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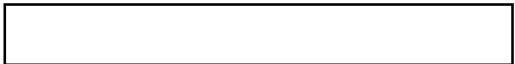
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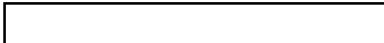


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Daily Reviews of the Syrian Press, and Baghdad Press Items

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LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

DAMASCUS, SYRIA

Daily Review of the Syrian Press

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25X1



No. 52

(FOR STAFF USE ONLY)
Monday, March 20, 1950

Papers Reviewed:

Alif Ba', Al Nasr, Al Kifah, Al Manar, Al-Insha',
Al Ayyam, Al Qabas, Al Jabal, Al Ba'ath, Al Nazir,
Al Alam, Al Shabab, Al Balad, and Al-Islah.

ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

DAWALIBI'S JUSTIFICATION FOR SEPARATION

Al Manar: Dr. Ma'aruf al-Dawalibi, the Minister of National Economy told our reporter that the effect of the separation had been most satisfactory. He stated that a considerable number of Syrians as well as Lebanese importers have already shifted their business to the interior and are contemplating the import of necessary goods via the Port of Latakia.

"The separation policy", the Minister continued, "has also helped the development of industry in the country. It has considerably solved the unemployment problem. As a result of prohibition of the import of competitive foreign goods, the domestic industries have resumed work and recalled their workers. These industries, he added, are running 16 hours and sometimes 24 hours per day to meet the country's requirements".

When asked about the projected Syro-Turkish agreement the Minister stated, "We have agreed in principle on the basis of such an agreement, and are awaiting the detailed agreement which the Turkish Government is preparing as a basis for negotiations".

In reply to a question regarding common interests between Syria and Lebanon, the Minister said, "A joint committee will be set up to liquidate these common interest affairs."

PREMIER'S DECLARATION

Al-Balad, March 18 - On March 17 Premier 'Azm declared that Lebanon, in reply to the Syrian proposal for a unified currency, had suggested that Syria stabilize its currency by securing a strong cover. Lebanon, remarked the Premier, seems to have forgotten that the cover which the Lebanese Government has secured for its currency is due mainly to the Syrian products which Lebanon used to purchase from Syria with Syrian currency and to export them abroad in return for hard currency. It is worth citing the example of the joint decision for preventing the exportation of oil which has been respected by Syria and violated by Lebanon. Instead of complying with this decision, Lebanon has been exporting Syrian oil abroad and receiving its price in dollars and pounds sterling. It is thus evident that it is Syria which has enabled Lebanon to secure an adequate cover for its currency.

As for Syria, it has not been able to secure a sufficient cover for its currency, because it has been spending considerable funds to provide the Syrian Army with military equipment. It should be noted that Lebanon will benefit greatly if the Syrian Army is strengthened and provided with proper military equipment. In the hours of danger the Syrian Army will undertake to defend both Syria and Lebanon. Has Lebanon forgotten that a complete division of the Syrian Army defended the frontiers and inhabitants of Lebanon during the Palestine war and was stationed in Lebanon for several months? Unfortunately, the Lebanese responsible leaders ignored these facts when the Syrian Government proposed the unification of the two currencies.

Al Kifah: Immediately after the adjournment of a meeting of the Council of Ministers at the Foreign Office, the Prime Minister revealed that Hasan Jabbara has been appointed as Director of the Customs Administration and that the Syrian Delegation to the Arab League Council will leave on Thursday, March 23.

GREEN BOOK

Al-Balad, March 18 - The Government is expected to publish a green book explaining the various stages of the Syro-Lebanese economic relations from 1943 until March 15, 1950. The book will be distributed to the members of the Constituent Assembly, and various private and official economic organizations.

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DOMESTIC AFFAIRS

A PRINCE FROM AFGHANISTAN

Al Manar, March 20: H.M. Nadir Shah, the heir-prince to the throne of Afghanistan, was officially received at the Syro-Lebanese frontiers. Dr. Khalid Shatila represented H.E. the Chief of State, and Mr. Walid Majid represented the Foreign Office at this reception. The Muhafiz of Damascus, and the Director of the Syrian Police were also present. The Shah and his cortege were driven to Damascus and accommodated at the Orient Palace Hotel. The Prince is leaving Tuesday morning, March 21.

SYRIAN ARMY AFFAIRS

Al Manar: Colonel Anwar Bannud, the Chief of the Syrian Army Staff, confided to our reporter that the Ministry of Defense is making all the necessary preparations for training the Army. He added that necessary measures have already been taken for military training, and supplying the Army with modern arms and equipment to enable it to encounter any emergency and repel any aggression.

Colonel Bannud also stated that the Ministry is studying the possibility of Army's participation in the implementation of governmental projects, and particularly projects drawn up by the Ministry of Public Works, in order to reduce the treasury's expenses.

Our reporter believes that the Defense Ministry has decided to acquire all Army requirements locally in order to encourage domestic production and preserve the wealth of the country.

It is also reported that the payment in lieu of compulsory military service has been reduced from 700 to 500 Syrian pounds, and that Syrians born in 1931 will be drafted for compulsory service at the beginning of the next month.

PEOPLE'S PARTY CONFERENCE

Al Kifah: The preparatory committee of the People's Party which was set up to make preparations for a party conference, has decided on Monday, March 27, 10:a.m. as the date for the conference.

Invitations to Party members, ministers, and deputies in the Constituent Assembly have been sent. In his capacity as the head of this Party, Rushdi Kikhya is expected to preside over the conference.

DELEGATION TO ARAB LEAGUE

According to Al Masa', the Council of Ministers at its
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meeting.....

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meeting Sunday morning approved the Syrian delegation to the Arab League which is as follows: Premier 'Azm, chairman, and Ministers Dawalibi and Atasi, members.

QUWWATLI AND MARDAM

Al Manar: The Lebanese Government issued today, March 18, an official denial to the story published by certain Beirut papers that it had invited Quwwatli and Mardam to come to Lebanon.

THE POPULISTS AND HINNAWI

Barada: Editor Munir al-Rayyis pointed out today that the attack conducted by Deputy Sa'id Haydar and the Populists against Minister Hawrani at the Constituent Assembly aimed at proving to those who paid millions of Syrian pounds to "erect the crown of colonization in Syria" that they still adhered to "the common cause".

Rayyis then asked those members which raised the subject of Hinnawi, and especially Kikhya, whether the court should acquit Hinnawi just because the Assembly had addressed to him a letter of appreciation. Do they not realize that the man is responsible for the assassination of Za'im and Barazi?

EXPROPRIATION BY TAPLINE

Alif Ba': "The Attorney of TAPline has been instructed to suspend the expropriation of lands in Syrian territory because of the disapproval of the Ministry of Defense", stated the Minister of Public Works, Muhammad al-Mubarak.

Prominent doctors and ordinary Syrians have in a telegram requested the Government to refuse permits to TAPline to expropriate any land whatever. A group from the Kurdish, Abi Jirsh, and Al Sakka quarters assembled in the Shaykh al-'Akbar Mosque sent a telegram supporting the request of these doctors concerning the TAPline expropriation of lands. A certain Muhammad Khayr al-Qadri signed on behalf of these inhabitants.

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT CONFERENCE IN DAMASCUS

Alif Ba': Addressing the conference of the League of Red Cross and the Syrian Red Crescent which was opened at the Syrian University Hall on Saturday evening, March 18, Prime Minister Khalid al-'Azm spoke of the barbaric crimes of the Jews in assassinating Count Bernadotte and dispersing the inhabitants of Palestine. He asked them not to forget the impression which their present condition has made on the refugees. The Premier concluded his speech by pointing out that the only solution for the refugee problem is the repatriation of the refugees to their

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homeland.

During the conference a number of female and male refugees demonstrated in front of the University Hall carrying posters on which were written: "We want to return to our homeland", "We refuse Clapp's projects", "We disapprove of any organization attempting to implement them".

Police soon intervened and prevented the demonstrators from reaching the door of the hall. They returned and proceeded toward the quarters of the Red Crescent where they dispersed themselves. They telegraphed the conferees, "The only solution for the refugee problem is the repatriation of the refugees to their homes, and the implementation of international resolutions regarding Palestine. We disapprove any attempt to implement Clapp's projects."

Count Roget and Mr. Walker called on the Chief of State and the Prime Minister and presented the Medal of "Bernadotte".

Following are the resolutions taken at this conference:

1. To work for the repatriation of the refugees to their homes in compliance with their desires and preference over any assistance that could be extended to them.
2. To employ refugees on short-term projects in order to preserve their human spirit, maintain their moral, and ensure their livelihood.
3. To continue the work of the League of Red Cross Societies in extending help to the refugees:
 - a) To increase the UN allotment for refugees in order to improve their living conditions.
 - b) To expand the participation of local Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in medical aid operations.
4. To attend to the education of refugee children in accordance with education programs followed in Arab countries.
5. To oppose the resolution for terminating relief as of July 30, 1951 and to propose the extension of relief until such a time as the refugees are repatriated to their homeland.
6. To oppose human cruelty in any form in accordance with the principle of humanity on which the Red Crescent and Red Cross Societies are based.

The representative of the Red Cross Societies in the Near East stated that the above resolutions were made in Arabic and translated to the delegates of the Red Cross Societies. The

delegates therefore do not feel responsible for their implementation.

On the other hand, Dr. Shawkat al-Shath, the Secretary of the Syrian Red Crescent, has asserted that the International Red Cross has adopted these resolutions in letter and spirit, but that they will refer the resolution to the Supreme Committee for ratification.

TRIPOLI STILL OPPOSING SEPARATION

Al Nasr: The Director of the Syrian Police has been informed that merchants in Tripoli together with the religious dignitaries visited the Muhafiz of the city to request him to convey to the Lebanese Government their desire to have all separation measures lifted between Syria and Lebanon. The Director of the Police was further informed by a telegram that a delegation composed of merchants from Beirut and Tripoli called on the President of the Lebanese Republic to inform him of the bad market conditions resulting from the separation. Copies of this telegram were submitted to the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Interior.

US ROLE IN ERADICATING A PARTY

Al Insha': Continuing its series of articles on the Syrian Social Nationalist Party, this Nationalist organ reveals the role played by the US Government in destroying this Party. The paper alleges that realizing the extent of French influence and French desires to regain their former position in Syria, the American Legation in Damascus exerted pressure upon the late Husni al-Za'im (who was then negotiating with the Social Nationalists to overthrow the Lebanese Government and occupy it militarily) to compel him to give up his pro-French policy. The paper concludes that the Legation persuaded Za'im to hand over Sa'adi to his executioners.

ARMAMENT OF THE ARABS

Al Manar: March 20 - According to a report from London, an official source denied Jewish allegations that the British Government is intending to revise its policy towards arming the Arab countries.

It is reported from Washington that Mr. Acheson is today the subject of bitter press criticism because he was supporting the British policy of arming the Arab countries.

BOYCOTT OF ARAB DIPLOMATS IN WASHINGTON

Alif Ba': A report datelined Washington March 17 quotes the Egyptian Ambassador as stating that the Arab Diplomats in Washington have refused to attend the annual conference of the Middle East Institute because of the attendance of an Israeli delegate at the conference.

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MOBILIZATION OF FORCES ALONG FRONTIERS

Al Manar: According to an arrival from Lebanon the Lebanese Government has mobilized army and gendarmerie forces at Kar'un, Mashghara, Sahmar, and Toman Mounts which overlook AlShuf district. It is believed that these measures are a precaution against a possible Druze invasion of Lebanon should Kamal Junblat, the brother-in-law of Amir Hasan al-Atrash, and a deputy in the Lebanese Parliament, be apprehended on instructions from Riyad al-Sulh.

SYRO-EGYPTIAN ALLIANCE

Al Insha' carried today an article by Dr. Adib al-Daudi in which he expressed his doubts as to the usefulness of the meetings of the Arab League. He urged the Prime Minister to propose to the Egyptian Government the conclusion of a military alliance between Syria and Egypt which are the only two countries which honestly fought in Palestine and lived up to their obligations towards the Palestinians. He concluded:

"The Egyptian Government should realize that its material aid to the Syrian Army in planes, tanks and guns will benefit both Egypt and Syria, because the Jews would be compelled to divide up their forces on both the Syrian and Egyptian frontiers."

'ABDULLAH'S CONSPIRACY WITH THE JEWS

Barada: This paper reproduced from the Egyptian weekly "Akhbar al Yom" the following documents. (It should be noted that the Egyptian Weekly printed photographs of these documents).

1. A letter in the handwriting of Elias Sason, former Advisor for Eastern Affairs at the Israeli Foreign Office and present Ambassador to Turkey, sent on December 10, 1948 to King Abdullah during the period when the Egyptian Army was fighting in the south, requesting the King to send his assistant to discuss with him the common cause.
2. A letter in the handwriting of the King to Colonel 'Abdullah al-Tal, dated January 1, 1949 ordering him to negotiate with the Jews.
3. A message signed by the King dated March 10, 1949 and addressed to the Israeli Government in which he sends greetings to Shertok and expresses his good intentions.
4. A letter from Shertok to the King dated March 11, 1950 in which he expresses his appreciation to him.
5. A letter from the King to Shertok.

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DEMONSTRATIONS IN ALEPPO

Al Masa': The Aleppo students demonstrated today peacefully in the Aleppo streets and protested against the Jordanian-Israeli agreement.

ABDULLAH ATTACKED

Barada carried today an editorial by Dr. Subhi Abu Ghanimah, the well-known Jordanian leader residing in Damascus, in which he bitterly attacked Abdullah in connection with the documents printed in "Akhbar al-Yom".

APPEAL OF THE REFUGEES

Al-Balad: Refugees residing in Syria and Lebanon sent the following note to heads of Arab Governments and to the Secretary General of the Arab League:

"The Palestinian refugees in Syria and Lebanon express their concern and fears about the Congress of the Leagues of Red Cross and Red Crescent in Damascus beginning on the 17th of March, 1950. The meeting at this time is but a continuation of foreign colonial attempts to realize the projects of the Clapp Economic Mission which the Arab States rejected and which the refugees themselves reject.

"The foreign states hidden behind the Congress who created "Israel" and who protect her, will exploit the work of the Congress for the implementation of the Clapp projects and refugee assistance and for imperialistic projects which these states have already refused.

"The refugees believe that the Clapp projects definitely aim at the separation of the refugees from their homes and for the economic colonization of the Arab States by Zionist capital and the creation of cooperation between Israel and the Arab States. The refugees believe that foreign colonial projects because of their nature and aims can never be Arab National projects unless their implementation be by National groups.

"For these reasons the refugees ask the Arab Governments to be watchful and that public opinion in the Arab States not be taken in by these foreign methods which hide behind a guise of humanitarianism and goodness to implement their program and imperialistic aims. All Arabs and groups must warn against being taken in by foreign, Zionist and imperialist inducements and justifications to sacrifice the interests and rights of the refugees for the greed of some individuals and groups."

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CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY, Meeting of March 13, 1950

A bill on the budget of the Constituent Assembly was read.

Siba'i (M.B.) proposed the reduction of the deputies' salaries by 25 % and was supported by Sa'id Haydar and Hasan al-Hakim.

Ra'if Milqi (Hama- Ind) objected arguing that an unmarried deputy who normally resides in Damascus does not need a salary, because he lives with his parents, whereas non-Damascene married deputies incur great expenses. Milqi proposed a re-adjustment of salaries on this basis and was supported by Barazi.

Siba'i: If I am a bachelor that does not mean that I have no expenses. There are many bachelors who spend more than married people. He was interrupted by Farid Mirhij who remarked: "Of course, bachelors spend more on self-enjoyment." (Laughter)

Shakir al-'Ass (P - Qunaytra) proposed a 25 % reduction in the Assembly's budget.

The budget was put to a vote and was approved by the majority.

The Secretary then read the report of the Economic Committee set up by the Constituent Assembly to consider the Government's action concerning the economic rupture with Lebanon. Following is a detailed summary of this report:

" 1. In the last seven years the Syrian Government has been making sacrifices and following a policy of toleration and self-denial in its economic relations with Lebanon. The Syrian Government's motive behind this policy has always been to establish close and permanent collaboration between Syria and Lebanon in all fields and to uphold the noble national cause towards which Syria is striving.

2. Since 1947 the Syrian Government has on frequent occasions urged the Lebanese Government to agree to a unified and coordinated economic policy to replace the short-term and temporary agreements which have been confined to customs affairs and which have been more than once violated by Lebanon. The Syrian Government has often proposed the establishment of complete economic unity involving unification of customs and currency, a common exports and imports policy, and equalization of taxes and duties. The Syrian Government maintains that such economic unity would save the two countries from the danger of bankruptcy and exhaustion of their natural wealth to which they are now exposed.

The Lebanese Government, however, has been adopting an attitude of evasiveness and procrastination towards the Syrian proposals. Consequently, the Syrian Government could not but appeal to the Lebanese Government for the last time to agree to the principle of complete economic unity in order to preserve the interests of the Syrian and Lebanese people and to save what has remained of their general wealth from exhaustion.

3- The Lebanese Government, however, did not accept the Syrian proposal for establishing a common economic and monetary policy in addition to the existing customs union. It has even violated the Agreement of July 8, 1949 which provides that the Lebanese Government should endeavor to remove the difference between the two currencies. In so doing the Lebanese Government has closed the door for further negotiations and has disregarded the interests of industrial and agricultural producers in both countries. That is why the Syrian Government has been compelled to follow a policy capable of securing public welfare and preserving the general wealth of the country.

4- The leading businessmen of Syria have unanimously advised the Government that the lack of complete economic unity and the difference between the two currencies have gravely endangered the Syrian currency and general well being. The free monetary policy has enabled Lebanese traders to purchase Syrian products with Syrian currency, even such products as were not intended for export by the Syrian Gov't and to export them abroad in return for hard currency.

The Lebanese traders, thanks to the open trade policy, have also been able to import foreign goods, specially luxuries, by the hard currency which they originally obtained as a result of selling Syrian products. The Lebanese traders used to sell these foreign goods to the Syrian traders in return for Lebanese currency which had been artificially valued at a price higher than that of the Syrian currency. Owing to the existing customs union the Syrian Government could not prevent the flow of luxuries to the Syrian markets.

The absence of complete economic unity has also led to differences between the rates of taxes and duties imposed on goods which flow between the two countries. This difference encouraged smuggling from Lebanon to Syria and induced certain Syrian traders to transfer their capital and factories to Lebanon. The open door policy in imports, which are not counter-balanced by exports, has endangered the position of the newly-born industries in Syria and has given rise to the problem of unemployment which has been recently witnessed in Damascus, Homs, Aleppo and other Syrian towns.

For these reasons the leading businessmen of Syria have unanimously urged the Government to base its decisions on figures and facts and not to be influenced by any other considerations. They also called upon the Government to maintain the exclusive interests of Syria should it fail to maintain the interests of both Syria and Lebanon.

5- The majority of the committee approve, much to their distress, the Government's recent measures in respect to Lebanon and recommends that the Constituent Assembly ratify them. The committee also requests the Constituent Assembly to ratify and advise the Government on the following recommendations.

a) The Government is urged to plan a separate economic policy designed to promote and protect industrial and agricultural production.

b) The Government is urged to combat monopolization and inflation by introducing a system of firm, organized control and supervision.

c) The Government is urged to cover the Syrian currency by adequate quantities of gold and hard currency and to uphold it by increased production.

d) The Government is called upon to conclude trade agreements immediately with all states in general and the Arab states in particular with a view to securing the exportation of surplus Syrian industrial and agricultural products and the importation of such commodities as are necessary for promoting and increasing production.

e) The Government is urged to establish its economic relations with Lebanon on a basis which would secure the interests of the Syrian and Lebanese people and not only the interests of certain groups of traders and importers.

f) Since Syria wants unity of the Arab countries in all fields, the committee urges the Government not to resume its previous economic relations with Lebanon except on the basis of the principle of complete economic unity. In case an agreement on the principle of complete economic unity is concluded, the committee recommends that such agreement be recorded in the registers of the Arab League with a view to avoiding misinterpretations and violations in the future.

Mr. Jalal al-Sayyid, member of this committee, has pronounced himself against the Government's measures and the recommendations of the committee. Mr. Muhammad al-Jayrudi and Mr. Nadim al-Mallah have approved the recommendations of the committee, but they have called upon the committee to advise the Government to seek beforehand the advice of the Constituent Assembly on important matters such as the question of economic relations with Lebanon.

President of the Economic Committee

Hasan al-Hakim

Rapporteur of Committee - Issam al-Mahayri.

Ali Buzo (P-Damascus) asked about the truth of the report published in certain papers that a delegation representing the Constituent Assembly had visited Premier Solh in Beirut and conferred with him on the economic separation.

President...

President Kikhya denied that the Assembly had delegated any representatives.

Jalal al-Sayyid (R-Deir-Ez-Zor) denied that he had left for Beirut to discuss the present situation. He said that although he agreed with the Government's points of view, the Government should have consulted the Assembly before taking such important measures. He added that the Government action was a violation of the Assembly's prerogatives and warned the Assembly against certain foreign directions which might be aimed at separating Lebanon from the Arab world. He asked the Premier to explain the current reports that a certain political party was licensed on the day which followed the attempt to assassinate the Lebanese Premier. He further inquired about the reasons which induced the Syrian Government to prevent the entry of Lebanese papers to Syria and to permit the Syrian press to attack Lebanon. In conclusion he said that although he intended to vote against the Government's action he could not but wish it all success.

Premier 'Azm: He said that Syria's policy had always aimed at achieving economic unity with Lebanon. He added, "the reason which induced the Government to take immediate measures was its desire to avert any further devaluation of the Syrian currency in respect to the Lebanese currency and to prevent the infiltration of foreign goods to Syria which would result in the exhaustion of the country's wealth. We are nevertheless prepared to enter into negotiations on the principle of complete economic unity and on the understanding that agreements should be respected and implemented. As to the rumor that I have been motivated by personal interest, I should like to deny this rumor and to swear that it has no foundation. My relations with Riyad al-Solh are characterized by friendship and loyalty. If you believe that my caprice dominates the interests of the country you are charging me with a grave accusation which I do not think I merit." Referring to the press report that he had not congratulated the Lebanese Premier on his escape from assassination, he said: "Various rumors have been spread for the purpose of poisoning the atmosphere. As a matter of fact, I sent a personal friend to congratulate the Lebanese Premier on my behalf on his escape from death."

With regard to separatist measures against Lebanon, Premier 'Azm emphasized that it was not he alone who adopted these measures, but that he had taken them jointly with his cabinet and at the recommendation of the commercial organizations and the recent economic conference of businessmen.

The Premier denied that he had prevented the Lebanese newspapers from entering Syria even though Syrian papers were banned in Lebanon. The Premier added that he regretted the campaign conducted by certain Syrian papers against Lebanon, but he pointed out that the press was free and that he had no authority over the papers. In this connection he also remarked that the campaign of the Syrian press could not be compared with severe campaign of the Lebanese press.

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Siba'i (MB-Damascus) supported the Government action but inquired into the truth of the report that certain Lebanese Ministers had expressed a desire to reach an understanding with Syria and that they had attempted to facilitate the meeting of the two premiers but that Premier 'Azm had refused. He remarked that separation from Lebanon was of national significance, and expressed his hope that it would not lead Lebanon to abandon the Arabs to their enemies.

Premier 'Azm stated that a friend of his had urged him to meet Solh and that he agreed. This friend however communicated with Solh and informed him that he was welcome to visit Damascus and to discuss the present situation on the principle of complete economic unity. The mention of complete economic unity apparently discouraged Solh from coming to Damascus. The Premier then declared that Syria would not accept any solution other than complete economic unity and not simply a revision of the customs system or the increase of Syrian officials in the customs administration. Premier 'Azm added that the Latakia harbor could easily handle Syrian imports and exports.

Barazi continued his attack on the Government and criticized Premier 'Azm for not arranging a meeting with the Lebanese Premier. He then censured the Government for not having permitted the Syrian papers to publish the details of the last meeting. He pointed out that the Syrian Government took immediate measures to effect separation at a time when it should have complied with the general tendency for Arab unity.

Dandashi (Ind-Tel Kalakh) strongly opposed separation with Lebanon and urged the Assembly to recommend a just compromise settlement.

Mahayri (SSNP) approved the Government's action in his capacity as rapporteur of the committee. He further denied that the SSNP had any connection with the attempt on the life of Riyad al-Solh, and said he was not supporting the Government because he had obtained licence for his party.

Ratib al-Husami (P-Homs) read a statement by the People's Party in support of the Government's economic policy toward Lebanon. The statement expressed the People's Party's regret that the economic relations between the two countries had to be severed and hopes that economic separation with Lebanon would not affect political relations.

The Economic Committee's report was put to vote and was approved by an overwhelming majority. It was opposed only by Barazi, Al Sayyid, and Dandashi.

The meeting was adjourned until Monday, March 20, at 4:00 p.m.



LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

DAMASCUS, SYRIA

Daily Review of the Syrian Press

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No. 54

(FOR STAFF USE ONLY)

Wednesday, March 22, 1950

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Al Alam, Al Shabab, Al Balad, and Al-Islah.

ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

EXPORT OF FOODSTUFFS TO LEBANON

Al Manar: A responsible source in the Ministry of National Economy stated that decision No. 196 regarding the export of foodstuffs and agricultural products will be applied to Lebanon.

Decision No. 196 stipulates that the exportation of foodstuffs such as samnah, wheat, rice, flour, burghol; and livestock such as cattle, sheep, and goats; and cement shall be subject to special permits.

On the other hand a responsible official in the Ministry of Finance has stated that the export of grade-zero flour to Lebanon will be permitted.

NO PETROLEUM CRISIS

Al 'Alam: The Council of Ministers has approved a decision regarding the issuance.

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the issuance of rare currencies to distributing companies in Syria for the importation of the country's petroleum requirements. The total amount of rare currencies allotted to Socony Vacuum, Shell, and the National Petroleum Company is 173,435 pounds sterling and 188,215 dollars.

LEBANESE RETALIATORY MEASURES

Al Qabas' correspondent in Beirut reports that the Lebanese Government has prohibited the import of dairy products from Syria and has imposed customs duties on vegetables imported from Syria.

NEW CUSTOMS APPOINTMENTS

Al Insha': The Syrian Government has requested all customs officials of Syrian nationality holding positions in Lebanon to report to Damascus immediately in order to take over new appointments in the newly-established Customs Administration. The Gendarmerie personnel at the frontier outposts have been requested to perform customs duties and to cooperate with the customs officials in the performance of their duties.

LEBANESE AGENTS TRANSFER BUSINESS TO DAMASCUS

Al Insha': A number of prominent Syrian merchants and importers have protested in a telegram to the Government against the Government's permitting Lebanese merchants to register their firms at the Ministry of National Economy and to carry on business and maintain offices for their agencies in Damascus. They consider the Government's action as prejudicial to their commercial interests.

EXPROPRIATION BY TAPLINE

Alif Ba': A communique has been issued by the Directorate General of Propaganda and Information concerning the expropriation of lands by the Trans-Arabian Pipeline Company. In reply to the allegations recently made in a note (see Pr.Dig. 52/4) presented to the Government concerning the valuation of the expropriated areas, the authorities expropriating the land, and the Company's ulterior military motives behind such expropriations, the communique states:

1. The committees which had been set up in Der'a, Qunaytra, 'Azra' and Zawiya, had been charged with the task of estimating the value of the areas assigned for expropriation in order that the Government can determine the deposit to be paid by the Company. The final determination of the value of the land shall be made by special committees to be set up in accordance with the provisions of Expropriation Law No. 272, dated June 6, 1946.

Objections against these estimates shall be studied by an

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arbitration committee to be composed of a judge as chairman appointed by the Ministry of Justice, and of two representatives of the Ministry of Public Works as members.

2. The expropriated lands will be registered in the name of the Government, despite the fact that the Company would pay for them. The lands would be leased to the Company for a period not exceeding the period of the agreement with the Company.

3. The lands expropriated for the passage of the pipelines will always be of 30-meters wide in order to provide roads for the Company's vehicles and room for heavy machinery used in the pipeline's construction.

4. The extension of the Company's pipelines across Syrian territory bears no connection whatsoever with any military aims. The agreement concluded between the Company and the Government stipulates that the lines, installations, as well as the employees of the Company are subject to a control by the Syrian Government.

It is worth noting, the communique concludes, that the Government has requested the Company to keep its lines as far away from the frontiers as possible, and that the Ministry of Defense will establish military outposts at the expense of the Company at points adjacent to the frontiers.

ARAB AFFAIRS

ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARAB LEAGUE

Barada: Since the Palestine catastrophe the Arab people have not celebrated with their Governments the anniversaries of the Arab League. As a matter of fact the Arab people expect the Arab delegations to the forthcoming session of the Arab League Council to dissolve the present League and form a new one to be composed of Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Syria and Lebanon. The new league should be a truly representative of both the Governments and peoples of the aforesaid states. As for Iraq and Jordan their representation should be confined to the Iraqi and Jordanian peoples excluding their Governments. The members of the opposition who have recently resigned from the Iraqi Parliament should be asked to appoint delegates representing the Iraqi people. The Arab Party and its dean, Dr. Subhi Abu Ghanimah, should be asked to appoint the representatives of the Jordanian people. As for North Africa and other parts of the Arab world they should be represented by members of nationalist parties which are opposed to imperialism.

'AZM TO VISIT SOLH

'AZM TO VISIT SOLH

All papers published the text of the cables sent by Premier Solh to 'Azm inviting him to come to Beirut and discuss Arab League affairs and 'Azm's acceptance.

ARAB LEAGUE COUNCIL MEETING

Al Manar: According to Al Misri, the Egyptian Arabic daily, a proposal will probably be presented to the League requesting that the Jordanian delegates be temporarily barred from the Arab League Session until accusations made against the Kingdom of Jordan have been investigated by a special committee. The Grand Mufti Haj Amin al-Husayni, and Colonel 'Abdallah al-Tal, the former Jordanian Military Governor of Jerusalem would be likely witnesses before the committee. If these accusations are found true, a decision would be passed by the League to bar the Kingdom of Jordan permanently from the Arab League, to request the severance of relations between the Arab states and Jordan, and to consider it as a hostile state.

A MILITARY AGREEMENT BETWEEN RIYAD AND DAMASCUS

Al 'Alam: A reuter's despatch from Beirut quotes reliable official sources as stating that a secret military agreement has been signed between the Sa'udi Arabian Government and Syria and that this agreement is connected with the construction of the Latakia Port. According to this agreement, the despatch continues, Sa'udi Arabia will extend technical assistance for the implementation of the Latakia Port project in return for the extension of Syrian military facilities to the Sa'udi Arabian Government in case of aggression against Sa'udi Arabia.

TROUBLE IN BA'ALBECK

Al Masa': On the question of economic separation between Syria and Lebanon, the inhabitants of Ba'albeck, Lebanon, are divided into two camps. A clash between these two camps is reported to have taken place resulting in the death of Husan Zu'aytar. Several others were injured.

DOMESTIC AFFAIRS

PEOPLE'S PARTY CHALLENGED

Barada published a lengthy article criticizing the People's Party's opposition to the Collective Security Pact project and observing that the People's Party was still in favor of union with Iraq. The paper challenges the Dean of the Party, Mr. Rushdi al-Kikhya, to issue a signed statement denying or confirming his support of the Syro-Iraqi union project. The paper adds that it would apologize to Kikhya were he simply to issue a statement declaring his support

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of the republican regime of Syria and denouncing the attempts to impose a monarchical regime in its place. Mr. Kikhya, however, will never issue such a statement, since he lacks the courage to disclose the projects which he has adopted, and since he has no faith in the ability of his people to maintain their independence without the assistance of a large imperialist power which, he knows, was the cause of the Palestine tragedy.

THE NEW CONSTITUTION

Al 'Alam: Dr. Nazim al-Qudsi, the Chairman of the constitutional sub-committee set up to draft the new Syrian constitution, has stated that the draft constitution will be presented to the Constituent Assembly by the end of the present month.

DIVISION WITHIN THE PEOPLE'S PARTY

Al Masa': According to this paper a division has taken place within the People's Party on party policy.

This division which may have undesirable and dangerous consequences has arisen from the support by certain members of the Party of the Government's Arab policy.

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY MEETING OF MARCH 21, 1950;

From all papers: The Constituent Assembly held yesterday, March 21, a special meeting to debate the Government's policy in the Arab League.

Mustafa al-Siba'i: (MB): When the Arab League was established all Arabs centered their hopes on it and considered it as the first step towards complete Arab unity. The dream of Arab unity continued until the Arab League concerned itself with Palestine and caused its loss. It was then that the Arabs realized that the Arab League was no more than a group of Arab states not so much interested in the Arab cause as in personal ambitions and in readiness to submit to imperialistic designs.

It is the Arab League which is responsible for the loss of Palestine and not the Arab nation nor the Arab people. The Arab League could have avoided the shame of the Palestine catastrophe had they handled the Palestine problem on the understanding that there were some Arab states which were closely linked to imperialism. Instead of realizing this fact, the other Arab states, motivated by the desire to present a united front, agreed to entrust the military leadership to throne seekers. The bad intentions of those who were entrusted with leadership were revealed in the first stage of the Palestine conflict. Nevertheless, the policy of complacency continued until the battle was finally lost. Furthermore, the Arab League instead of acquainting the Arab people with the true facts has always misled them by exaggerated declaration and misrepresentations. At one time, the name of Palestine appeared on maps, but today this name is replaced by 'Israel' and another Arab kingdom. As a result of the criminal policy of the Arab League, a million Arab refugees have been expatriated. Recent reports indicate that agreement has been virtually concluded between Israel and a neighboring Arab kingdom. There are indications that these reports are true and the publication of the agreement has been delayed by the force of circumstances. This neighboring Arab state should be expelled from the League. We want the Arab League to be frank with us. We do not want more lies and misrepresentations. Here in Syria we have revolted against distorters of truth and have expelled them from government. We want our delegation to the Arab League to revolt against the policy of subterfuge and follow our example.

It should be noted that Syria forms the front line and is more threatened with aggression than any other state. It is to the interest of every Arab country that Syria should be strong and should be capable of withstanding dangers. If the other Arab states are loyal to the Arab cause they should cooperate with us, and enable us to play our role in defending Syria and the other Arab states.

It is an erroneous policy to cooperate with those who are linked by fetters or those who receive their orders from certain ambitious and capricious

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individuals. We should endeavor to place our interest above any other considerations.

I call upon the Prime Minister who is heading the Syrian delegation to the Arab League to remember that he and his colleagues are representing a nation which has revolted against injustice and misrepresentation of facts. Transmit to the Arab League that Syria forms the frontline and that if the Arab League cooperates with us in our efforts to strengthen ourselves, such cooperation will be in the interest of all the Arabs in general. Otherwise, tell them that we are determined to stand alone in the battlefield and to spare no effort to preserve our status and the status of all the Arabs. Tell them that we shall continue our struggle to the last man.

Sa'id Haydar (P) proposed the establishment of a comprehensive unity between the Arab states and recommended that the Syrian delegation be accompanied by members of the Constituent Assembly. He urged the Prime Minister to explain to the Arab League that Syria extends its hand to every Arab state willing to unite with it in the interest of the Arab cause.

Ali Buzo (Damascus-P) delivered a lengthy speech in which he reminded the Assembly of the cautious and suspicious attitude of the Arab armies towards one another during the Palestine war. He pointed out the example of the battle of Samakh in which the Syrian Army was exposed to extermination. This same army could have won the Palestine war alone had it been well-equipped by the former responsible leaders of the country.

He also referred to the documents published recently by an Egyptian weekly on correspondence between a certain Arab King and Israel in which the Arab King addressed Shertok by terms such as "my dear Shertok."

In conclusion he censured the Egyptian policy aimed at imposing Quwwatli on Syria.

Dandashi (Ind) said that the Arab people have lost all faith in their leaders and expressed his doubt as to the usefulness of Arab League meetings.

Jalal al-Sayyid (R) urged the Syrian delegation to insist on the adoption of the former Syrian proposal for federation between the Arab states.

Arif al-Taraqji (Ind) urged the formation of a unified military command and the adoption of a unified policy in political and economic affairs.

'Abd-al-Latif Yunis (Ind) The Arab League should be preserved, The Syrian delegation should strive to narrow the gap between the viewpoints of the Arabs.

Ziki al-Khatib (Ind) urged the Government to reconcile the Arabs' viewpoints and to eliminate their differences.

Muhammad 'Ashuri (P) called for the strengthening of the Syrian Army, the reinforcement of the Arab League and the consideration of the federation project of the previous government.

'Abd-al-Latif Siba'i (P) spoke to the same effect.

'Abd-al-Wahhab Hawmad (Prominent Populist) said that the Palestine question is a political subject camouflaged behind an economic project. Colonization is appearing now in a new form characterized by economic projects instead of military occupation. Time is with us and we can destroy Israel economically. Recent news indicates that Truman's Point Four Program and Clapp's projects constitute the only serious attempts to help the economy of Israel. If the Arab states know how to tighten the economic blockade and withstand foreign pressure, Israel, which lives on charity and foreign aid, will collapse. When confusion spreads in Israel as a result of economic crisis even Americans will abandon Israel as a lost cause and withdraw their capital.

He further drew the attention of the Government to the grave consequences which would ensue if certain Arab Governments conclude peace treaty with Israel. Peace treaty with Israel would open a gap in the economic blockade imposed on Israel. He added that the Jews were exporting their goods to Cyprus and certain Mediterranean ports where their original trade marks were replaced by "Made in USA" or "Made in Britain" with a view to reexporting them to the Arab countries. He proposed that the Arab states control the entire foreign trade and that they take drastic measures against illegal trade with the Jews.

Shakir al-'Ass (P) said that Syria's first concern was to defend itself and that Syrians should not depend on the Arab League.

When it was the turn of Husni al-Barazi to speak the journalists present at the meeting withdrew in a body from the Assembly.

Barazi remarked that there was no use in advising the Government as to what to do and not to do at the Arab League's meetings, because the leaders of the Government received their orders from the leaders of the Army.

Faydi al-Atasi (Populist Minister): If Ahmad Qanbar was not my dear friend I would consider his question as to whether the present government which includes members of the previous government have abandoned the Syrian proposal for federation as a personal attack. The present government still adheres to the policy of the former government in this respect. Federation is our objective but the question is not only confined to us but other parties are also concerned.

Minister Hawrani: He strongly attacked Barazi for accusing the Army of intervening in politics and described his remarks as prejudicial to the prestige of the army. He said that the army has been busy training and strengthening itself and that he could assert that the Syrian Army is now thirty times stronger than it was before the Palestine war. He concluded by stating that the army was well-equipped and was capable of defending the safety of the country.

Masan al-Hakim (Ind) pointed out that there were two dangers: the first is likely to confront us as a result of a possible conflict between the East and West and the second is definite and is represented by Israeli expansionist designs.

Munir 'Ajlan (Ind) referred to a secret treaty reported by Reuter to have been concluded between Syria and Sa'udi Arabia. With reference to Buzo's remarks on Quwwatli, he said that when H.E. Shukri al-Quwwatli was imprisoned at Mazzah his first concern was to find out whether Za'im's coup d'etat was a local affair or a result of foreign intervention. When he realized that it was a local affair he rejoiced and was willing to endure the hardships of imprisonment. If Quwwatli has been deprived of the Presidency he could not be considered as having been ousted from our hearts. The great patriot Shukri al-Quwwatli refused to be imposed on Syria. He concluded by stating that Syria will never accept any settlement with Israel. Buzo tried to answer 'Ajlan but was silenced by the Assembly, particularly the Populists.

Premier 'Azm stood and after thanking the members for their frank statements he said: "We have taken note of the recommendations of the Assembly and we shall bear them in mind during our visit to Cairo."

Referring to the Arab League he said, "The Arab League Charter was drawn up under circumstances different from those of the present. Those who first established the Arab League took into consideration the existing tendencies and attempted to effect a compromise. Since the Palestine catastrophe we have been strongly feeling the need for uniting the ranks of the Arabs. It is important to learn a lesson from the events of the past. There is great hope now that the relations between the Arab states will be reorganized on a stronger and more effective basis."

Premier 'Azm then explained in brief the policy of the Syrian Government towards the Arab League. In this connection he said, "The Syrian delegation to the forthcoming session of the Arab League Council will have in view greater Arab unity. The members of the Assembly have pledged themselves by oath to work for achieving this objective. If the Government deviates from this principle it can be considered as having violated its oath."

"As for the Syrian proposal for federation between the Arab states, you are aware that it was not submitted to the Arab League Council ~~in its last session~~ but to a committee of experts

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which pointed out then that such a proposal was outside its scope of work and prerogatives. This proposal, however, will this time be submitted to the Arab League Council. It may be approved, amended, or rejected.

"With regard to the Collective Security Pact project we strongly hope that it will be realized despite the difficulties which stand in its way. The projected Pact, however, should not be confined to political and military questions, but should also involve economic matters. I appreciate Mr. Abd al-Wahhab Humad's remarks in this connection. The economic blockade imposed on Israel is the most effective weapon against the Jews."

In conclusion, Premier 'Azm declared, "We hope that we shall succeed in our endeavor to prepare a clear and comprehensive pact based on a sound and workable foundation. When I return I shall inform you of all the events of the session of the Arab League Council. We should secure the support of our Arab brethren, but first and foremost we should rely on ourselves. If we do not arm ourselves and make all the necessary economic and financial preparations we cannot seek the assistance of others."

The meeting was adjourned until Tuesday March 28, at 5:00 p.m.

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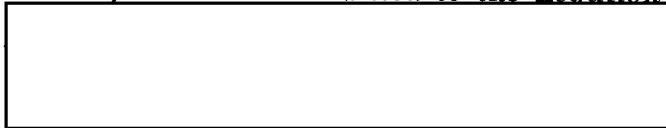
LEGATION
OF THE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

DAMASCUS, SYRIA

Daily Review of the Syrian Press

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25X1

No. 55

(FOR STAFF USE ONLY)

Thursday, March 23, 1950

Papers Reviewed:

Alif Ba', Al Nasr, Al Kifah, Al Manar, Al Insha,
Al Ayyam, Al Qabas, Al Jabal, Al Ba'ath, Al Nazir,
Al 'Alam, Al Shabab, Al Balad, Al Islah, and Al Masa'.

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ARAB AFFAIRS

CHIEF OF STATE'S MESSAGE:

Alif Ba': On the occasion of the 5th anniversary of the Arab League H.E. the Chief of State addressed the following message to the Syrian people:

"On this day five years ago delegations representing the Arab states announced in Cairo the establishment of the Arab League. Since then Arab Governments and peoples throughout the Arab world have celebrated this day and have considered it as a national holiday. It is on this day that the Arabs witnessed the realization of a hope which they had cherished, and at which they had strived, ever since their fortunes waned and their strength, unity and status disintegrated.

The Arab League has encountered so many difficulties and obstacles...

and obstacles that the first stages in its history have been characterized by slow and shaky steps. Nevertheless, the Arab peoples' desire to strengthen, support and consolidate the status of the Arab League should urge the Arab Governments to spare no effort or sacrifice to uphold and reinforce this national organization. The attachment of the Arab peoples to their League and their sincere desire to uphold its cause and ensure its success should inspire the Arab Governments with new vigor and determination.

"I take this opportunity to express on behalf of the Syrian Government and people their sincere desire to serve the cause of the Arab League and their unwavering readiness to work to the utmost of their power to achieve its aims. I hope that our sister-Arab states will jointly collaborate in their endeavors to help the Arab League make rapid and steady progress, realize the unity of the Arabs, and restore to them their past glory."

AMERICA INSULTS ARAB STATESMEN:

Al Nazir, March 21- Mr. Thomas Lane, member of American Congress, has written a letter to the State Department expressing his concern over the possibility of the resumption of hostilities between the Arab states and Israel. Mr. Lane supported his app_rehensions by referring the Department to the declarations recently made by Arab responsible leaders against Israel and the violent campaign conducted by the Arab press against the Zionists.

In reply Mr. McFall, the Assistant Secretary of State for Congressional Relations, advised Mr. Lane to ignore the declarations of Arab statesmen and the campaign of the Arab press describing them as simply designed for home consumption.

Commenting on this news, the paper remarks that the official reply of the State Department indicates that America holds the firm conviction that hostilities will never be resumed between the Arab states and Israel. One is apt to inquire about the factors and reasons which have induced the State Department to hold this conviction.

It may be argued that the procrastination and lack of unity which characterized the Arab Governments' actions during the Palestine conflict might inspire observers with the idea that war is not likely to flare up again between the Arab states and Israel. Such an inference, however, would not induce the State Department to send an official reply to the Congress which can almost be considered as an official pledge that hostilities will not be resumed in the Middle East. This official American reply indicates that the State Department

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possesses strong proofs and documents which have enabled it to assure the Congress that the Arab Governments are not sincere in their declarations and threats and that they use them as means for remaining in power.

It is imperative that Arab public opinion should realize that the declarations of the Arab Governments are no more than mere worthless utterances which have no weight even in the United States and other western countries. It is still more imperative that they should realize that America knows beforehand the truth about the policy of the Arab Governments.

If the aforesaid inferences are true they reveal new facts about the sincerity and integrity of the responsible leaders of the Arabs towards the Arab cause and the Arab nation!

RUSSIA OR AMERICA

Al Manar: The responsible director of the Moslem Brotherhood organ, Badi' Lu'lu', today writes:

The millions of dollars loaned by the United States to Israel were not given at Einstein's intercession, or for Weisman's sake, or in response to Jewish pressure in the United States. The loans were granted for economic expansion at the expense of the Arabs and in the interest of both Americans and Jews.

The industrialization of Israel by American financiers is not a fiction. Actually the American diplomats' conference in Egypt spoke about the preparedness of American capital to share in the economic development of the Near East but failed to reveal the name of the center of this development!!

If Washington insists on its plans to expand its economic influence at the expense of the Arabs and in an endeavor to make up for Israel's financial deficit, there is nothing to stop Russia from supplying the Arab countries with the necessary factories or to stop the Arabs from accepting Russian aid. America has to choose between the Arabs and the Jews. The Arabs have had enough of American democracy which is tantamount to "imperialism" and "falsehood".

CLAPP'S PROJECTS

Al Nasr: Asked for his opinion on the subject of Clapp's projects which was raised at the last meeting of the Constituent Assembly and the Arab League's attitude towards these malicious projects, Minister Ma'aruf al-Dawalibi stated to this paper:

The Arab states, or rather the Arab League, should have followed the example of American policy in sustaining Israel. The Palestinians ought to have been indirectly supported in order that they could maintain themselves as fighters in Palestine. The United

States, Britain, and the supporters of Zionism spared no efforts in creating Israel. Not only did the Arab League which represents seven states neglect the Palestinians but it forced both them and itself to enter the battle unprepared.

Nevertheless, we are anxious to strengthen the League because we believe that the Arabs' existence depends on their unity. If unity cannot be achieved at present let there be at least cooperation which will restore prestige to the League and the peoples' confidence in the future. Syria's desire for a strong League compels it to ask the Arab states to first strengthen themselves individually and then depend on the League. We do not want to lose confidence in ourselves and we should work as if we were left alone to face the tempest.

They are trying to allure the Arab states with the usefulness of Clapp's projects. It would be better for the United Nations to execute these projects in Palestine for the welfare of the refugees and for the creation of a sound and strong Arab bloc exactly as they have helped the Jews in their section. Instead, the United Nations intends to leave the refugees in the Arab countries in an endeavor to weaken their opposition, undermine their aspirations, and strengthen thus the Jews. This is most unfair, particularly since the refugees could utilize their own lands in Palestine and utilize also these projects for their own interests.

This is what the Arabs should do to aid the refugees. Clapp's projects are based on ignoring the presence of Palestinian Arabs. They are projects full of partiality and injustice. We should also not forget that even our League has ignored the presence of these Palestinian Arabs in the past and in the present by considering Clapp's projects and by neglecting its first duty towards the Palestinian Arabs, namely to let them return to work in their lands in Palestine and strengthen themselves. Alas, they have deprived the Palestinians of their very personality by not allowing them to form a government.

NO ALLIANCE

Al Nasr: Minister Dawalibi has categorically denied Reuter's story on negotiations between Syria and Sa'udi Arabia for the conclusion of a military alliance between the two countries. Dawalibi emphasized that Syria's policy is to strengthen the Arab League and not to divide the Arab states into two camps.

IRAQI PREMIER IN DAMASCUS

Al Balad: According to a communique issued today, Premier 'Azam and members of the Syrian delegation to the Arab League will receive and confer with Premier Tawfiq al-Suaydi when he arrives this morning at 9:30 a.m. at Mezzeh Airport on his way to Cairo.

(Pr. Dig. 55/5)

'AZM'S VISIT TO SOLH

Al Manar: Despite the optimism manifested by Lebanese circles to the news that Premier 'Azm has accepted Solh's invitation to come to Beirut and the general belief in Lebanon that a compromise settlement on Syro-Lebanese economic relations may be reached, an official source in Damascus said that the visit was only to discuss general Arab affairs and that Premier 'Azm will not enter into any economic discussions with Lebanon. The same source added: "Syria has separated itself from Lebanon and will refuse any economic understanding with Lebanon even if the latter accepts complete economic unity."

STRENGTHENING OF RELATIONS WITH QUWEIT

Al Masa': In its desire to strengthen relations between Syria and the Amirate of Quweit, the Syrian Government has issued instructions to the competent authorities to permit the entry into Syria of Quweit nationals without obtaining prior visas. The Government has also instructed the Ministry of Instruction to admit Quweitian students gratis and supply them with all their scholastic requirements free of charge.

LISTEN TO AMERICAN FAKES!

Al Insha' translated and reproduced an article from the American Saturday Evening Post magazine under the above heading. Other subheadings are: "An American Magazine Reports on the Departure of Arab Delegates to Rhodes and Alleges that they Carried with them Lambs and Carpets to pray on."

TIRE INDUSTRY IN ISRAEL

Alif Ra': Mr. Laury, the Israeli Consul in New York, and Mr. O'Neil, the Secretary of the General Tire and Rubber Company in America, made a joint statement in New York that an agreement had been reached between the Company and the Israeli Government to establish in Israel a tire manufacturing industry with a capital of one million dollars.

A JORDANIAN POLITICAL REFUGEE IN EGYPT

Al Manar: Reuter's News Agency reports from Cairo that Mr. Fahmi Hashim, former Minister of Jordan in Sa'udi Arabia, has requested permission from Egyptian authorities to stay as a political refugee. Mr. Hashim has resigned from his post in protest against the Jordanian policy toward Israel.

ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

NO RICE

Al Manar

(Pr.Dig. 55/6)

for having agreed with Egypt to sell it 20,000 tons of wheat in return for rice from Egypt. He pointed out that Syria is a rice producer and exporter, and if the Ministry of National Economy does not realize this fact, the projected trade agreement with Egypt will be an example of the new economic policy!!!

IRAQ WELCOMES.....

Al Nasr: The Syrian Government received yesterday the Iraqi Government's reply to the Syrian proposal for concluding a trade agreement with Iraq. In its reply, the Iraqi Government expressed its desire to receive, before the departure of the Syrian delegation to Baghdad, details of the Syrian proposal and copies of the agreements concluded with Egypt and Sa'udi Arabia in this respect.

ASSISTANT DIRECTORS OF CUSTOMS

Al Akhbar: Tawfiq Shamiyah, member of the Supreme Council of Common Interests, has been appointed Assistant Director of the newly-formed Customs Administration, and Dr. Adib Rumanii has been appointed Inspector General of this new organization.

TRADE AGREEMENT

Al Masa': It has been reported that the Syrian Delegation to negotiate the establishment of sound economic relations between Syria and Egypt will be composed of the following:

Dr. Ma'aruf al-Dawalibi, the Minister of Economy Chairman
Dr. Muhammad al-Hibrawi, Chief of Aleppo
National Economy Department
Mr. Nasuh al-Daqqaq, Director of Foreign Trade,)
Ministry of National Economy
Mr. Rafiq al-Siyufi, Top-Finance official.

LEBANON REFUSES VERBAL REQUESTS FROM SYRIA

Al Masa': The Syrian Director General of Customs Administration has requested the Lebanese Director to release all Syrian Customs officials. The Lebanese reply was: "Send in a written request. Telephone communications are not accepted."

MEDIATION BY EGYPT

Barada: Mr. As'ad Muhaffal, *chief for Cairo* the Syrian Charge d'Affaires in Cairo, has stated that the Egyptian and the Sa'udi Arabian Governments have offered to mediate the present dispute between Syria and Lebanon. He expressed his belief that the Arab delegates to the Arab League Council Session will discuss this dispute at private meetings.

IMPORT AND EXPORT POLICY

Alif Ba': The report that "decision No. 190 regarding the export

of foodstuffs.....

(Pr. Dig. 55/7)

of foodstuffs and agricultural products will be applied to Lebanon" (See Pr. Dig. 54/1) has been denied by responsible quarters in the Ministry of National Economy. These quarters, nevertheless, affirmed that new procedures regarding import and export operations have been prepared and submitted to the Council of Ministers for ratification.

A spokesman of the Ministry of Public Works is quoted as having stated that the Government is contemplating the issuance of a decision limiting automobile importation "which exhausts the country's wealth".

Al Balad reports that two Egyptian envoys are expected to arrive in Damascus on Saturday, March 25, to supervise the shipment of the 20,000 tons of Syrian wheat which will be exported to Egypt. They are: Ibrahim Mahmud Abu al-Huda, Director of Trade Affairs Department in the Egyptian Ministry of Supply; and Hilmi Tawfiq Rizq, the Agricultural Engineer of the Wheat Service.

DOMESTIC AFFAIRS

ASYUN, ACTING PREMIER

Alif Ba': At its meeting last night, the Council of Ministers decided to appoint Minister Asyun as acting Prime Minister, Minister 'Abd al-Rahman al 'Azm as acting Foreign Minister, Minister Siba'i as acting Minister of National Economy, and Minister Nizam al-Din as acting Minister of Justice during the absence of the Syrian delegation in Cairo.

MINISTERS ASYUN AND MUBARAK IN ALEPPO

Barada: Minister of Hygiene Fathallah Asyun and Minister of Public Works Muhammad al-Mubarak are leaving for Aleppo today to attend the meetings of the Aleppo Water Commission which is studying the files of the Aleppo water project.

TAPLINE WORKS IN SYRIA

Al 'Alam: This labor organ asserts that the propaganda previously conducted by the TAPline that it would employ thousands of workers for many years, was simply an alluring method to which it resorted in order to obtain a concession. "The Company", the paper continues, "will employ not more than 2000 workers for a period of 8 months after which time it will discharge them and maintain an office with a small staff. In accordance with the agreement reached between Za'im and the Company", the paper concludes, "the Government will then take charge of protecting the lines."

SPAIN SHELTERING REFUGEE CHILDREN

Alif Ba' Approved For Release 2005/04/22 : CIA-RDP83-00415R004700040002-3

from its Government.....

from its Government informing it that at its meeting of March 18, the Spanish Council of Ministers decided to shelter 500 Palestine refugee orphans in Spain. The letter also requested the total number of refugee orphans in Syria.

FRENCH MINISTERS' CALL ON KHALID AL-'AZM

Al Balad: Monsieur Jean Serres, the French Minister Plenipotentiary in Syria, called on the Prime Minister, Khalid al-'Azm, at 6:00 p.m. yesterday, March 22, and conversed with him for approximately one hour. It seems important matters had cropped up which necessitated the sudden visit of the French Minister at the time when the Prime Minister was scheduled to preside over a meeting of the Council of Ministers.

CLASHES IN THE QALAMUN AREA

Al Manar: Blind partisanship in the Qalamun Area resulting from the recent elections there was the cause of a quarrel between the followers of Ibrahim Tayfur and the followers of Salih Akil. 400 fighters using pistols, clubs, and daggers, participated in this fighting which broke out at 10:00 p.m. last night, March 22. Gendarmerie reinforcements were sent to the scene immediately and the fighting was checked. The casualties, two of whom were separately wounded, were carried to hospitals.

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LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA DAMASCUS, SYRIA

Daily Review of the Syrian Press

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25X1

No. 56

(FOR STAFF USE)

Friday, March 19, 1972

Papers Reviewed;

Alif Ba', Al Nasr, Al Kifah, Al Manar, Al Insha', Al Ayyam, Al Qabas, Al Jabal, Al Ba'ath, Al Nazir, Al 'Alam, Al Shabab, Al Balad, Al Islah, and Al Masa'.

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DOMESTIC AFFAIRS

'AZM'S TRIP TO BEIRUT:

Alif Ba': Before his departure for Beirut Premier 'Azm received a delegation of Damascus merchants who inquired as to the truth of the story that Syro-Lebanese economic relations would be studied in Beirut. The Premier is quoted as having stated: "I can tell you frankly that the discussions will be confined to Arab League affairs. No economic problem will be discussed, nor do I accept any intercession. A new economic agreement with Lebanon could be concluded for the exchange of local products on the basis that each country would have its own customs." with regard to the statements that Lebanese merchants were coming to Damascus to establish business, 'Azm stated: Any Lebanese merchant who desires to establish business in Syria is welcomed."

Before leaving for Beirut, the Premier searched his pockets and finding that he had 400 Syrian pounds, he handed the Director of Police 350 pounds and kept 50 pounds only in complete. Approved For Release 2005/04/22 : CIA-RDP83-00415R004700040002-3

At the ...

At the frontiers, 'Azm was officially received. Gendarmes on motorcycles accompanied him to Beirut where he proceeded to the Presidency amidst applause and cheers of the populace. After registering his name, he proceeded to the Serail and discussed with Solh for one hour. Following the interview, the Syrian Premier proceeded to the St. George Hotel where he was surrounded by a large number of Lebanese journalists who wanted information on his visit. The Premier stated: "In brief I came to Beirut to discuss Arab League affairs only." Asked about economic developments 'Azm answered: " Syria is proceeding with its new economic policy. We are not trying to hurt Lebanon. Economic relations between the two countries were not based on statistics. Let each country take its own chances, and later economic relations can be established on an equitable basis. I want to tell you frankly that our new economic policy does not mean in the least that we want to sever political relations with Lebanon. Be assured that there is no feud between me and H.E. Solh. I appreciate and respect his services to the Arab cause and to the Syrian cause in particular. Syria has not definitely closed the door to further negotiations with Lebanon. If Lebanon desires to resume the discussions on the basis of complete economic unity, we will be the first to welcome such a desire."

At 1:00 p.m., Premier Solh called on 'Azm at the St. George. The Lebanese Government gave the Syrian Premier a sumptuous luncheon party at the Officers' Club. At 5:00 p.m. President Khuri received him in the presence of Solh and the meeting lasted one hour. At 6:00 p.m. 'Azm left for Damascus.

Al Balad: Shortly after his return from Beirut, Premier 'Azm received the American Minister to Syria at the Foreign Office and conferred with him for 40 minutes.

Al Ba'ath: Upon his return from Beirut, the Syrian Premier told newsmen:

"I accepted the Lebanese Premier's invitation and discussed with him questions on the agenda of the coming Arab League's meeting. I am glad to state that the two governments' viewpoints with regard to Arab affairs are the same. Despite the termination of the customs union between the two countries, political and brotherly relations as well as the unity of objectives remains firm."

QUARRELS BETWEEN ARMENIANS

Al Nasr: Affiliates of Hinjaq and Tashnak Armenian parties clashed for the third time. A certain Mirjian was seriously wounded by the Pijukian brothers. (The Hinjaq Party are communists while the Tashnak's are strongly anti-communist).

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ACTING SECRETARY GENERAL OF FOREIGN OFFICE

Al Masa': During the absence in Cairo of Dr. Salah Tarazi, the Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Samuhi Fawq al-Adi will be Acting Secretary General.

QUWWATLI EXPECTED IN DAMASCUS

Al Masa': News from Cairo indicates that former President Quwwatli has decided to issue a daily newspaper in Damascus for the purpose of expressing his point of view. It will be edited by one of the journalists in whom he has confidence. *Card*

ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

MEETING BETWEEN DAWALIBI AND EGYPTIAN MINISTER

Al Ba'ath: Minister of National Economy, Dr. Ma'aruf al-Dawalibi received at his office yesterday the Egyptian Minister Plenipotentiary to Syria, Ahmad Haqqi Bey. It is reported that the export of wheat to Egypt and the departure to Cairo of the Syrian delegation for negotiating a trade agreement between Syria and Egypt were the topics of the conversation.

STRIKE OF HANDLOOM WORKERS

Al Ba'ath: The strike of 1700 handloom workers in Damascus entered its seventh day today. The attention of the Government is drawn to the deplorable condition of these workers who are employed 10 hours a day at 1.50 pounds per day.

EXPROPRIATION BY TAPLINE

Al Ba'ath: The question of the expropriation of lands by TAPline continues to be the subject of criticism by national groups. A group of Syrian youth requested in an appeal the suspension of TAPline works and the cancellation of the concession granted by the late Za'im.

Al Balad today commented in favor of TAPline and censured the appeals and memoranda submitted against the expropriation of lands by TAPline. It stated in part:

It is indeed the duty of every patriot to warn the Government against mistakes which might endanger the security of the country. Nevertheless, it is feared that certain individuals who are lodging their objections are instigated by ulterior motives. It is indeed difficult to explain the zeal manifested by these individuals at a time when the appropriate authorities are themselves studying the plans of TAPline from all angles, including the political and military aspects of the problem.

We understand that such objections can justifiably be presented by politicians. Approved For Release 2005/04/22 : CIA-RDP83-00415R004700040002-3 we do not understand.....

understand how individuals can rightly criticize such projects when their criticism is based on personal interests and ulterior designs.

In no other nation except Syria have we witnessed citizens meddling in the trivial and important affairs of the state as though the government were run by the man in the street and as though the interests of individuals directed the policy of the state.

ARAB AFFAIRS

IRAQI PREMIER SWAYDI IN DAMASCUS

Al Ba'ath: At precisely 11:00 a.m. yesterday, March 23, H.E. Hashim Bey al-Atasi, the Syrian Chief of State, received H.E. Tawfiq al-Swaydi, the Iraqi Premier, on the occasion of his passage through Damascus on his way to Cairo.

At 12:00 noon the Chief of State delegated his Secretary General, Dr. Shatila, to bid the Iraqi Premier farewell at the Mezze airport.

EVACUATION OF TEL AZIZIYAT SECTOR

Al Manar: According to Reuter's despatch from Haifa the Israeli representatives at the joint Syro-Israeli Truce Commission accused Syria of violating the truce and alleged that a number of Jews had been kidnapped by Syrians along the frontiers. The despatch further added that the Truce Commission has demanded that Syria evacuate the strategic Tel al-Aziziyat sector by April 14, 1950.

It is reported that UN observers will visit this district on the specified date to see that Syria is conforming with this demand.

..*..*..*..*..*..*..*..*



**LEGATION
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
DAMASCUS, SYRIA**

Daily Review of the Syrian Press

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

25X1

No. 53

(FOR STAFF USE ONLY)

Tuesday, March 21, 1950

Papers Reviewed:

Alif Ba', Al Nasr, Al Kifah, Al Manar, Al-Insha',
Al Ayyam, Al Qabas, Al Jabal, Al Ba'ath, Al Nazir,
Al Alam, Al Shabab, Al Balad, and Al-Islah.

ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

NO OFFER FOR MEDIATION

Al-Manar: When asked whether or not any Arab or non-Arab state had offered to mediate between Syria and Lebanon, Premier 'Azm replied, "No state has made such an offer. I believe, however, that it is necessary to retain economic, financial and customs separation between the two countries until the Syrian and Lebanese peoples know the results of this separation and pass a judgment as to which of the two governments has acted rightly."

SYRIAN CUSTOMS

Al-Manar: The following is the text of the decree forming and regulating the new Syrian Customs Administration:

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Article 1



Article 1 - The Customs Administration shall be entrusted to a director general to be nominated by a decree to be issued by the Council of Ministers in accordance with the proposal of the Minister of Finance.

Article 2 - The Director General of Customs shall exercise the powers with which the former Director General of Syrian and Lebanese Customs was entrusted. The new Director General shall function in accordance with the laws, regulations and provisions in force.

Article 3 - The Central Administration of Customs shall consist of:

1. A customs council
2. A body of inspectors
3. Directorate of legislative and customs affairs
4. Directorate of statistics, investigation and economic research
5. Directorate of financial and personnel affairs
6. Office

Article 4 - The sections of the Central Administration shall undertake the duties which were performed by the central sections which were attached to the former Supreme Council of Common Interests and the Directorate General of Syrian and Lebanese Customs. The sections of the Central Administration shall function in accordance with the laws and regulations in force.

Article 5 - The Regional Directorates of Customs in Damascus and Aleppo shall continue to function. An additional regional directorate shall be established in Latakia. All these directorates shall exercise their powers in accordance with the legal provisions in force.

Article 6 - The number of the officials of the Customs Administration sections shall be fixed in accordance with the appendix attached to this decree.

Article 7 - The number of customs officials of all grades and positions shall be yearly specified in the budget.

Article 8 - The Customs Council shall be composed of:

Director General of Customs -----President

Representative of the Ministry of National Economy
to be appointed by a decision issued by the Minister
of National Economy -----Member

Representative of the Ministry of Finance to be
appointed by a decision issued by the Minister
of Finance -----Member

Director of Legislation and Customs Affairs -----Member

Director of Statistics, Investigation and Economic
Research -----Member

Director of Financial and Personnel Affairs -----Member

Article 9 - The Customs Council shall exercise the executive powers which were exercised by the former Supreme Council of Common Interests with the exception of those relating to high ranking officials, officers with the rank of captain and non-Syrian experts whose appointment, promotion, transfer, discharge, rewards and penalties shall be subject to a decision issued by the Minister of Finance in accordance with the proposal of the Director General of Customs.

Article 10 - Customs officials shall retain the salaries, allowances, emoluments and the rate of the cost of living as specified in the customs regulations in force.

Article 11 - Temporary Provisions.

Upon the proposal of the Director General of Customs and as an exceptional measure designed to fill the vacancies resulting from the non-existence of a sufficient number of Syrian officials in the former Syrian and Lebanese Customs departments, the Minister of Finance shall have the right for a period of two years as of the date of this decree to appoint high ranking officials (chief controller and above) without resorting to competitive examinations, provided the candidates possess diplomas indicating higher economic or financial studies or have served for no less than five years in the customs departments or state establishments or private economic or financial organizations and are qualified to fill the vacant posts.

Article 12 - Transitional Provisions.

Syrian officials occupying key posts in the Syrian and Lebanese Customs on the date of the issuance of this decree shall be transferred to the Central Administration and the Syrian Customs services and shall retain their salaries and grades.

Article 13 - Provisions inconsistent with this decree shall be annulled.

PASSPORT RESTRICTIONS ? ?

Barada: Major Ahmad al-'Azm, the Director General of the Syrian Police, denied a report published by the Lebanese French daily, "Le Soir", that Syria is contemplating the imposition of passport and visa restrictions on persons travelling between Syria and Lebanon and that each Lebanese desiring to enter Syria will be asked to pay 7.50 Syrian pounds as visa fees.

STRICT MEASURES AGAINST PROFITEERS

Barada: Accused of smuggling vegetables and citrus fruits into Syria.....

Syria the stores of Da'adush, and Subhi Sa'ad al-Din have been closed on orders from the Police.

The Director of the Police has warned all merchants against smuggling commodities to and from Lebanon and stated that the shops and the premises of merchants violating separation measures will be subject to closure.

SHARABATI ESTABLISHING A TOBACCO COMPANY

Al Nasr: Former Minister of Defense Ahmad al-Sharabati is carrying out extensive discussions with the idea of establishing a national tobacco company to replace the Regie whose concession expires shortly. Sharabati is studying this project with agriculturists in all parts of the country and is contemplating appointing an American tobacco expert to give the company technical direction. Sharabati is expected to tour various Syrian muhafazats seeking the support and participation of prominent agriculturists.

SEPARATION.....

Al Masa' reports that the inhabitants of Tripoli have held demonstrations against the Lebanese economic policy and that, upon the intervention of the police, clashes took place with injured on both sides. Lebanese Army units have been seen proceeding toward Tripoli from Beirut, the report concludes.

On the other hand it is reported that the Lebanese Prime Minister, Minister of Economy, and the Minister of Finance have received 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Sahmarani, and Edmond Rabbat, both prominent Lebanese merchants. They reported the failure of their mission to Damascus where they had been sent to intervene and bring about an understanding between Syria and Lebanon.

DOMESTIC AFFAIRS

REPUBLICAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY

Al-Balad: The following is the text of the statement published by the newly established Republican Democratic Party:

"The Syrian nation is today passing through a critical stage in its political, economic and social history. The absence of systematic direction, the conflict of tendencies and the lack of confidence make the present situation even more critical. Such a sorry state of affairs would lead to serious repercussions if every citizen does not realize the grave responsibility with which he has been entrusted and if he does not endeavor within the scope of his activity to maintain the status of the country, restore stability and avert the open and disguised dangers and threats to which the country is exposed. These considerations have induced a group of citizens to act within the framework of a new political party and

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in accordance with clear principles aimed at upholding the cause of true democracy and maintaining the republican democratic regime. A program has been drawn up explaining the principles of the Party, and regulations have been prepared for the Party's activities.

"This statement explains in brief the policy of the Party with regard to external and internal affairs. In foreign policy the Party considers Syria as a part of the greater Arab nation. It will endeavor to achieve comprehensive Arab unity, strengthen the Arab League, combat such projects and treaties which are prejudicial to the independence of any Arab state or which pave the way for the infiltration of imperialistic influence, adhere to the United Nations Charter, and cooperate with the states which respect this Charter on the basis of equality and mutual interests and on the understanding that the sovereignty of the states concerned should remain intact.

"With regard to internal policy the Party will endeavor to preserve the independence of the country, apply democratic principles to the affairs of the government and administration, raise the social, economic and cultural standards of the people, and secure prosperity for all citizens.

"It is worth noting that the aforesaid principles cannot be realized simply by establishing parliamentary organizations or by providing that the chief of state should be elected by the people or by making a verbal recognition of the people's right to freedom and equality. All individuals should be prepared to participate in general activities with full consciousness and sound understanding. Such a policy would enable the people to exercise their right to sovereignty as is the conception of republican and democratic principles. Sovereignty should no more be the exclusive property of a certain group of politicians. The Party will endeavor to achieve this objective by organizing the people and by acquainting them with the true facts which relate to their general problems.

"Our newly-established Party does not claim that it will produce miracles. Nevertheless it pledges itself to be loyal to its principles and to perform its party duties with sincerity. The Party will also support all those who work for preserving the independence and republican regime of the country and for realizing the stability and confidence to which the country aspires."

Dr. Ihsan al-Sharif

Secretary General

SYRIAN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION TO MONACO

Barada: Rizqallah Antaki, Rizqallah Salim, Adib Nassur, Tawfiq al-Hunaydi, and Jihad al-Hawash have been issued diplomatic passports by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to go to Monaco and

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Syria in the International Parliamentary Conference. It is believed that the Arab delegations will hold a separate meeting in Monaco to draw up a unified policy to be adopted at the Conference.

"BERNADOTTE MEDAL" TO KABBARA

Al Nasr: A delegation representing the League of Red Cross Societies in the Middle East visited Minister of Interior Dr. Sami Kabbara to confer on him the "Bernadotte" medal.

Dr. Kabbara is planning to leave for Hammah where he will convalesce and benefit from Hammah's hot mineral water baths.

ARAB LEAGUE DAY

Al Kifah: On the occasion of the Arab League Day all governmental offices will be closed on Wednesday, March 22, 1950.

OVERTURN OF A CAR ALONG ALEPPO ROAD

Al 'Alam: A car bearing Ihsan Jukhadar, the Director General of the Labor and Social Affairs' Department, Miss Marguerite Tiere, the UN Delegate studying unemployment in Syria, and two other civil servants overturned as a result of a collision with a truck along Aleppo-Hama road. All of the passengers were slightly injured. They were carried to a hospital in Aleppo immediately.

The paper describes the decisions of the conference as a provocation since they are designed to impose on Syria the very projects which it has already rejected. It also criticizes the conference for having spent refugee funds on banquets and dancing parties.

Al Insha' criticized the conference for having recommended that refugees be employed in short-term projects, probably Clapp's projects, at a time when the Governments concerned have not as yet defined their attitude towards such projects. How can the Arab members who participated in the conference reconcile their attitude with that of their Governments? Furthermore, how could the conferees describe their recommendations as decisions when they had no power to implement them?

The conferees have attempted to be kind to the refugees and to make decisions in their favor, but they have not succeeded.

ARAB LEAGUE COUNCIL MEETING

Barada: A Cairo report indicates that the Egyptian Prime Minister Nahas Pasha has conferred with 'Abd-al-Rahman Azzam Pasha, the Secretary General of the Arab League, and the Grand Mufti of Palestine, Al-Haj Amin al-Husayni. He discussed with them the agenda for the League's Council session scheduled to open on March 25. Other Arab affairs reportedly were also discussed.

The Grand Mufti asserted to the Egyptian Premier that the inhabitants of Palestine reject the annexation of their country to Jordan and that they would boycott the elections which are scheduled to take place in Jordan were pressure not exerted upon them.

SYRIAN DELEGATION TO ARAB LEAGUE

The Syrian delegation to the Arab League Council session comprises the following:

Prime Minister Khalid al-'Azm	Chairman
Faydi al-Atasi, the Minister of Justice	Member
Dr. Ma'aruf Dawalibi, Min. of Economy	Member
Dr. Salah-al-Din Tarazi, Secretary General of the Foreign Ministry	Member
Lt. Col. 'Aziz 'Abd-al-Karim	Counselor
'As'ad Muhaffal, Syrian Charge in Cairo	Counselor
Lt. Col. Tawfiq Nizam al-Din	Counselor
Walid Majid	Counselor
Muwaffaq al-Qudsi	Secretary

QUWWATLI'S ACTIVITIES IN CAIRO

Al Qabas: Former President Shukri Quwwatli is reported to have arrived in Cairo and called on Amir Sa'ud, the Sa'udi Arabian crown prince.

Quwwatli is also reported to have visited Prime Minister Nahas Pasha, and former Syrian Prime Minister Jamil Mardam. He returned to Alexandria on the same day.

QUESTIONNAIRE OF COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

Alif Ba': The University of Columbia has written to the Syrian Government stating that it is conducting studies on the policies of governments which may receive help under the United States program for assistance to economically under-developed countries. The letter requests the Government to answer the following ten questionnaires in order to enable the university to determine the possibility and conditions for the aforementioned technical aid.

1. Are there any internal regulations limiting the entry and use of foreign capital?
2. Is foreign capital invested in Syria subject to taxation laws and regulations in force in Syria, or are they subject to special laws?
3. Are there any legal measures regarding the use of profits resulting from foreign investments in Syria?
4. Are there any legal measures regarding the use of foreign capital in conjunction with local capital for economic development projects, and if so is there a percentage limitation on the amount of foreign capital invested?
5. Are there any regulations regarding the employment of local officials, workers, and technicians in the case of the investment of foreign capital in Syria?
6. Are there any regulations regarding the training of local employees by foreign investors who are undertaking work in Syria?
7. Are there any laws limiting the ownership of property in Syria for foreigners?
8. Are there any laws and regulations governing the transfer of profits of foreign investors?
9. Are there any laws for bartering profits gained by foreign investors for local products?
10. And finally is Syria planning to conclude an economic treaty with the United States Government?

The responsible authorities have expressed astonishment at this questionnaire and are investigating whether the questionnaire actually originated from Columbia University or if someone is using the name of Columbia to obtain the information.

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY, Meeting of March 20, 1950

At the opening of the meeting, President Kikhya asked the members their opinion regarding the government's legislative and executive powers.

Ra'if Milqi (Ind - Hama) who since last Saturday moved from his seat next to Husni al-Barazi and who was the rapporteur of the committee which studied and recommended on December 13, 1949 the temporary constitutional provisions said: "When the special committee formed by Assembly studied and recommended the temporary constitutional provisions it had in mind only the legislative powers. The executive powers were added in order to legalize the Government's action as of August 14, 1949. Therefore, I recommend that the whole subject be referred now to the same committee."

Muhammad Jayrudi (Ind - Qutayfah) supported Milqi.

Jalal al-Sayyid (Resurrectionist - 'Ueir-uz-Zor): We have to stick to the provisions of Article 2. The Government's executive and legislative powers ended on March 14, and it should resign. If the present situation does not permit a ministerial crisis, the Chief of State could dismiss the cabinet and reform it with the same persons.

Husni Barazi (Hama - Ind) said that since the very beginning he was opposed to granting the Government legislative powers. After expressing indignation at the press campaign against him he said he was expecting the present government to grant him a special salary as chief of the opposition. "It is in the government's interest to resign and be formed again," he said and added that there should not be bad feeling between him and the Prime Minister. Solemnly he said: "I swear that my relations with Khalid al-'Azm are characterized by friendship and loyalty exactly as he swore that his relations with Riyad al-Solh are characterized by friendship and loyalty."

Hamid al-Khuja (Raqqa and Jazirah bloc) asked the Assembly to grant legislative powers to the present government which had proven its worthiness to assume them.

Sa'id Haydar (P-Damascus) supported Milqi.

Minister Hani al-Siba'i speaking on behalf of the Government said that Article 1 of the Provisions provided that the Chief of State is empowered with the rights and prerogatives with which the President of the Republic was entrusted by the previous constitution. Since the Chief of State is the chief of the executive power and is assisted by the Prime Minister and the Ministers, the present government still enjoys the executive powers. The allegations of Jalal al-Sayyid are therefore foundless. As to the Legislative powers, we consider them as terminated and we do not want them unless the respected Assembly so desires.

Muhammad al-Mubarak: Any interpretation of the temporary constitutional provisions should be made by the Assembly and not by the Government.

President Kikhya askee Premier 'Azm whether the Government desires to continue to exercise legislative powers or not. 'Azm answered in the negative.

The President asked members of the old committee to meet and report to the Assembly about the proposals presented by the members.

After one hour discussion, the Committee returned to the hall and read the following bill which was approved after the Assembly rejected a proposal by Qanbar to replace the word "old constitution" by "the abolished constitution" and another proposal by Dr. Qudsi to change the same word by "the previous constitution."

Article 1- Article 2 of the temporary constitutional provisions dated December 14, 1949 shall be considered annulled and shall be replaced by the following provisions.

- a- The Chief of State shall in conjunction with the Council of Ministers exercise executive powers in accordance with the old constitution with effect from March 14, 1950 and until the ratification of the (new) constitution.
- b- Article 77 and 81 of the Old constitution shall not be included in the executive powers of the Chief of State.
- c- The Cabinet shall be responsible to the Constituent Assembly.

Article 2- The aforesaid temporary constitutional article shall be considered effective immediately upon its ratification.

(N.B. - Old Article 2 reads as follows: "In conjunction with the Council of Ministers, the Chief of State exercises legislative powers excepting the conclusion of foreign conventions as well as executive powers in accordance with the provisions in force as of August 15, 1949 and until a new constitution is enacted and put into effect within a period not to exceed three months." Article 77 of the old constitution deals with the dissolution of the Parliament. Article 81 deals with the adjournment of the Parliament.)

The bill passed by an overwhelming majority. Sa'id Haydar (P-Damascus) Jalal al-Sayyid (R-Deir-Ez-Zor), 'Abd-al-'Aziz Harwil, Deir-Ez-Zor, and Duham al-Dandal (Abu Kamal) voted against. Husni al-Barazi abstained.

Jalal al-Sayyid proposed that members of the Assembly representing the various parties and groups accompany the Syrian delegation to the Arab League.

'Abd-al-Wahhab Humad (P-Aleppo) proposed the holding of a special meeting to listen to the Government's statement on foreign affairs.

Ahmad Qanbar (P-Aleppo) said that the Arabs consider themselves one nation. He added that when the Arab League was formed everybody believed that it would unite the Arabs. Instead of so doing the League was responsible for the loss of Palestine. Furthermore, the League did not even establish economic, customs, and cultural union. The question of abolishing passports for travel between the Arab countries has been under consideration for the last five years! The present disputes between certain Arab states would not have risen had not the Arab League existed. I am afraid the Arab League will one day be called a League for dividing the Arabs rather than uniting them. We cannot depend on the Collective Security Pact project and we should think of a new arrangement to withstand the Israeli danger. The former government consisted of members most of whom are now included in the present Government. The former government proposed in the last session of the Arab League Council the establishment of an Arab federation. What is the present Government's attitude towards this proposal? Does it still adopt it or has it changed its attitude? Have they drawn up a new plan? If so, we call upon the Prime Minister to disclose it. Hundreds of thousands of refugees are looking forward to the measures which the Arab governments and the Arab League will take. There are millions of Arabs who are threatened by a fate similar to that of their refugee brethren.

Deputies Siba'i, Buzo, and Duhham al-Dandal proposed that a special meeting be held to discuss this subject. Premier 'Azm objected on the ground that it was too late to make such a proposal. He asked the assembly to continue the discussion then and reminded them that Wednesday March 22, is a holiday and that Thursday he would be busy preparing his departure on Friday. The Premier concluded that he was ready to participate in the discussions until midnight.

Dr. Qudsi: Are there any objections against holding the meeting on Wednesday?

Barazi declared that the Prime Minister could at least have conferred on this subject with the Foreign Relations Committee.

Finally, 'Azm agreed to a proposal for holding a meeting in the afternoon of Tuesday March 21, 1950.

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