisphere. This second Congress of the Indian Inter-American Institute has been held to raise the Indian's standards of living according to modern scientific and educational methods.

MORNING COMMENTARY

Last week, the corpses of two Arab children were found on the beach of Acre near the quarter of Tub Attuha. The cause of their death could not be diagnosed. But after a post mortem examination, two openings were found at the temples. It was then ascertained that death was due to blood donation. Later, several other corpses were found in the same condition. The blood drawn had been used for the treatment of wounded Jewish officers, and soldiers. Thus the Zionists had not hesitated to commit another terrible crime in the Holy Land.

They know only too well that the big powers are supporting them and in their favor. These big powers have been content with witnessing the realization and development of this State of Israel, the creation of which has meant for the Arabs the end of peace and marked the beginning of an era of violence and unrest. They were able to assassinate the late Count Bernadotte, UN Mediator for Palestine, without any other inconvenience than that of presenting excuses and a report on the circumstances of this tragedy.

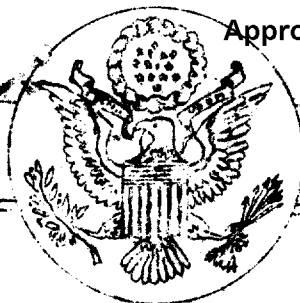
Later, when the Zionists expressed their desire to become a member of the United Nations, they were supported by a large majority.

As regards the Refugees problem, they remained firmly obstinate in spite of the UN decisions. Their only reply was 'No repatriation is possible while the Arabs refuse to make peace.'

They have.....

They have also rejected all the UN projects relating to the internationalization of the Holy City. The Tel-Aviv authorities have decided that Jerusalem should be the capital of the State of Israel. They have spared no effort to establish themselves in this sector of Palestine. They are convinced that the day will come when they can face the world with the fait accompli of becoming the masters of this historic city of both Islam and Christianity. This might be a victory for the Zionists. But at the same time a sad humiliation for the West, and for all Christianity.

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AMERICAN LEGATION

= DAMASCUS =

Daily Review of the Syrian Press

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No. 122

(FOR STAFF USE ONLY)

Press Digest, Wednesday, June 29, 1949.

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NEWSPAPERS REVIEWED:

Alif Ba', Al Nasr, Al Qabas, Al Ayyam, Al Inqilab, al'Alam, Al Shabab, and al Jabal.

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DOMESTIC AFFAIRS.

NEW CONSTITUTION:

Al Alam: Following his agreement to form the cabinet the new Premier of Syria, in a message addressed to H.E. President Za'Im, said that he will comply with the wishes of the people in his efforts to lay down a new constitution reflecting the genius and characteristics of the Syrian nation. He also promised that the new constitution, once completed, will be submitted to the people for approval.

The former constitution is notoriously defective and incoherent. That is why the parliamentary activities under the former regimes followed a subversive course most detrimental to the interests of the nation. The national government, which followed the evacuation of foreign troops,

adopted

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adopted this constitution and introduced various amendments. These amendments, however, increased the defects of the constitution, as they were of a narrow limited nature designed to serve certain personal interests. Under the former regime parliamentary activities were simply an exchange of spoils and interests destined to lead to the self-aggrandizement of a limited number of individuals at the expense of the majority of the people. What the people aim at is the establishment of a true and solid constitutional status impregnable against all corruption and temptation. The position of the members of Parliament must be characterized by a sacred piety and integrity akin to those of the righteous judges. It is the element of piety and integrity that makes the people confident in the justice of their constitution and government.

DETAILS ON THE RECENT VISIT OF THE MONTAZILLEN TO H.E. PRESIDENT ZA'IM :

Al Ayyam: Two days ago, June the 27th, the delegations representing the various Muhs. and districts visited the presidency to express their congratulations and allegiance to H.E. President Za'im.

Addressing the delegation representing the watifah district, H.E. said. "The present new regime is quite different from the former. The poor and the rich will shortly be on an equal footing. Under the new regime the inhabitants of the villages will soon enjoy a state of happiness and prosperity."

At 10:50 H.E. received the delegation representing the Muh. of Aleppo, headed by Mr. Khalil Rifat. Our correspondent could also recognise Dr. Abd al-Rahman Kayyali, Mr. Wahbi Al-Hariri, Mr. Hikmat al-Haraki, Mr. Ahmad Khalil al-Mudarris, Mr. Muhammad Khalil al-Mudarris, the chiefs of the various quarters of Aleppo, and several other notable and former members of Parliament.

Addressing this delegation, H.E. said, "with the gracious assistance of God, I hope I'll be able to realise your expectations. Several projects will soon be materialised with a view to making Syria the richest Arab country. I will spare no effort to transform Aleppo into a spacious garden not less inviting than the gardens of Damascus."

Speaking on behalf of the delegation Dr. Abd al-Rahman Kayyali, thanked the President and expressed the willingness of the inhabitants of Aleppo to conform to the wishes of H.E. which, he said, are always compatible with the interests

of the

of the general welfare.

At eleven o'clock H.E. received the delegation representing the Julian district. Addressing the delegation he said, "Inhabitants of the town of Qunaitra! As a reward to your efforts your district will be transformed into a Muh. to be called, "the Muh. of Julian". I will make of every town on the frontiers a fortified stronghold supplied with all kinds of arms. I will also improve the conditions of the summer resorts in your district.

At 11:10 he received the delegation representing the Ghutah and promised them to comply with all their wishes, drain the marshes, and execute the projects for supplying the Ghutah with electricity and water.

At 11:20 he received the delegation representing Jabal al-Arab, headed by the Muhafiz of Al Suwaida, Mr. Arif al-Nakadi, and composed of, Emir Hassan al-Atrash, Fadl Allah Jarbu Emir Yusif Pasha al-Atrash, and various other distinguished notables and religious personalities. Speaking on behalf of the delegation, Emir Hassan al-Atrash stated that all the inhabitants of al-Jabal are ready to place themselves at the disposal of their President, and to perform whatever duty they might be called upon to undertake.

At 11:25 he received the delegation representing Jazirah composed of Mr. Khalid al-Daghastani, ad head of the delegation Mr. Dahman al-Hadi, Mr. Said Ishaq, Mr. Abd al-Razzak al-Hissn, Shaykh Abd al-Aziz al-Musallat, and several big farmers and former members of Parliament. President Za'im told the members of the delegation that there are several projects which will all be materialised in the course of the next five years after which Jazirah will become a populous and prosperous part of Syria.

At 11:35 President Za'im received the Lattakia delegation headed by the Muhafiz, Colonel Khalid al-Khani, who was accompanied by the members of the chambers of commerce and industry, the members of the Lattakia Port Committee, and the former members of Parliament. Our correspondent could recognise Mr. Badawi al-Jabal, Mr. Asad Harun, Mr. Muhammad Ali Samil, Haj Wasim Yasin, and a few scholars. The President promised the delegation to realise as soon as possible the reform schemes required by the Muh. of Lattakia, notably the Lattakia Port project to which, he said, he will give special attention.

At 11:40 President Za'im received the delegations representing the Muhs. of Hama and the Euphrates headed respectively by the Muhs. Colonel Rafiq Fikrat and Mr. Kamal

Rida

(Pr. Dig. 122/4)

Rida. Among the members of the Hama delegation there were Mr. Farid al-Azm, Bishop Harika, Mr. Najib Agha Barazi, Mr. Abd al-Rahman al-Azm, Mr. Kaif Mulqi, Mr. Adib Nassur, and a few teachers and lawyers. The Euphrates delegation was composed of Shaykh Said al-Jafi and representatives of the biggest families of the Muh. of Euphrates such as the Ayish and Munaidi families.

Later President Za'im received the Homs delegation headed by the Muhafiz of Homs. Mr. Anbari. Among the members of the delegation there were representatives from the various communities and big families of Homs such as the Baslans, the Drubis, the Rifais, the Husseinis and the Jandalis. (Al-Ayyam correspondent makes no mention of any representatives from the Atasi family).

THE LATTAKIA PORT PROJECT:

Al Ayyam: It has been learned that the Syrian Government is attaching great importance to the realisation of the Lattakia Port Project. After an extensive study Alexander Gibb Company has submitted a detailed report on the present situation of the country and its future prospects with regard to the importation of foreign goods and the exportation of Syrian products abroad. The Company has also recommended the Lattakia coast for the construction of the first Syrian port. The construction of the port, in a way as to be suitable for the anchorage of big ships, has been estimated to cost around 28 million Syrian pounds. The government is therefore investigating the best means by which the project can be materialised. A responsible source at the Ministry of Public Works has declared that the government will either stand the expenditure itself or resort to an oil company or one of the local or foreign companies.

THE SYRIAN PREMIER MEETS THE MUHAFIZIEN:

Al Ayyam: At 9:30 this morning June 28, Dr. Muhsin al-Barazi began receiving the Muhafizeen at Government House separately. He discussed with them the present conditions in the Muhs. and the measures to be taken, now that the referendum and elections have been completed. It seems that the Ministry of the Interior intends to make an overall reshuffle of the Muhafizeen so as to meet the requirements of the reform campaign to be conducted in the near future.

The Building

(Fr. Dig. 122/5)

THE BUILDING OF A NEW GOVERNMENT HOUSE:

Al Ayyam: A correspondent of Al-Ayyam has learned that the Syrian Government has decided to build a new government house since the present Serail does no longer meet the requirements of the increasing activities of the cabinet and the various ministries. For this purpose the government has chosen a spot of land in Bagdad Street, of an area of 2500 square meters. The present Government House will be use by the Municipality of Damascus. A world famous architect has been invited to work out the plan in cooperation with Syrian engineers.

BANQUET IN HONOR OF PRESIDENT ZA'IM:

Alif Ba': Egyptian Minister Plenipotentiary 'Abd-al-'Aziz Badr Bey is giving a dinner party in honor of H.E. the President of the Syrian Republic, Husni al-Za'im. All ministers as well as diplomatic personnel in Damascus have been invited to this party.

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS' MEETING: Communique:

Alif Ba': "At 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 28, 1949, the Council of ministers held a meeting under the chairmanship of H.E. the Prime Minister, Muhsin Bey Barazi. A Legislative Decree regulating the executive and constitutional powers until such time as the new Constitution is promulgated and ratified has been passed. Certain political as well as economic subjects were raised and discussed. The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m."

SALE OF WHEAT TO EGYPT:

Alif Ba': A number of experts representing the Egyptian Ministry of Supply has reportedly arrived in Damascus to negotiate the purchase of wheat and white barley from Syria against payment in Egyptian currency.

COMPENSATION OF SUPPRESSED PAPERS:

Alif Ba': Decrees granting indemnities to the suppressed papers have finally appeared. Following is the breakdown of the indemnities:

DAMASCUS: Al Insha' 10,000 LS and 3,500 for printing press; Al Fayha 10,000, Al Rifah 10,000 and 3,500; Al Balad 10,000;

Al Istiqlal al-'Arabi 4,000, and 1,500; Al Akhbar 7,500;
Al Nizam 4,500 and 3,000; Fatta al-Arab 5,000 and 2,500 ;
Al Ahrar 2,000; Radio 2,5000; Al Fan Wal Radio 3,5000; Al Anba'
3,500 and 2,000; Assa al-Jannah 5,000; Al Manar 8,000 and 2,500
Kul Jadid 3,000; Al Mar'a 3,000; Al Ma'arif 3,000; Al Andali
3,000; Al Mukhtar 3,000; Al Jabal 3,000; and Al Yagzah 3,000

ALEPPO: Al Nazir 7,000 Al Hawadith 7,000; Al Tagaddum 7,000;
Al Jihad 4,000; Al 'Alam al-'Arabi 2,000; Al Ittihad 5,000;
Al Berid al-Suri 3,500; Al Waqt 4,000 and 2,500; Heprad (Armenian)
5,000 and 3,500; Al Tarbiyyah 3,000; Al Shahba' 3,000; Martan
Anna 3,000; and Al Liwa 5,000.

HOMS: Al 'Assi 4,500 and 3,500; and Al Nawa'ir 3,000

LATTAKIA: Al Khabar 4,500; Al 'Itidal 4,500; Al Irshad 3,500
Al Sha'ti 2,000; Al Jala' 3,000 and Al Lattakia 2,000.

FOURTH OF JULY AMERICAN ANNIVERSARY:

Alif Ba': Preparations are being made by the American Legation in Damascus to celebrate the 174th anniversary of the Independence of the United States of America.

QUALIFICATIONS OF PRESIDENT ZA'IM:

Al Qabas: Commenting on the election and referendum and semi-official French newspaper, Le Monde, described President Za'im as "a daring person" and capable of gaining supporters against the Hashimite attitude. The paper added that the President has sufficient qualifications to enable him to materialize his dreams and regain the glories attained in the days of Salah-al-Din al-Ayyubi.

ARAB AFFAIRS

PESSIMISM OF THE SYRIAN DELEGATION:

Al Qabas: The Syrian Foreign Office has received a report which clearly shows pessimism around the future of the Palestinian refugees, as the Jews have not shown good intentions toward these displaced Arabs. They have insinuated readiness to indemnify the Arabs against sufficient guarantee from the Arab

States

(Pr. Dig. 122/ 7)

States to shelter them in their own countries. The US policy on the other hand, states the report, frankly supports the Jewish viewpoints, and attempts to persuade the Arabs by promising to extend assistance to the Arab East. In return the U.S. expects the Arabs to accept the 'fait accompli' solution of the Palestinian question and the establishment of 'Israel'.

From official sources comes the information that there are indications of official contacts between the Arab States to study the adoption of a joint action toward this question when negotiations at Lausanne with the Conciliation Commission are resumed after three-weeks of recess.

Alif Ba': Official circles in the Capital labelled as false the news reported by certain news agencies to the effect that the Syrian Delegation to Lausanne will return to Syria shortly in view of the present deadlock in the talks.

SYRIANS IN TJ ARMY!

Alif Ba': According to certain sources the TJ Government has taken the initiative of discharging from the TJ Army all personnel of Syrian origin. "Is this true?", the paper inquires.

BROTHERLY RELATIONS BETWEEN SYRIA, EGYPT, AND SA'UDI ARABIA:

All papers published the texts of telegrams exchanged between President Za'im and each of the Sa'udi Arabian and Egyptian Kings.

ZIONIST ATROCITIES CONTINUE:

Al Alam: It is reported from Cairo that the Zionists have killed and tortured several people during the recent search in the Arab village of Abu-Ghush between Jerusalem and Lydda. Similar crimes were also perpetrated during the police search campaign recently conducted in the Galilee district, notably in Nazareth. Thirty men are reported to have been arrested.

ZIONIST CANCER:

Under the above heading, Editor Munir al-Rayyis compares
the

the noble attitude of King Faruk toward Syria with that of King Abdullah and Nuri al-Sa'id. Whereas the great Egyptian King looks only for the union of the two Arab countries, the "two other neighboring countries" look after annexing Syria which will only serve the Zionist interests, Rayyis points out and adds that Syria welcomes union with Egypt, because it is only through this union that the Zionist cancer could be extracted.

F.GH /JSS/AM/et.

DAMASCUS RADIO COMMENTARY

June 28, 1949.

Noon Commentary

The list of victims of Zionist terrorism in Palestine increases daily. Yesterday, we referred to the cases of the children killed in Galilee, whose corpses were recently discovered in the region of Acre. Later it was reported that sixty Arab civilians had been massacred by Jewish soldiers near the village of Brir, a few kilometers from Gaza.

The details of this incident, given by those who escaped show once again what little heed the Jews give to the fundamental laws of humanity.

A convoy of some 230 Arab merchants and refugees were travelling from Gaza to Hebron. Two women formed part of this caravan train whose only means of transport consisted of camels and donkeys. At a given signal near the village of Brir, a group of Jewish soldiers, probably in ambush, fired with machine guns at these peaceful travellers. No resistance was given, not even a return of fire on the part of the Arabs, who were taken completely by surprise in the middle of the night and had no armed escort. A great slaughter took place. The first volley struck dead a number of Arabs. Others saw themselves savagely attacked, beaten, and robbed of their belongings and baggage. Later they were shot in cold blood. Sixty members of the convoy were thus massacred, the darkness fortunately facilitated the escape of the remainder from certain death.

Some sceptics might believe that this tragic incident has been fabricated to be used for propaganda. These facts however have been reported by the Egyptian authorities to the UN observers who could without any difficulty identify some of the victims, but not all, for a large number of the corpses were thrown into a well, as in the Deir Yassin incident. The Jews have their own methods, and will always adhere to them.

Such is the type of people who now impose their laws over three-quarters of the Holy Land, because the Western Hemisphere believed not long ago that to support the Zionist cause was both judicious and meritorious. They did not hesitate to authorize the Jews of the entire world to invade Palestine,

a country.....

a country Arab to the core, for centuries. They had not the least compunction later in justifying this aggression and giving it seemingly legal status in the eyes of the world by admitting the new-born state of Israel into the United Nations.

Such are the people who may shortly transfer their capital to the Holy City, in order to impress their pretensions over the whole of Palestine as well as their contempt of the UN decisions. In so doing, they will experience a supreme exultation in defying and humiliating Christianity by installing themselves as masters of the Holy Places. It may well be that at that moment the Christian world will shudder with indignation. But it will be too late. In the future, in order to visit the Holy Places, pilgrims from Europe and America, will have to ask for the keys from those at whose hands Christ was crucified.

Evening Commentary

Here is now our evening talk which consists of a short biography of Dr. Muhsin Barazi, the new Prime Minister of Syria:

Dr. Muhsin Barazi is the youngest Prime Minister Syria has ever had. He was born in 1904, at Hama. He studied Law at the University of Paris, where he presented his thesis on 'Islam and Socialism' which was passed with distinction.

Dr. Barazi started his professional career at the Syrian University as Professor in the Faculty of Law. He retained this post until 1944. During this period, he became Minister of Education, during April until September, at a time when Syria was going through a very critical period. Later he was asked to represent his country at the Supreme Council of the Syrian-Lebanese Common Interests. In 1945 Dr. Barazi was entrusted with the responsible and delicate post of Sec-Gen to the Presidency of the Republic, which he held until 1947. He then served as a member of several cabinets, occupying in turn Education, the Interior, Foreign Affairs, and once more Education. At the same time, he was often entrusted with various delicate missions to Arab countries where his strong personality won him the profound and sincere esteem of all authorities.

To complete this biographical sketch of the Prime Minister, it is worth mentioning that he obtained in 1941 the

- 3 -

rectorship of the Syrian University. He is well-versed in Arabic and French literatures. He has an excellent knowledge of English. He is a consummate diplomat, greatly experienced in the external and internal affairs of Syria. He has held also an important role in Syrian politics since the Coup d'Etat of the 30th of March. As Syria's Minister to Egypt and Saudi Arabia, he has contributed much to the strengthening of Syria's position in the scene of international politics.

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AMERICAN LEGATION

= DAMASCUS =

Daily Review of the Syrian Press

The following is an informal digest of material from the local Arabic Press, and is in no way to be considered as an official translation. It should not be quoted nor attributed to the Legation.

No. 123

(FOR STAFF USE ONLY)

PRESS DIGEST, THURSDAY, JUNE 30, 1949.

NEWSPAPERS REVIEWED:

Alif Ba', Al Nasr, Al Qabas, Al Ayyam, Al Inqilab,
Al 'Alam, al Shabab, and al Jabal.

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DOMESTIC AFFAIRS.

US MINISTER AT THE FOREIGN OFFICE:

Alif Ba': The US Minister Plenipotentiary to Syria, Mr. James Keeley, visited the Prime Minister, Dr. Muhsin Barazi, at his office. The visit lasted a considerable time.

From political circles in the Capital comes the news that this meeting was connected with the American efforts being exerted to find a solution for the Palestinian question.

ANNEXATION OF TJ TO SYRIA:

Al Qabas: The Directorate of Publication, Propaganda and Broadcasting in a Communique labels as false the news reported by certain papers that the President of the Republic has announced his policy the annexation of Transjordan to Syria.

VISIT OF PREMIER SULH TO SYRIA:

Al Qabas: A delegation headed by Lebanese Premier Riyad al-Sulh and composed of ministers and senior State officials, is expected in Damascus today, Thursday, June 30 to convey to President Za'im the salutations and congratulations of the Lebanese President of the Republic.

A report

(Pr. Dig. 122/5)

A report from Beirut indicates that the Delegation is also carrying to Syria the Lebanese reply to the three-point Syrian Note. This reply is believed to carry a compromise settlement for the future of economic union with Syria.

EGYPTIAN BANQUET IN HONOR OF PRESIDENT ZA'IM: (Pr. Dig. 122/5)

Al Nasr: General Umar Fathi Pasha, the Chief Aide-de-camp of King Faruk who headed the Egyptian Delegation to Damascus to congratulate President Za'im on his election, received the President at the Party given at the Egyptian Legation yesterday. The President dressed in Field-Marshal's uniform was received at the foot of the stairs and accompanied into the Legation by General Fathi Pasha.

A film showing an Egyptian Delegation distributing King Faruk's gifts to the Syrian soldiers at the front was projected during this banquet.

The Egyptian Royal Delegation is leaving for Cairo by plane today, Thursday, at 2:00 p.m.

Umar Pasha's farwell visit to Za'im: Communique

Al Nasr: At 12:00 Wednesday, June 29, 1949, General Umar Fathi Pasha, King Faruk's Chief ADC visited President Za'im at his Presidential Residence to take leave. The President received him and expressed to him his feelings of gratitude to H.M. the King and bid him and the members of the delegation farewell.

POSTPONEMENT OF ARMY DAY:

Al Nasr: The Supreme Committee for "Army Day" contributions formed by the Muhafazat of Urban Damascus held a meeting today Wednesday, and after having studied various subjects relating to the Army Day contributions, the formation of sub-committees, and establishment of offices in all the Muhafazats, it decided to postpone the "Day" to Saturday, June 2, The first day of every month, from August and on, will be the "Army Day".

CRIMES AGAINST MORALITY INCREASING:

Al Nasr: To clear off the shame, Muhammad Umar Hajir Umari of Ain Figh Village, stabbed his sister to death for her moral misbehavior, and Khashu Muhammad Ali Hasayn, of Khaznah Village, near the Turkish frontiers, assassinated his wife for the same reason. Both criminals are in flight.

A SECOND DIRECTOR TO DGPPB:

Al Nasr: Dr. Adib Nassur, former Deputy for Mama, has been appointed Second Director to the Directorate General of Publication, Propaganda, and Broadcasting. In view of his extensive education, wide knowledge, experience, and firm devotion to

his country, this appointment has met with satisfaction in all circles.

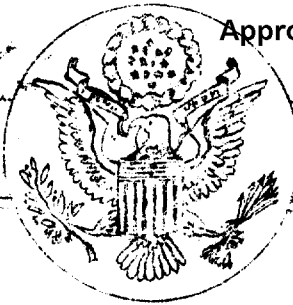
R. GH/JSS/aet.

DAMASCUS RADIO COMMENTARY:

As noon commentary the SBS announced the text of the address delivered by President Za'im to the Syrian People on the occasion of his election to the Presidency of the Republic.

As evening commentary the SBS announced an article entitled Syrian-Lebanese Federation Plan Eastern United States Convention from USIS daily bulletin, of Wednesday, June 29, 1949.

Copies are available at the USIS.



AMERICAN LEGATION

= DAMASCUS =

Daily Review of the Syrian Press

The following is an informal digest of material from the local Arabic Press, and is in no way to be considered as an official translation. It should not be quoted nor attributed to the Legation.

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No. 119

(FOR STAFF USE ONLY)

PRESS DIGEST, FRIDAY, JUNE 24, 1949.

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NEWSPAPERS REVIEWED:

Alif Ba', Al Nasr, and Al Jabal.

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DOMESTIC AFFAIRS

PUBLICATION OF ANGLO-IRANIAN AGREEMENT:

All Papers appeared today in six pages instead of the usual four for the purpose of publishing the full text of the Anglo-Iranian Agreement.

REFERENDUM AND ELECTIONS:

All Papers carried today editorials urging the Syrian People to participate in the referendum and elections. The following by Alif Ba' demonstrates the general tone of the editorials:

"The second historic day in the life of the country

besides

besides March 30, 1949 is June 25, 1949.

In about three months, from March 30 to June 25 what could not be realized during thirty long years was realized in this country.

Citizens will witness in a few months after June 25 greater work and extremely important projects.

On June 25, the Syrian people are called upon to express their desire in steadying a firm and strong rule inspired by the people and for the good of the people.

Citizens in Syria and in the neighboring countries are called upon to exercise their rights in the referendum and election.

Citizens of 18 years of age or over are called upon to answer the five questions of the referendum. The short answers to these questions will represent the free will of the people.

Do not fail to rush to the ballot centers and exercise your right and fulfil your duty."

On the other hand, Editor Najib al-Rayis points out in Al Qabas:

"Although the success of Colonel Za'im on the 25th is certain because there is no other candidate, yet we should reinforce his election by a unanimous vote so as to prove to those who supervise the first referendum in the country that we are fully determined to let the elected President feel that his powers come directly from the people and to make this President remember always that his success in election is due only to the people's faith in him. The more heavy the voting the President will get from the people the more self-confident he will feel. He will certainly feel, most of all, that he is uninfluenced by the deputies' domination and pressure, because alas experience has taught us that most of the deputies had been standing against contemplated reforms.

THE NEW ARMY LAW:

Al Nasr: According to the New Army Law enacted by a Legislative Decree which was passed by the Council of Ministers (See Pr. Dig. 118/4) The President of the Republic will be considered the Commander-in-Chief of all the armed forces. He will be authorized to appoint the Army Chief of Staff

and Unit

(Ex. Dig. 119/3)

and Unit Commander as suggested by the Minister of Defense and approved by the Council of Ministers.

According to the New Law, if the President has had a military career, he will hold the highest military rank, namely that of Field Marshal (Mushir).

NOMINATIONS AT THE UNIVERSITY:

Al Nasr: In its latest meeting the Council of Ministers approved of the appointment of Jalal Zurayq as Director of the Board of Inspection in the Ministry of Instruction, and Dr. Anistas Shahin as the Dean of the School of Medicine of the Syrian University.

A Law governing the practise of medicine in Syria was also passed in this meeting.

SYRIANS ARRIVING TO VOTE:

Al Ayyam: An estimated number of 15,000 Syrians residing in Lebanon are believed to be arriving in Damascus in hundreds of buses and cars to enjoy their right of voting on June 25. This spirit on the part of the Syrians abroad has been met with satisfaction on the part of the Government which permitted them to vote in Damascus regardless of their places of origin in Syria.

AN EGYPTIAN PARTY FOR PRESSMEN:

Alif Ba': The Egyptian Minister, 'Abd-al-'Aziz Badr Bey, invited Damascus pressmen to a party at the Egyptian Legation. After serving them with refreshments the Minister talked to them on the firm relations tying the two sister countries - Syria and Egypt - which have been further strengthened following the meeting of Sa'im with King Faruk at Anshass. The Minister added that the King has ordered him to present to the pressmen the same gift presented to the army officers and men stationed along the Syrian frontier, considering that they have participated in their writing in the war in Palestine. The pressmen accepted the gifts which consisted of sweets in cans, thanked the Minister, and requested him to convey to H.M. the King their deep appreciation and respect.

ARAB

(Pr. Dig. 119/4)

ARAB AFFAIRS.

PUBLICATION OF THE CONCILIATION COMMISSION'S REPORT:

Press reaction on Conciliation Commission's report to the UN summary of which is published by all papers has so far been limited to disapproving headlines such as: Jews Aim at Compelling Arabs to Approve Old Frontiers.... Jews Accept Small Number of Refugees in return for Annexation of New Arab Regions.... Israel wants Expansion.

PAJAJI'S NEW MISSION:

Al Nasr: A report from Baghdad States that Prime Minister Nuri Pasha al-Sa'id has entrusted former Minister Muzahim Pajaji with another mission to Cairo for which he will emplane Saturday, June 25, 1949.

Although complete secrecy enshrouds this new mission, there are indications among political circles in Baghdad that Pajaji's mission to Cairo is connected with the suggestion of Nuri Pasha in his message to the Lebanese Prime Minister, to hold a meeting with the Prime Ministers of Egypt and Lebanon in Cairo.

HOPKINS' PROJECT FOR PALESTINE (Pr. Dig. 118/2)

Al Nasr: It is reported that Mr. Hopkins had offered his project for the settlement of the Palestinian question to the competent Syrian quarters informing them that it was not his conception but that of the "Arab Revolutionary Organizations." He had refused to disclose the names of these organizations, but exposed the names of the official personalities who approved of the project.

ESCAPEE SA'ADI'S WHEREABOUTS?

Al Nasr : The Lebanese Public Prosecutor is believed to have submitted to the Syrian Government, a copy of his report on the accusations addressed against Antun Sa'adih, the Chief of The Syrian Socialist Nationalist Party (Hizb al-Suri al Kawmi) and to have requested his deportation from Syria. In reply the Syrian Government is said to have denied any knowledge of the whereabouts of this person, or any information leading to his hiding place.

F.GH/JSS/aet.

DAMASCUS RADIO COMMENTARY

June 23, 1949.

It has now become evident that H.E. Col. Za'im, the Syrian Premier, is the only candidate for the presidency. Not a single politician has found himself capable of running with H.E. Col. Za'im in the presidential elections which will take place on Saturday, the 25th of this month. Ever since the 30th of last March, which has become a landmark in the history of this country, the Syrian people have not failed to show their deep gratitude and full recognition of H.E. Col. Za'im; recognition of one who has put an end to the former corrupt regimes headed for several years by certain irresponsible politicians; recognition of one whose real promises have finally restored the hope of the people; of one who has been able to realize in less than three months vital reforms in the political, social, and economic life of the Syrian nation; reforms greatly desired by all for many years but which the former regime was not capable of achieving due to the opposition of certain sections and mere inertia resulting from red tape and incompetence; reforms which have finally restored to the working class the zest for life, to the peasants their love of the land, to laborers an interest in their work, and to the youth of Syria their confidence in the future; reforms which have substantially advanced the whole nation toward a new life.

As has been recently pointed out in the Lebanese periodical, 'Al Shira', the sudden appearance of a man of complete integrity as is Col. Za'im on the political scene of Syria has inspired the nation. In a few months, the whole political situation in Syria has altered. Before the Coup d'Etat, corruption, opportunism, and deception used to dominate public life, and the honest, loyal, and frank were forced to remain silent.

Since the succession to power of H.E. Col. Za'im, all has changed. Courage, duty and dignity have recovered their value, and the honest and sincere citizen can now speak freely without fear.

It is for all these reasons that the Syrian people are greeting with great enthusiasm the candidature of H.E. Colonel Za'im for the presidential elections.

Evening.....

Evening Commentary

For the last thirty years, the Western Christian World has been upholding the Zionist cause. This support has been mainly due to a theatrical and sensational propaganda solely designed to exploit humanitarian sentiments to strictly political ends. Quite unaware of the far-reaching results of such an unprincipled policy, the Christian world has given Zionism its whole-hearted support, whether directly or indirectly. Too late, indeed, the Christians have realised what numberless crimes and iniquities can be committed in the name of humanity. Too late, indeed, they have discovered that a Zionist domination of the Holy Land, decidedly means the irreparable loss of the holy places to the Christian World.

But, late though it may be, should the Christian World suffer to see those places, which it has for centuries cherished, and for the same of which numberless martyrs have fallen, slip away undefended from their hands beyond hope of recovery?

Recent reports indicate that Christian circles are viewing with grave concern the attitude of the Jews toward the internationalization of the Holy places, and their complete disregard to the sacrosanctity of the members and properties of the various religious orders in Palestine.

Father Alberto Gori, the Custodian of the Holy Places, has recently addressed a message to the President of the Franciscan order in Rome stating that the Jews are preventing the Franciscan fathers from performing their religious duties. About a month ago, it was reported that the Bishop of Galilee, whose messages had been held up by the Jewish authorities at Nazareth, was not able to conduct any communication by post, telegraph or telephone, without first submitting them to censorship. The Vatican after having been notified of the detainment of the Bishop, decided to conduct the necessary investigation. A few weeks ago, the French Government took a serious ~~xxx~~ view of the Jewish decision to dismiss the Franciscan priests from their monastery at Latrun.

The intransigent attitude of the Jews toward the internationalization of the holy places in Palestine has been

condemned.....

condemned by His Holiness, the Pope and by various other Christian circles. It is reported from Dublin that Irish Catholic priests have expressed their support of the efforts taken by His Holiness the Pope to internationalize the Holy Places in Palestine. They have also asked the Irish Government to withdraw its recognition of Israel, if free access to the Holy Places is not guaranteed.

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No. 120

(FOR STAFF USE ONLY)

PRESS DIGEST, MONDAY, JUNE 27, 1949.

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NEWSPAPERS REVIEWED:

Alif Ba', Al Nasr, Al Qabas, Al Ayyam, al Inqilab,
Al 'Alam, al Shabab, and al Jabal.

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DOMESTIC AFFAIRS.

ELECTION AND REFERENDUM:

During the week-end, the Syrian papers devoted all their columns to publishing detailed reports on the election and referendum. Pictures showing crowds of voters filling in or depositing their ballots freely covered the sixth page of Al Nasr and Alif Ba'.

At 8:00 a.m. Sunday June 26, the Council of Ministers met at the Serail and after examining the proces-verbaux prepared by the Ministry of Interior, the Council announced the following:

Number of eligible electors in Syria:	816,321
Number of participating voters	730,731

Number

Number of voters who voted for Za'im: 726,116

The Council also announced that to question 1 which reads: "Do you agree to the direct election by secret ballot of the President of the Republic for the first time by the people from among Syrians who enjoy their civil rights and are at least 40 years of age when presenting their candidacy, that his election be declared by the Council of Ministers and that the period of office of the Presidency be fixed by the Constitution?" there were 728,720 affirmative votes.

To the second question which reads: "Do you agree to vesting in the president the power to prepare the new constitution by a legislative decree taken by the Council of Ministers within a period not exceeding 4 months consequent to his election provided the new constitution be ratified by the people in a referendum or by Parliament?" there were 727,482 affirmative votes.

To the third question which reads: "Do you agree that the President of the Republic be empowered, pending the preparation and ratification of the new constitution, to issue legislative decrees, including those of constitutional character, taken by the Council of Ministers?" there were 727,435 affirmative votes.

To the fourth question which reads: "Do you agree that the prerogative granted to the President of the Republic specified in question 3 will have retroactive effect on all legislative decrees issued since March 30, 1939?", there were 727,552 affirmative votes.

<u>Al Shabab:</u>	The number of eligible electors in Aleppo:	80,000
	The number of Voters:	70,838
	Voters for Za'im:	70,838
	Affirmative votes for Q.No.1	70,706
	" " Q.No.2	70,274
	" " Q.No.3	70,273
	" " Q.No.4	70,318

Immediately after the announcement of these returns President Za'im, in morning dress and bare head, saluted from the balcony of the Serail the heavy crowds of citizens gathering near the Serail, while the artillery was firing 101 guns.

Cabinet Resignation: Amir 'Adil Arslan, Deputy Prime Minister, submitted the resignation of the cabinet, which was accepted according to Decree No. 1 (New Series). Shortly after the resignation, Damascus State Radio announced the text of Decree No. 2 nominating Dr. Muhsin al-Barazi as Prime

Minister.

(Pr. 100/1)

Minister. Following is the text of President Za'ims letter to Barazi entrusting him with the formation of the new cabinet:

My Dear, Doctor Muhsin al Barazi,

"Now that the noble Syrian people has bestowed on me the great honor of electing me President of the Republic, it pleases me to be sustained by a qualified Government which could fulfill the message of the new regime, namely to serve the state with firmness, integrity, and efficiency, to maintain the country's security and sovereignty, and to prepare for the country a constitution based on the true principles of democracy which could guarantee the respect of general freedoms and in the meantime safeguard the dignity and power of the administration.

"My knowledge of your true patriotism and my experience of your high qualities to serve the general interest have driven me to entrust you with the formation of the cabinet. I pray God to help and assist you." *

THE NEW CABINET:

Dr. Barazi formed his cabinet of the following:

Dr. Muhsin Barazi: Prime Minister, Foreign Minister, Interior Minister.

General 'Abdullah 'Atfi: Minister of Defence.

Nuri al-Ibishi: Minister of Agriculture.

Fathallah Saqqal: Minister of Public Works.

Khalil Mardam Bey: Minister of Public Instruction and Public Health.

Amir Mustafa al-Shihabi: Minister of Justice.

Hasan Jabbara: Minister of Finance and National Economy.

* In reply, Dr. Muhsin Barazi has addressed the following message to H.E., the President of the Republic:

"It is indeed a great honor to be entrusted by you with the formation of the new cabinet, following the recent presidential elections in which the Syrian people, with the utmost confidence in your Excellency, have elected you by a secret ballot as President of the Republic. I take this opportunity to thank your Excellency for your deep confidence in me. I cannot but

pride

(Fr. sig. 120/4)

pride myself on having been nominated by you to undertake the responsibilities of the new regime.

It is only too natural that I will follow your example, and, with absolute disinterestedness, devote my talents and resources to the cause of our country. Under your guidance, I will always take into consideration the wish of the people, in our efforts to lay down the new constitution, which will reflect the characteristics and genius of our people. Once completed the new constitution will be referred to the people for approval. Under your guidance I will follow a policy which will at once uphold the freedom of the people, and secure the dignity and prestige of the government.

From the spirit of our noble people I will derive my power and efficiency. Your loyalty and integrity will inspire me with firmness and a determined intention to cooperate with you in our efforts to realise the aspirations of our people under the new regime.

I shall immediately proceed to nominate the members of the Cabinet over which you have been kind enough to ask me to preside. I shall shortly submit my choice to Your Excellency for approval. I call upon God to direct our steps into the right path. May Your Excellency be kind enough to accept my sincerest respects and regards.

Muhsin Barazi.

Damascus, 30 Shaban 1368
26 June 1949

A COMMUNIQUE ABOUT THE EXPLOSION:

"An explosion took place in a small store in Mezzeah which contained old bombs. It led to the slight wounding of few persons."

THE STORY OF THE COUP:

Alif Ba': On its second page, this paper publishes the development of the various stages of the coup d'etat as related by Lt. Co. Bahij al-Kallas, the Assistant to the Commander of the Army and Armed Forces.

"The Coup was contemplated on the day when Faysal al-'Asali, the Deputy of Zabadani, and the Chief of the so-called Socialist Cooperative Party, attacked the Army in

Parliament.

(Pr. Dig. 120/5)

Parliament. The Commander of the Army gathered around him the senior Army officers at his HQ in Qunaytra and talked to them of the seriousness of the situation, as it has never happened in the history of any country that a member of Parliament attacked the Army in this painful manner. Za'im was furious, and the army was excited. The conversation centered around the "Coup" which in fact dominated their minds.

The faithfulness of Za'im and his devotion to his homeland made him smooth down the atmosphere and contemplate the submission of a "Note of Protest" to the President of the Republic. The Note was then drafted and the Colonel, whom I (Kallas), accompanied, took it on the second day to the President. Za'im handed over the Note and expressed to the President the deep impression which this onslaught had made on the Army officers and men.

We expected a reaction to this note and concern on the part of the President. Instead, the President said: "Is this what has happened to the army? Have the officers begun like the Mukhtars preparing petitions?..." This was a sufficient proof of their indifference and unconcern, although the note actually contained "a final warning". Had they studied it, they would have realized the insinuation in its lines. In addition, rumors were spread the same day to the effect that once the truce was concluded, those officers who signed the Note would "be dealt with."

Realizing the extent of the disgust and discontent among the Army officers and men, Dr. Izzat Tabba' called on the President of the Republic and expressed to him, as a devoted officer in the Army, the pained feelings dominating Army personnel and urged the exhaustion of all efforts to give his attention to the Army Commander and his courageous officers.

The President then ordered my presence. I went to the Residence late at night and talked to him in the presence of Dr. Major Tabba' and advised him to give consideration to the Army's note of protest. The conversation lasted until 1:00 a.m. in the morning. I then proceeded to Nadi al-Safa to dine with Dr. Tabba'. Immediately after my arrival I was called by Col. Za'im. I left at once for Qunaytra which I reached by dawn. In the morning I returned to Damascus with Colonel Za'im.

The situation worsened when, food arrived very late to the units at the front, and when Major Bustani and his colleagues Fu'ad Kurabi, and Hasan Ghanim were arrested. Officers rejected responsible positions preferring penalties for insubordination to the prison fate with their friends. All Army activities were consequently interrupted. The Graduates of the Military Academy were neglected for four months, during which time

(Pr. D. 200/0)

they remained, as warrant officers instead of being promoted as Second lieutenants.

The disgust and pain of Husni al-Za'im reached its climax on March 29, 1949. At 10:00 a.m. he proceeded to Qunaytra, to put the Coup in final form. Everybody inquired about his whereabouts. They were told he was at Qunaytra, at the front lines inspecting the troops, etc..... while in fact he was working out preparations for the Coup. By 3:00 p.m. all telephone and wireless communications connecting Damascus with the outside world were interrupted. Nobody felt the interruption and nobody attempted to inquire!.....

At 11:30 p.m. Col. Za'im left Qunaytra for Damascus accompanied by senior Army officers. I passed the same evening with Captain Hasan al Abid, the ADC of the Prime Minister. Colonel Za'im gave his last orders in details. He ordered a detachment to occupy the Presidency and arrest President Quwwatli, a second detachment to occupy the house of the Prime Minister, a third to take over the Police Directorate, a fourth to enter the Hq of the Gendarmerie, a fifth to arrest the Director of Police and a sixth to arrest the Commandant of the Gendarmerie.

Orders to march were given at 2:30 a.m. and in about one hour the Coup was completed. Col. Za'im arrived at the Police Directorate and called me there. I found Akram Hawrani drafting the communiqués which were broadcast early in the morning. The Colonel then ordered me to call on the President at the Mazzah airport and arrange for his transportation to the Hospital. Looking at the hospital building the President inquired: "Where is the flag?" The army units had in fact orders to hoist the flag early in the morning and lower it at sunset. The time was too early then. This was how an era was closed and a new one set up.....

BIOGRAPHY OF HUSNI AL-ZA'IM:

Alif Ba': Husni son of Shaykh Rida al-Za'im was born in Aleppo 1889. From his maternal side he belongs to a noble Damascene family known as "Kam Almaz" of caucasian origin. His Grand-mother belonged to the well known Kurdish family "Al-Buzo". Completing his preliminary studies in the Muhtasab School in Akyol in Aleppo, Husni Za'im entered al-Rashidiya military school at Farafra as was customary then among the notables. He was then sent to Rashidiya military School in Damascus. His application to the Intermediate Military School was refused in view of his weak complexion and his being underweight. In 1912 his father, Shaykh Rida al-Za'im, went to Istanbul and influenced his friend, Defense Minister late Anwar Pasha, to order the

admittance

(Pr. Dig. 12077)

admittance of his son to the Intermediate School at Aderna. In 1913 young Husni was admitted and then transferred to the Intermediate School in Damascus where he proved intelligent and cunning.

In December 25, 1925 he was sent to Istanbul again to further his military training. He graduated as Warrant officer and was promoted to Second Lieutenant in April 1917 to be sent to Medina to join the military staff of General Fakhri Pasha. He remained there until 1919 when the Ottoman army surrendered. He was imprisoned at Tarra, near Cairo until September 12, 1919 when he returned to Damascus and joined the Arab Army of King Faysal. He resigned later in view of the instability and bad organization of this Army.

In October 15, 1920 he was recalled and sent to the Military School for one year training after which time he was sent to Beirut, and then to Palmyra where he was entrusted with the Command of Meharistes forces.

He served in Palmyra for two years and then requested his transfer on medical grounds. He was given the command of the First Legion's 4th Battalion at Hiyak. In 1924 he was transferred to Homs as First Lieutenant.

In 1928 he was promoted to Captain and entrusted with the Command of a Unit of the Fifth Legion at Alexandretta.

In 1934 he was promoted to Major and sent to France to further his military training. When he returned he was given charge of the fifth Legion which constituted an independent army unit. In view of France's special policy toward the Liwa of Alexandretta, Husni Za'im's pro-national tendencies could not be tolerated by his french superior who ordered his transfer to Damascus and he was charged with the Command of the 3rd Legion.

In 1941 he was further promoted. As a Lt. Colonel Commanding the Army legion of Damascus he fought to the last bullet the English and Free-French invading forces, despite the cease-fire orders which were issued to him. Upon the occupation of the country, he was called to the audience of General Collet who harbored hatred and disgust against this Syrian Commander. He was sentenced to ten years prison by a packed French Military Court. After 27 months of imprisonment and upon the lapse of Collet's power, he was released but placed at enforced residence at Rayfun, a Lebanese summer resort, then at Beirut under close observation. During this period his sentence was re-examined and his rank and honors were restored to him. He returned to Damascus in 1946.

In the same year he was charged with the Command of the

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I am of the opinion that the loss of Palestine has been due, not to international politics, but to the fact that no Arab state could, alone by itself, occupy Palestine.

I intend to make of Syria the stronghold of the Arab movement for liberation. To-day we are not in a position to indulge ourselves in luxuries and enjoyment. We are still in a state of war, and our army is still at the front, liable to be called upon to partake in a trial of strength. The victorious nations in the last war, did not achieve their victory by lethargy or extravagance, but only after having dedicated all their resources and wealth to the machinery of war. The conquered nations, on the other hand, cannot redeem their former prestige and power, except through retioning and making preparations for a new trial of strength. It is in power that the Syrian people have their only chance.

I will devote all my talents and abilities to the services of the people so as to assit them to reach the position to which they have long aspired. The Syrian, Arab, and Foreign states will soon realise that the coup d'etat, far from being a transitory and futile undertaking, is the beginning of an era of glory and prosperity.

At one time, Damascus was the capital of the Arab world. I hope that the realisation of our projects for progress and development, will help her regain its ancient position.

F.GH/JSS/aet.

MOVIES THIS WEEK:

<u>DUNIA</u>	LULU BELLE	Dorothy Lemour and Dennis Morgan.
<u>DIMASHQ</u>	MOTHER WORE TIGHT	Betty Grable and Dan Dailey. (Sunday thru Wednesday)
<u>AIDA</u>	LA COLERE DES DIEUX	Vivien Romance.
<u>AHRAM</u>	SINCE YOU WENT AWAY	Jenifer Jones and Claudette Colbert.