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Iraq, Lebanon and Syria

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REPORT NO.

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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

1. Daily Reviews of the Baghdad Press, Baghdad, Iraq.
2. Reviews of the Local Arabic Press, Beirut, Lebanon.
3. Daily Reviews of the Syrian Press, Damascus, Syria.

25X1A

These attachments are of a free classification.

CLASSIFICATION RESTRICTED

STATE	NAVY																		
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AMERICAN LEGATION, BEIRUT

THIS IS AN ENCLOSURE TO

June 6, 1950

25X1A

Review of the Local Arabic Press
Appearing on June 6, 1950

BEIHU T (Editor: Muhyiddin Nsuli, Sunni-Moslem, opposition)

Commenting on the formation of the new Syrian government, this paper writes:

"We have with apprehension been following the news of the cabinet crisis which arose in Syria a week ago, fearing lest the Syrians should remain in their indecision and difficulties and lest they should lose the greatly needed stability. But the crisis is over now and Nazim al-Qudsi has taken charge of the administration. He is steady and enjoys a high education and a great political morality which make us hope that he will pilot the Syrian ship to the shore of safety...We have said that the new cabinet in Syria is formed of elements that do not lack knowledge, understanding and intelligence. Although the cabinet is provisional, it would become permanent if al-Qudsi and his colleagues would know how to act quickly and how to liberate the Syrian people from the many bondages that are oppressing them, the bondages of poverty, ignorance, disease and fear, particularly the bondage of fear."

This paper reports that the Ministry of Interior learned yesterday that a fight developed at al-Duwair between the followers of Deputy Yusuf Bey al-Zein and of Deputy Adil Bey Usairan on the one hand, and the followers of Minister Ahmad Bey al-Asad and Deputy Muhammad Bey al-Fadhil on the other. Rifles, sticks and stones were used during the fight which resulted in the injury of five persons.

AL-HAYAT (Editor: Kamil Muruwwa, Shia-Moslem, independent)

devotes its editorial to the tripartite declaration:

"It is reported that the Arab states are now studying the tripartite declaration preliminary to discussing it in the Political Committee of the Arab League. We welcome this interest but on condition that the discussion will deal not with disease but with the medicine.

"The disease is known from the standpoint of the Arab states' relations with the three great powers. If these powers have divided the Arab East amongst themselves into spheres of influence, the Arab governments have confirmed and adhered to this division. Those who revolted against the division attempted to move from the lap of one power into that of another.

"What is the influence of the great powers? Is it influence over a village for interference in the election of a Mukhtar (elder), or influence on a municipality for the appointment of a nightguard or a worker? It is influence over finance, over the army and over the 'high policy'. On this basis, the tripartite declaration has expressed an actual fact with the acquiescence and efforts of some of the Arab governments!

"This is Britain dominating the finance, the arms and the high policy in Jordan and Iraq. Have we heard the governments of Baghdad and Amman revolting against this domination?

"These are Lebanon and Syria. Their financial resources are in the hands of the French. Their armies' weapons are bound to French industry and the policy of each one of them is consistent with French purposes in the Arab East.

"This is Saudi Arabia unconditionally clinging to the United States. All its finances, arms and policies are subject to American wishes firstly and lastly.

"With regard to Egypt it is trying to revolt against British influence, but it is seeking to counter-balance it through the Americans.

"Thus every Arab state has followed a foreign direction consonant with the ambitions of its rulers. We have not yet heard that these states have cooperated with themselves for creating strength out of Arab unity, while unity is the only way for confronting international influence. But everyone of them held on to what it calls its independence, while each one of these 'independences' is the product of England and France. Why do you then find the tripartite declaration strange? Why the crocodile tears?"

AL-'AMAL (Maronite, opposition, organ of the Lebanese Phalange)

strongly demands the revision of the Election Law and complains that maneuvers are being made for evading the revision of this law. The paper also criticizes the government and the Chamber of Deputies which it claims is the root of all the evil in Lebanon.

AN-NAHAR (Editor: Ghassan Twaini, Greek Orthodox, opposition)

reviews the present political situation in Syria on the occasion of the formation of the new Syrian government and says in part:

"The formation of a provisional cabinet under such circumstances does not inspire optimism. Time is not the ally of cabinets of this type, because they do not help it to compose differences and unite the forces. A Cabinet like the one in question which does not proclaim its faith in the system from which it has emanated; which proclaims that it will not have the courage to undertake any measure save that of letting the Constituent Assembly do what it likes; and which assures the people and itself that it has come to power only to allow the legislators to legislate their constitution, such a cabinet does not offer a single guarantee for survival.

"Obviously, those who cling to the survival of the republican system in Syria and who are anxious to preserve Syria's existence would not have been apprehensive about the fate of this cabinet had it not been for their fear that it would be, as its head has said, a transitional cabinet which will lead Syria not to a Syria of a different status but to a Syria other than Syria.

"However, if responsibilities must be fixed in this circumstance, the first responsibility falls on the Army which came to liberate the country from a non-constitutional status but failed to create a constitutional element to guarantee political stability in the country. The second responsibility - and not the first - falls on the statesmen who misunderstood the meaning of stability..."

AD-DIYAR (Editor: Hanna Ghosn, Greek-Orthodox, opposition)

editorializes on Nazim al-Qudsi's formation of the new Syrian cabinet. It says in part after criticizing the Syrian army's intervention in politics:

"If the Army leaders will not intervene...and if they let the Syrian parties play the parliamentary game freely, Syria will pass over a fearful crisis.

"Al-Qudsi's task is hard. Before dwelling on it and on the general political situation, we will bide our time to see the stand of the leaders of the coups. Have the army leaders taken lessons from the events of the coups and consented to function as militarists only?"

SAWT AL-AHRAR (Editor: Camille Yusuf Shamun, Maronite, opposition)

writes that the Arab countries have received the news of the formation of the new Syrian Cabinet with indifference, because they expected a cabinet which will include all the Syrian parties. Thus, the paper adds, Nazim al-Qudsi's cabinet is not a government in the full sense of the expression, but it is closer to a board of directors than to a government wishing to rule the country, particularly in the present circumstances. Admitting that Nazim al-Qudsi's personality renders him worthy of heading a government, the paper says that his political personality is not enough if it is not assisted by leaders experienced in the national and political fields. The paper then points out the economic problems between Lebanon and Syria and hopes that Hassan Jabbara, the new Minister of Finance and Economy will endeavor to open negotiations with Lebanon for agreement and understanding. The paper then concludes:

"The formation of the Syrian Cabinet in this manner clearly indicates that the crisis through which Syria is passing transcends cabinets, positions, programs, and internal affairs. It is deeper than all these. We will not exaggerate if we say that embraces the policy of survival..."

AMERICAN LEGATION, BEIRUT

June 7, 1950

THIS IS AN ENCLOSURE TO

Review of the Local Arabic Press
Appearing on June 7, 1950

25X1A

BEIRUT (Editor: Muhyiddin Nsuli, Sunni-Moslem, opposition)

again editorializes on the new Syrian government and says in part:

"Nazim al-Qudsi's government which includes elements whose intellectual and moral efficiencies are undeniable will face numerous responsibilities with caution and foresight, although it is a provisional or transitional government. Thus, it will side with truth and actuality in the Arab League, strengthen its economic relations with Lebanon and spread stability in Syria and the Arab world."

AL-HAYAT (Editor: Kamil Muruwwa, Shia-Moslem, independent)

This paper's editor says that he was inspired in writing today's editorial on the subject of "How to Arm Ourselves" by a picture (published alongside the editorial) depicting an American officer training five Europeans in the methods of using American arms. The editor writes:

"Until recently, we used to arm ourselves from any source. Lebanon and Syria, for instance, used to buy arms from France and then from Belgium, Italy and Czechoslovakia. Other Arab states purchased arms from Italy. This is very good. But the last London conference decided several days ago to coordinate European arms along American standards. This means that the European arms will melt, after a time, into the American arms. What would we then do with our arms? From where would we purchase ammunition for our arms? Would we remain at the mercy of one or two factories producing 'obsolete' arms in every European country?

"We trust that this point would be taken into consideration when purchasing arms in the future so that we will not find ourselves after a year or two possessing useless arms without ammunition, and so that our millions would not be squandered!

"We wish that the Arab League Council would study this aspect during its forthcoming meeting. We wish also that it would study the subject of coordination of armament so that each Arab country would acquire one type of arms in accordance with the interest of the whole. Thus the combined forces would become a complete unit along the line of the last decision of the Atlantic powers...."

AL-HAYAT'S Diplomatic Correspondent writes in a long article that in order to settle the Egyptian-Jordan dispute and to preserve Arab unity and the Arab League, Lebanon has mediated with Egypt and Iraq with Jordan. This mediation, the Correspondent declares, has resulted in the formulation of a joint Iraqi-Lebanese proposal embodying the means for settling the dispute. Iraq will submit the proposal to Jordan and Lebanon to Egypt. The correspondent understands that Fu'ad Ammun, Director General of the Lebanese Foreign Office, has taken with him a copy of the proposal for submission to the Egyptian authorities in Cairo; and that the visit of Jordan's Foreign Minister to Iraq has been made for the purpose of discussing the Iraqi-Lebanese proposal with the Regent there. The Correspondent then adds that official circles are showing great interest in the proposal and are claiming that its success will be regarded as a highly significant turning point in the discussions which will take place during the forthcoming Arab League Council.

AN-NAHAR (Editor: Ghassan Twaini, Greek-Orthodox, opposition)

editorializes on Cairo reports that the Arab League states are preparing a joint reply to the three-power declaration and says in part:

"With regard to the three great powers, we do not know what importance they will attach to the promised reply. The reader of the tripartite declaration will see that the declaration was issued only after the approval of the Arab states, namely, after they submitted sufficient assurances that they will not use arms purchased from the West for any aggressive purpose. Therefore, these assurances constitute, in themselves, the only reply which the Arab states could possibly submit to the democracies. Every reply which will exceed the scope of the assurances will be regarded as nullification of these assurances, and will ultimately spoil the principle of the declaration and compel the Western powers to change their attitude toward the Arab states in a manner which we do not know how the latter states will receive it!

"It is probable that the Arab states were taken unawares by the move of the three great powers, thus offering assurances while not realizing the extent of their attitude. Or, they were obliged to submit these assurances. However, the important thing is that the assurances have been submitted and that they do not only constitute an actual non-aggression treaty with Israel, but they also constitute recognition of the existence of Israel until the Western powers permit its disappearance. In view of this situation which is regarded as a retreat on the part of the Arab states which threatened revenge, a second round, the recovery of usurped rights, et cetera, public opinion will not accept a new allurement and will not permit the governments to cover their retreat with tumult and agitation.

"If they are preparing a reply, we wish to assure them that we know the real reply: They have told Israel: 'Yes, remain.' With regard to the promised reply, we are not interested in its contents, because we will not believe it. No one will believe it. The last to believe it will be the powers to which they intend sending the reply.

"However, the day will come when the Arab peoples will, in turn, reply not only the Western powers but their governments also!"

AL-'ANAL (Maronite, opposition, organ of the Lebanese Phalange Party)

condemns the present Election Law by accusing it of having stunted the growth of parliamentary life in Lebanon and turned the Chamber of Deputies into a party monopolized by a group of feudalists who impose their will and paralyze every opposition. It claims that there is unanimity in public opinion and in the press on the necessity of revising the Election Law in a manner consistent with the wishes of the people and with democratic and parliamentary system so that "we will attain sound representation and not appeasements, bargains, not half-solutions which do not remove the corruption and eradicate the cause of complaints."

AD-DIYAR (Editor: Hanna Ghosn, Greek-Orthodox, pro-government)

Under the headline "Our Welcome to the Guest French Admiral" this paper writes that the receptions which were held in Lebanon in honor of the visiting French marines demonstrated "the friendship which binds France to Lebanon and proved that the leaders of our independence and of the liberation movement do not differentiate between one power and another and that new France is not different, from the standpoint of friendship and prestige, from Britain, the United States and any other friendly power." It then goes on to say that no friendship is possible between any power if it is not based on mutual respect and

"that the government and the people wished to show the difference between the welcome which was accorded in the past to the French marines or to any French representative and that accorded today. When we feted them, or when the rulers who ruled in their name feted them in the past, we used to say: 'France is feting itself.' But today our rulers, the leaders of the independence movement and of the country are feting France's representatives and Lebanon is feting with them. Thus the world is witnessing that friendship does prevail between the two independent countries and the leaders of new France are realizing that friendship based on mutual respect and emanating from the heart of the people is stronger and more enduring than 'traditional friendship' whose weak gossamer is woven by the imperial spider!"

ASH-SHARQ (Editor: Khairi al-Ka'ki, Sunni-Moslem, extreme nationalist)

refers to a report purported to have emanated from Paris to the effect that French Navy has decided to use one

of the strategic ports in the Mediterranean as a base for its Mediterranean fleet; that important contacts are now being made between Paris, London and Washington for agreement on the areas which will be allotted for their respective fleets in the Mediterranean; and that the port which the French fleet will use falls within the sphere of French influence in accordance with the recent London tripartite agreement. The paper then comments:

"From the time the warship 'Montcalm' anchored at Beirut, rumors have been filling the sky. Some claim that the agreement between the three Western powers was consummated during the London conference for the distribution of spheres of influence in the Middle East between Britain, France and America, provided that Syria and Lebanon will return to the lap of French influence; and others state that the visit of the French warship to the port of Beirut directly following the issuance of the tripartite declaration is nothing but a politico-military demonstration intentionally staged by France in order to show the Lebanese and Syrians that it has returned to them.

"These rumors have been accompanied by other rumors to the effect that about two thousand French soldiers are now on their way to Lebanon permanently to garrison in one of its districts under the guise of preserving peace and stability in the Middle East, et cetera. Will the Lebanese government explain these matters to the people?"

Nasib Nimr, a pro-Soviet intellectual, comments in an article appearing in ASH-SHARQ on a statement Kamil Pasha al-Bandari, "Former Egyptian Minister to Moscow" is reported to have made to AL-MISRI, a Cairo daily, regarding Arab affairs and the three-power declaration. Nasib Nimr praises al-Bandari and says that he openly accuses the Arab governments

"that if they wish to accept the tripartite declaration and its consequences, such acceptance would mean assistance on their part for continued exploitation by foreign capitals, for protection of imperial oil interests, for dragging our youths into war against the Soviet Union - we have no interest in fighting it. It would also mean acceptance of foreign imperial domination, occupation by foreign troops of Egypt, Iraq, Jordan and Morocco and imperial influence over all the Arab world. If we are conscious of Arab honor, we must oblige the three powers to tear the declaration into pieces and throw it into the Manche!"

Note: All the Arabic language newspapers publish under banner headlines Henry Pharon's manifesto demanding revision of the Election Law.

AMERICAN LEGATION, BEIRUT

June 8, 1950

THIS IS AN ENCLOSURE TO
DO NOT DETACHReview of the Local Arabic Press
Appearing on June 8, 1950.

25X1A

BEIRUT (Editor: Muhyiddin Nsuli, Sunni-Moslem, opposition)

reviews with approbation the program of policy of the Syrian government which "won an overwhelming majority of votes of confidence after the issuance of this brief but useful program." The editorial then declares in part:

"It is now time for Syria to emerge from the anxiety from which it has suffered for almost fifteen months, to march along the straight national path in the present and the future, to strengthen its relations with the Arab states.. and to clarify its relations with the Western powers on firm bases of friendship and mutual interests, these relations which were almost destroyed by statements representing the views of those who made them - whether government or non-government officials - and not the views of the Syrian people and the Arabs.

"In discussing this program of policy and in congratulating al-Qudsi on the confidence the representatives of the Syrian peoples have conferred upon him, we hope that relations will return to normal between Beirut and Damascus and between Damascus and all the Arab capitals..."

In reporting Mr. Pinkerton's visit to the Lebanese Foreign Minister at Bustrus Palace yesterday, BEIRUT'S correspondent writes:

"Mr. Pinkerton conveyed to Minister Philip Tacla his government's reply to the explanations Lebanon had requested in connection with the three-power declaration. Philip Tada stated, following Mr. Pinkerton's departure from Bustrus Palace, that the explanations Lebanon had requested from the great powers were being sent to the Lebanese government. But he did not specify the powers that have already complied with Lebanon's request.

"Informed circles state that the Lebanese government will keep these explanations so that when they are complete, it will submit them to the members of the Arab League Council for preparing a joint reply to the three-power declaration."

In its roundup of the local political scene, BEIRUT writes that political and parliamentary circles yesterday showed great interest in Henri Pharaon's manifesto on the necessity of revising the Election Law.

- 2 -

They unanimously maintained that the manifesto constituted the first practical step for revising the Election Law and that the "minor list" Henri Pharaon proposed formed a middle solution for the differences prevailing between the advocates and opponents of revision. The paper then declares that prominent statesmen as well as a group of government leaders support this proposal. But would the opponents of revision accept this proposal? This question, the paper continues, was not answered yesterday because of Sabri Hamade's absence from Beirut. The paper then states that the parliamentary Administrative and Judicial Committee will meet Tuesday, June 13, in order to study the Election Law.

AL-HAYAT (Editor: Kamil Muruwwa, Shia-Moslem, independent)

maintains that Henri Pharaon's manifesto on the question of the necessity of revising the Election Law takes this question from the behind-the-scene debates and brings it into the open forum. Stating that the government promised to revise the Election Law immediately after the May 25, 1947 election and that the revision was blocked by a strong group of influential deputies, the paper charges that the Election Law has been instrumental in rendering all the State's machinery subservient to the will and avarice of a few individuals. It then goes on to say after regretting that the advocates and opponents of revision are using sectarianism as a means for backing their demands

"The opposers to the revision of the Election Law are wrong in obstructing the revision. The revision might promote their own more than other interests. The existing conditions in the country are not reasonable. The internal disturbances that have taken place since May 25, 1947: the bloodshed, the use of arms, the disputes, the evidences of chaos are all born of the present Election Law..

"The Election Law is one of the principal factors that have blocked the road before the new generation and led it to ~~negligence~~ *negligence*. You do not see in Lebanon today a bloc, a party or a youth organization that does not endeavor either to contract or expand Lebanon or to blow up its existing conditions. Wouldn't these facts merit appreciation at the proper time in order to overcome them with reasonable solutions instead of contenting ourselves with waiting for the disastrous consequences?"

AD-DIYAR (Editor: Hanna Ghosn, Greek-Orthodox, opposition)

approves of Henri Pharaon's manifesto on the necessity of revising the Election Law and says "if the rulers do not wish to realize all the reforms, the realization of a part of them will be better than the realization of nothing. The perpetuation of old conditions will harm the people and the government. Probably the government will be greater than that of the people if the old conditions remained unchanged."

- 3 -

AL-'AMAL (Maronite, opposition, organ of the Lebanese Phalange Party)

fully supports Henri Pharaon's manifesto and says the battle is now raging for the revision of the Election Law between a front supported by feudalists, egoists and opportunists; and a front backed by the masses of the people with their intellectuals, workers and peasants all of whom are determined to save the country from the threatening dangers. (Note: TELAGRAPH and SAUT AL-AHRAR also support Henri Pharaon's statement.)

CPYRGHT

AMERICAN LEGATION, BEIRUT

June 9, 1950

THIS IS AN ENCLOSURE
DO NOT DETACHReview of the Local Arabic Press
Appearing on June 9, 1950

25X1A

BEIRUT (Editor: Muhyiddin Nauli, Sunni-Moslem, opposition)

states that Henri Pharaon's manifesto on the revision of the Election Law has been supported by all the press which regards his sober suggestion for the adoption of a minor election list as a first step toward the desired reforms and sound democratic representation. Wondering whether the responsible authorities would listen to Pharaon's views "which are upheld by all the Lebanese people" the paper criticizes the government and the Chamber of Deputies and complains that Lebanon is being dominated by a few leaders who impose their will from one end of Lebanon to the other. The paper then continues:

"We wish that the minor list would be divided more than envisaged by Henri Pharaon so that parliamentary representation would be sound. But we know that the jump is impossible and that we must cover one stage after another in order to reach the smaller electoral circles where every elector knows his candidate and every candidate knows his elector..."

"This cry which has been raised by Henri Pharaon must have its echo in the hearts of the responsible authorities. Otherwise, we are afraid lest this small homeland - Lebanon - might collapse at the hands of those who pretend to love it and sacrifice themselves in its service."

BEIRUT carries the following article reporting the views of Nida' al-Qwami Party on the three-power declaration:

"The Nida' al-Qwami Party has issued a statement containing its views on the three-power declaration. The Party began its statement by declaring that the three powers were attempting to confer on themselves a capacity of trusteeship and domination over the Arab states and to give themselves the right of interfering in matters some of which are regarded as part of the national sovereignty while others fall within the jurisdiction of the United Nations Organisation."

"The statement embodies a detailed study of the declaration and deals with the arming; the assurances; and peace and security. It then tells the Arab states on the occasion of their meeting in Cairo that

1 - This declaration which has been issued by the United Kingdom, France and the United States governments is an unlawful act coming from one side. It does not bind the other side to anything. This Arab side holds that nothing limits its sovereignty and liberty except its obligations under the provisions of the United Nations Charter."

2 - This declaration is an unfriendly act directed against the Arab states which have offered more than one evidence of their attachment to peace, respect for international law and zeal for every useful cooperation.

3 - The Arab states must submit a note to the UN General Assembly demanding, according to Article 14, that it intervene and recommends the adoption of the necessary measures for restoring the peaceful atmosphere which has been disturbed by an act which, because of its nature, prejudices friendly relations existing between nations. It is, at the same time, a flagrant violation of the provisions of the United Nations Charter.

4 - Having felt the dangers threatening their existence, the Arab states must immediately compose their differences and reach a unified foreign policy which will ensure the great Arab interests and preserve the sovereignty and independence of the Arab states and the honor and life of the peoples of these states."

AL-HAYAT (Editor: Kamil Muruwwa, Shia-Moslem, independent)

writes that the Partisans of Peace in Lebanon have issued a statement declaring "While all the peoples are rising to defend their independence and liberty we are faced with the imperial tripartite declaration which divides the Arab countries into spheres of influence between the three powers and attempts to mobilize them and hurl their peoples into the war the imperialists are plotting." The statement of the partisans of peace then refers to the visit of the French cruiser to Beirut following the issuance of the tripartite declaration and to the significance of this visit.

AL-'ANAL (Maronite, opposition, organ of the Lebanese Phalange Party)

supports in two editorials Henri Pharaon's manifesto on the necessity of revising the Election Law and levels its usual criticism against the government and the Chamber of Deputies.

AN-NAHAR (Editor: Ghassan Twaini, Greek-Orthodox, opposition)

writes editorially that Sabri Himade "one of the leaders of political feudalism from which the country complains and one of the heroes who wish to keep old conditions unchanged" wants to abolish sectarianism from the Election Law. Thus, the editorial urges every progressive Lebanese to support Sabri Himade's wish. But it expresses surprise, at the same time, at Himade's demand for undertaking a census to determine the increases in the members of one sect over the other. It argues that there will be no sense in such a census after sectarianism is abolished. However, the editorial hopes that Sabri Himade is sincere in his desire to do away with sectarianism and promises to support him to the end in this respect. It also hopes that Henri Pharaon's call for revising the Election Law will meet with success.

AD-DIYAR (Editor: Hanna Ghosn, Greek-Orthodox, pro-government)

comments on the three-power declaration and says that the first effect of the declaration is to strengthen the position of Israel and increase its ability for arming itself from all sides while feeling that the Western powers will protect it whenever any Arab state contemplates attacking it. The paper then continues:

"This is the first effect of the declaration. Its significance is coordination of the attitudes of the three powers toward the Arabs, because the arms question is the key to Arab-Western relations. Indeed, it is the key to international relations in these circumstances during which all are preparing themselves for war. This coordination is the gravest point in the declaration. The Arab states must inevitably counter it by a similar coordination of their policy toward the Western powers. This must be the principal item on the agenda of the next meeting of the Arab League...."

AL-BAYRAQ (Editor: Fadhil Sa'eed Aql, Maronite, opposition)

fully supports Henri Pharaon's manifesto calling for revision of the Election Law. Commenting in another article on the receptions which were held in Beirut in honor of the men of the visiting French cruiser, the paper writes that the members of the Lebanese government and of the opposition as well as the Christians and the Moslems equally welcomed Vice-Admiral Lambert, since this welcome was extended to a friendly power and since it was a sentiment based on the strongest foundations because France was, before its mandatory regime, always a friend of Lebanon. The paper then mentions France's cultural contributions to Lebanon and states that the French Minister in Lebanon has, in a magical way, replaced the French troops who were in the Levant before 1945 and who did a lot to mar France's reputation in this part of the world. "The French Minister has, with his intelligence, sincerity, refinement, neutrality and sagacity, been able to restore everything to its former place without tumult or ado." The paper then continues, "Within a few years of hard work, self-denial and sacrifice he restored France's first position which is desired by every Lebanese. This position is far from imperialism, exploitation and selfish interest. The French Minister realized that France's position in Lebanon and the East was not commerce, not finance, not arbitrary rule and not imperialism, but literature and taste... France in 1950 has only friends because of this attitude. The welcome which the Vice-Admiral and his officers extended to their guests on board the cruiser was evidence that the sentiments of friendship are mutual between the two nations."

The paper writes also that when the warship MONTCALEM reached Junie, after leaving Beirut on June 7, she stopped at a point facing Bkerki and saluted it with flags. This gesture, the paper says, left a deep effect in the heart of the Maronite Patriarch and of the people of the district.

SAWT AL-AHRAH (Editor: Camille Yusuf Shamun, Maronite, opposition)

states that indications point out that the official relations between Lebanon and Syria are now better than they were a short while ago. It quotes Foreign Minister Talla as saying at an economic conference held in his office last Wednesday: "The atmosphere between the two countries has greatly improved in relation to the past and there is great hope for reaching an acceptable solution in a short time." The paper then quotes a statement made by Dr. Shakir al-'As, Syrian Minister of Economy, to the effect that "the reasonable solution for the Lebano-Syrian relations is the conclusion of a commercial agreement for exchange local agricultural and industrial products and organizing the importation of goods which are not produced by the two countries."

The Editorial then comments:

"If the Syrian Minister's statement which aims at 'organizing the importation of goods that are not produced by the two countries' will be the basis on which the future negotiations will be conducted, we do not believe that the economic relations will be improved more than they are now. On the contrary, the situation between the two countries might deteriorate in

"The coordination of economic relations between the two countries will not be guaranteed by limiting importation and opening the doors widely for Syrian agricultural produce. When Syria wishes to sell Lebanon grains for one million liras annually and when it wants to sell Lebanon sheep, cooking butter, eggs, vegetables, cheese, wool and even fruits, it should not have the right to bind Lebanon's commercial markets to chains which kill its trade and lead to bankruptcy...."

AMERICAN LEGATION, BEIRUT

June 10, 1950

**THIS IS AN ENCLOSURE TO
DO NOT DETACH**Review of the Local Arabic Press
Appearing on June 10, 1950.

25X1A

BEIRUT (Editor: Muhyiddin Nsuli, Sunni-Moslem, opposition)

writes that Nazim al-Qudsi's Cabinet has created a wave of optimism in Lebanon and Syria for the resumption of economic relations between the two countries. Describing the losses both the Syrian and Lebanese peoples have suffered as a result of the disrupted economic relations and emphasizing the necessity of encouraging economic and other associations between the two countries, the editorial states: "The cruel lesson which the past three months have imparted on us must cause Beirut and Damascus to act wisely and prudently." The paper then continues:

"We have already said and still say that Israel alone benefits from the economic separation and not Lebanon and Syria. Shall we resume the economic negotiations and reach immediate settlements?....If Arab League questions are engaging our attention to day, resumption of economic relations between Lebanon and Syria must be given first preference lest the situation should grow more critical and lest smuggling activities should increase because they are causing the two countries to lose considerable revenues."

AL-HAYAT (Editor: Kamil Muruwwa, Shia-Moslem, independent)

devotes its editorial, for the third consecutive day, to the Election Law. It claims that this law is retarding the country's progress, while the world is forging ahead, and that it was enforced by the foreigner for promoting his interest and obstructing every political advancement in the country.

AN-NAHAR (Editor: Ghassan Twaini, Greek-Orthodox, opposition)

maintains that despite the efforts for reconciling the divergent viewpoints, the Arab crisis is growing worse because Egypt is insisting on its stand on holding the meeting of the Arab League Council and because Jordan is still sticking to its view. The editorial then states in part:

"If the League has been changed from a means for realizing Arab aspirations into an iron chain for binding the Arab peoples, let the League go unregretted. With regard to those who have created the League and brought it to its present condition, the day on which they will

- 2 -

follow their League is not distant..."

AL-'AMAL (Maronite, opposition, organ of the Lebanese
Phalange Party)

continues its campaign for the revision of the
Election Law.

AMERICAN LEGATION, BEIRUT

June 12, 1950

THIS IS AN ENCLOSURE TO.

Review of the BEIRUT DEBATH press
 Appearing on June 11, 1950

25X1A

BEIRUT (Editor: Muhyiddin Husuli, Sunni-Moslem, opposition)

editorializes on the Arab League Council and wonders whether it will meet today to discuss and solve the problems confronting the Arabs, or it will postpone the meeting and thus delay the solution of these problems and frustrate the hopes that have been pinned on this Arab institution. The editorial then refers to Jordan's annexation of Arab Palestine and says this action is not so complicated as imagined because it took place with the consent of the Palestinians themselves through free and honest elections. It continues, after appealing to the Arabs to compose their differences and to act positively:

"We believe that the separation of Jordan from the League will not be effected with the ease imagined by some people, because more than one Arab state will not agree to such a separation. Shall we permit the League to smash itself on this rock, while the Arabs are facing numerous problems which should urge them to cooperate today more than at any other time? Suppose there is unanimity on Jordan's separation from the League, will such a separation be consonant with the interest of the Arab League?"

The editorial then concludes that if the Arab League leaders will not heartily work to overcome the present difficulties "we respectfully ask them to withdraw from the field and to return the trust to its people because the Arab peoples have a word which they will say at the proper time."

In reporting the British Minister's visit to the Foreign Office on Saturday, June, 10, this paper writes that both the Foreign Minister and the British Minister refused to make any press statement on their conversation. The paper then continues:

"While Mr. Pinkerton was the first to deny reports that the three powers had decided to divide the Middle East into spheres of influence, Sir Boswell gave the same assurance.

"However, the tripartite declaration is still engaging the attention of official quarters and political circles."

BEIRUT reports that the Lebanese delegation to the meeting of the Arab League Council comprises Premier Riadh as-Solh; Fu'ad Ammun, Director General of the Foreign Office; and Sami al-Khuri, the Lebanese Minister in Cairo. As-Solh and Ammun will leave for Cairo June 12.

AL-'ANAL (Maronite, opposition, organ of the Lebanese Phalange Party)

criticizes the Chamber of Deputies, the government and the Election Law. The paper then complains that sectarianism

-2-

is being used as a maneuver for frustrating the proposed revision of the Election Law and says that sectarianism is a plague and a dangerous weapon which the foreigner used to disunite Lebanon. It then continues:

"The revision of the Election Law is a reform measure a first step toward abolishing sectarianism while feudalism itself is suppressing liberty and sustaining sectarianism....Let us not use the Election Law as a weapon for abolishing sectarianism. This is a spiritual state which must be treated in the spirit of the people before the texts. Let us remember that we are Lebanese before we are sectarians..."

AN-NAHAR (Editor: Ghassan Twaini, Greek Orthodox, opposition)

carries the following editorial on Lebanon's attitude toward the three-power declaration:

"It is reported that the Lebanese delegation to the Arab League Council will convey to the League Lebanon's displeasure with the tripartite declaration not only as a violation of the UN Charter, but also as an unlawful interference in its internal affairs and sovereignty. Finally, the Lebanese government, it is said, regards itself as not bound to the contents of this declaration!

"We have already told the Lebanese and the other Arab governments that every reply they make to the declaration whether today or tomorrow will come late because they took part in the formulation of the declaration which they are resenting today!

"Had it not been for the assurances they hastened to submit to the Western powers, there would not have been a tripartite declaration. Has the Lebanese government awakened, and realized afterwards that it accepted what it ought not to have accepted and that it hastily offered assurances which it could not guarantee?.....

"The Arab governments thought, when they hastily accepted to offer the assurances asked of them, that they will be flooded with arms. But they forgot to ask the purpose of the flow of arms, if it would ever flow. They forgot that the only fight we want to wage is the fight which our governments have been forbidden to wage.

"We hold, with Riadh as-Solh, that the declaration is a violation of the UN Charter and interference in our internal affairs. But we permit ourselves to accuse Riadh as-Solh and his government as well as every government which holds his view today, of circumvention so that we might not blame them for lack of understanding....and so that logic might not oblige us to accuse them of conspiracy against our national sovereignty which they resent being prejudiced and which would not have been prejudiced were it not for them."

AN-NAHAR carries the following news item:

"On Saturday - June 10, - an aircraft belonging to the American Mediterranean Fleet landed at the Beirut

airport. Four senior officers alighted from the aircraft and drove to one of the city's hotels. We tried to know the purpose of their visit but we collided with great reticence."

AD-DIYAR (Editor: Hanna Ghosn, Greek Orthodox, opposition)

editorializes on the meeting of the Arab League Council and on the problems confronting the Arab world, particularly the Egyptian-Jordan dispute over the Arab parts of Palestine. Stating that the atmosphere dominating the Arab situation on the eve of the meeting of the Political Committee does not call for optimism, the paper concludes:

"The crisis might continue, Egypt might adhere to its position and Amman might insist on its view with the result that the Arabs would be divided into two fronts. The Arab governments might emerge disunited from the meeting of the Political Committee. Whether the responsible authorities listen to the call of the Arab peoples or close their ears and hearts, they must realize that the Arab world regards the disintegration of the Arab forces as a crime and the causers as criminals!"

AR-RUWYAD (Editor: Bishara Maroun, Maronite, opposition)

deplores the crisis facing the Arab League and criticizes the Egyptian government for its attitude toward Jordan's annexation of Arab Palestine. It claims that the Arab peoples have unanimously accepted King Abdullah's action and urges Premier Riadh-as-Solh to back Baghdad's suggestion for postponing the meeting of the League Council to save it from the collapse awaiting it.

CPYRGHT

D A I L Y R E V I E W

of THIS IS AN ENCLOSURE TO
DO NOT DETACH

B A G H D A D P R E S S

25X1A

Embassy of the U.S.A.
Baghdad, Iraq.

Friday, June 2, 1950.

* * * * *

THE THREE-POWER DECLARATION.

Al-Islah carries the full text of the Reform Party's memorandum forwarded to the British and American Ambassadors in Baghdad in "protest" against the three-power declaration.

In the memorandum, the Reform Party says: 1) the declaration does harm to the anti-Communist cause in the Middle East; 2) restores the resented French influence over Syria; 3) prevents the Arabs from resisting any Jewish attack and furthering inter-Arab union; 4) disappoints those Arabs who were still believing that the U.S. would "correct her errors"; and 5) underestimates the Arabs' potentialities in an East-West armed conflict.

In a letter addressed to the Prime Minister and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, copies of the memo have been enclosed; and the party expresses the hope that the Iraqi government would "adopt a firm attitude vis-a-vis the declaration."

*

The three-power declaration is viewed in Al-Akhbar and Al-Nabaa, which carry the same editorial, as a three-power "trusteeship" over the Middle East. It preserves the present status quo and gives "protection" to Israel's frontiers despite their violation of the UN partition plan of 1947. Moreover, the fact, that the declaration mentions "measures outside the UN", means that the Middle East is separated from the UN organization and brought under the three powers' authority.

* * *

FIRST-HAND REPORT ON REFUGEES PROBLEM.

In the third article of a series, Yahya Qassim describes what he has seen and reports what he had heard while touring Eastern Palestine in the party of Interior Minister Saleh Jabr.

Realistically...

- 2 -

June 2, 1950.

Realistically putting the refugees problem, he says, "Arab governments' spokesmen speak from their homes that there shall be no final settlement unless refugees are repatriated. These are very nice and simple words. But, how the refugees can be repatriated? How they shall be treated when back? Do they want repatriation at all cost? Would Israel accept them? How can Israel be forced to accept them? The men of the Arab governments and the League are not taking the trouble of answering them."

Yahya adds that he has seen some wishing to go back to their homes and others who do not because they believe that they would be an "outraged minority." As for their settlement, it requires funds; the UN cannot carry on subsidizing it and the Arab states talk much but "do not dig their hands in their pockets." Indeed, all the refugees are expressing their willingness and desire for work.

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SHORT NEWS.

The Regent left by air for Mosul on his way to the summer resort of Shaqlawa, says a Royal Bilat announcement.

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The France-Presse correspondent in Baghdad reports that the Regent would visit Spain during the coming summer. (Al-Nabaa)

*

Yesterday, 237 Jews applied for emigration. In the evening, one plane carrying 109 denationalized Jews left Baghdad. (Ash-Shaab)

*

In Syria, Dr. Nadhem Al-Qodsi has been requested to form the new government. Akram Hourani has announced his decision of not participating in any government. (Liwa Al-Istiqlal)

*

The new regulation of the Ministry of Economics reorganizes the whole set-up of the Ministry. The DG of Economics shall supervise the works of all other Directorates General. The DG of Industrial Research is renamed as DG of Industry. Two new departments are created, that is the Directorate of the Administration of Development and Exploitation of State Lands, and the DG of Oil Affairs. (Liwa Al-Istiqlal)

- 3 -

June 2, 1950.

Nuri As-Said is leaving for London either on June 9 or 10. (Az-Zaman)

*

The Board of the Rafidain Bank has elected DG of Income-Tax Rauf Al-Bahrani as its Chairman and Jaffar Ash-Shibibi as Deputy-Chairman. (Az-Zaman)

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CPYRGHT

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THIS IS AN ENCLOSURE TO

S U P P L E M E N T

25X1A

to

P R E S S U M M A R Y

Embassy of the U.S.A.
Baghdad, Iraq.

Saturday, June 3, 1950.

* * * * *

Commenting on the tripartite declaration, Al-Jaqt describes it as a "new phase" of the three powers' policy in the Middle East. It has been received, says the paper, with "dissatisfaction" on the part of the Arabs, although some of their governments have delayed stating their opinions clearly, before consulting each other.

Undoubtedly, the declaration is "contrary to the Arabs' national aspirations, and besides threatens their security because it is more than a recognition of Israel, as it embodies a guarantee of her security and allows her to retain the fruit of her aggression against the Arabs...

"This situation is painful and regrettable. But adds to this pain and regret the fact that it is to a large extent the consequence of the Arab governments' errors and disagreement among themselves... Most of the Arab governments have become unable to ensure their respect by any of three powers which control the Western world.

"The world is divided into two camps; and the Arabs cannot deny that they fall in the Western camp, although unwillingly... Therefore, the only way out of this impasse is to set up internally strong governments, which are backed by the people, in order that they be capable of bargaining with the Western powers... The Arab states are not free to buy arms from wherever they like; in fact, they have to purchase them from the West which imposes the terms it wants... But, the Arab states are neither legally nor politically bound by the declaration, and can purchase them from the West until they satisfy their needs.

"The bargaining which the Arab states can stage results from the rivalry between the East and the West. The West cannot leave the Middle East unarmed, to be an easy prey of the Russians... And in here lies the possibility of bargaining..."

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- 2 -

June 3, 1950.

Senator Omar Nadhmi described France's participation in the declaration as a "threat to the Arab states." Lebanon and Syria in particular, and the other Arab states in general have to "think seriously of the matter before expressing any optimistic view."

He added that the sentence that the existing frontiers should be respected has been purposely inserted in the declaration in order to "please France so as to keep the Arab states disunited and to enable Imperialism's fingers to meddle as it wishes."

He underlined the need for taking into consideration the remarks made by Nuri As-Said in his speech before the Senate. (Az-Zaman)

* * *

JOINT ANSWER TO DECLARATION.

Following his speech in the Senate, the Prime Minister had approached the representatives of Egypt, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia and Syria in Baghdad. Answers from these governments have been received and they are in "harmony" with Iraq's views. Consequently, a "joint answer to the tripartite declaration is expected to be issued in the near future, which would express the Arab states' views about the declaration." (Az-Zaman)

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SHORT NEWS: think seriously of the matter before expressing any optimistic view.

Due to the reduction of scholarship allowances, the Ministry of Education is to be able this year to resume sending students missions abroad; however, their number will not exceed 50 and scholarships shall be granted for technical training only. (Az-Zaman)

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D A I L Y R E V I E W
of the
B A G H D A D P R E S S

Embassy of the U.S.A.
Baghdad, Iraq.

Saturday, June 3, 1950.

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LEADING JORDANIANS IN BAGHDAD.

Yesterday afternoon, King Abdullah's Chamberlain, Samir Pasha Ar-Rifaye, and Jordanian Foreign Minister, Mohammed Pasha Ash-Shereiqli, arrived in Baghdad by air.

Ash-Shereiqli declined to make any statement on the visit. However, Ar-Rifaye, when asked about the tripartite declaration, said, "Jordan has not yet defined her attitude, as she is expected to act jointly with the League."

According to "informed circles," the two visitors shall be received in audience by the Regent within the next two days. (Az-Zaman)

* * *

THE TRIPARTITE DECLARATION.

Mohammed Ridha Ash-Shibibi, assailing the declaration, stated, "The three powers' declaration is an indication of the utter failure of their Middle Eastern policy. It reveals their intentions and demonstrates that their policy is imperialistic and reactionary since trying to convert the Middle East into spheres of influence under the pretext of promoting peace and stability which cannot be ensured by injustice and force."

He went on saying, "I do not see any difference between this declaration and the Sykes-Picot agreement, revealed in 1917 as an imperialistic plan based on dividing the Arab world into spheres of influence between France and Britain. However, the only difference between the two is that the U.S. is a third party of this new conspiracy."

He added, "The Arabs are undergoing a hard ordeal; the Arab states cannot face it with disagreement and dissension among themselves. Would the Arab League states face this declaration united, as it is being striven for by some politicians?" (Az-Zaman)

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CPYRGHT

DAILY REVIEW

THIS IS AN ENCLOSURE TO
DO NOT DETACH

of the

BAGHDAD PRESS

25X1A

Embassy of the U.S.A.
Baghdad, Iraq.

Sunday, June 4, 1950
Monday, June 5, 1950

* * * * *

IRAQ'S STAND IN LEAGUE v. JORDAN DISPUTE.

Answering Matta Sarsam's interpellation in parliament on Saturday, June 4, 1950, Premier Towfiq As-Suwaiddi, stated, "Gentlemen, what is being referred to in the question of the Honorable Deputy regarding the unification of the two Jordan banks has been the object of long discussions at the Political Committee, and the dispute has not yet ended. Iraq's position towards this matter is the one of a mediating brother, who wishes that the disputes be solved in near future; and any detailed statement about it, I believe, does not suit the public interest and would hamper this mediation."

Matta Sarsam replied that he wished the Prime Minister to be "more daring and more frank" in order to throw light on the "obscurity" folding the "unjust" decision of the AL Political Committee. "Jordan," he asserted, "did not violate the Arab League decision, and the unification of the Jordan banks has been achieved in accordance with the will of the inhabitants of the Arab part of Palestine... If Egypt and Saudi Arabia wish to take over from Jordan, Iraq must stand by Jordan."

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(Al-Umma. 6/4)

- 2 -

June 4 & 5, 1950

The following persons are due to fly this morning to Mosul to confer with the Regent who is to arrive there coming from Shaqlawa on his way to Sarsang:

Samir Pasha Ar-Rifaye
Mohammed Ash-Shereiqli Pasha
Interior Minister Saleh Jabr
Defense Minister Shaker Al-Wadi
Senator Nuri As-Said.

After the conference, all the five will return in Baghdad this very day. (Al-Umma. 6/5)

*

On Sunday, June 4, Jordanian Foreign Minister Mohammed Ash-Shereiqli Pasha held a press conference at the Tigris Palace Hotel. He first welcomed the newsmen, and then read out a speech he made in the Jordanian parliament stating Jordan's case for its having "misreported."

Elaborating on the main point of the speech that the Arab League resolution of April 12, 1948, was "nullified" by the Lausanne Protocol which committed its signatories to the "principle of territorial partition," he stated that "legally and internationally" the said resolution is "null and void" for 1) the Arab states have "signed armistices as a preliminary step to concluding peace," 2) have "agreed to partition as a basis of the Lausanne talks," and 3) "before completing the liberation of Palestine, a government based on territorial partition was set up in a small part of Palestine."

To prove his assertions, Jordanian Foreign Minister Mohammed Ash-Shereiqli Pasha cited the following official documents:

1) Former Egyptian Foreign Minister was quoted on March 10, 1950, by the Egyptian newspaper, Az-Zaman, saying that at the Palais Chaillot, the Arabs sought 1) internationalization of Jerusalem, 2) partition to safeguard the Arab parts of Palestine, and 3) repatriation of refugees.

2) A formal note forwarded by the Egyptian Ambassador in Washington to the U.S. State Department stated, "... With this spirit (of cooperation among freedom-loving peoples), the Arab states have responded to the repeated appeal of the U.S. Government to cooperate with the UN PCC in order to find a practical and peaceful solution of the problem... and with the same spirit the Arab governments have signed in Lausanne, on May 12, 1949, the protocol pertaining to the territorial terms mentioned in the partition plan after introducing the necessary amendments. Thus, they have adopted a stand identical to the

June 4 & 5, 1950

policy of the U.S. Government, as announced by Mr. Jessup, the U.S. delegate to the Third Session of the UN in Paris, and as confirmed by the President of the U.S. in his message to King Abdullah...."

The U.S. policy, explained Shereiqli Pasha, as announced by Jessup is that "Israel should be given the territories assigned to her under the partition plan of November 29, 1947."

3) Article 7 of the Lausanne Protocol signed by the Egyptian chief delegate provides that the future of the Arab part is the concern of the Arabs only.

4) When the PCC insisted on knowing its future, the Jordanian delegation was "forced" to say that "the Arab part of Palestine cannot constitute an independent entity." However, the other Arab delegates did not express any disapproval.

As for unification, the "Western bank" had repeatedly asked for it as a security measure, because "there is no prospect of the Arab states resuming the fight." Moreover, no Arab state protested against the two-bank elections although a date was set for them long ago. The unification decision was adopted by the Jordanian parliament with the reservation that the measure does not prejudice the final settlement of the Palestine problem.

"Jordan," asserted Shereiqli Pasha, "did not annex anything, but the Western part has asked for unification."

Asked what Jordan would do if the AL Council decide to expel her, he said that the recommendation needs unanimous approval, which he does not expect it to get. (Al-Umma. 6/5)

* * *

END OF CABINET CRISIS IN SYRIA.

The cabinet crisis in Syria has come to an end. Dr. Nadhem Al-Qodsi has formed the new government. It comprises eight members, including him; 5 are from the People's Party, and the three others are independent, two of them come from outside the Constituent Assembly. Nadhem Al-Qodsi is Premier and Minister of Foreign Affairs.

The Jerusalem radio quoted the UP that the absence of Dr. Ma'ruf Ad-Dewalibi from the government is interpreted as an indication that Syria would oppose the expulsion of Jordan from the League and would seek a compromise in order to persuade Egypt to remain in the League. (Liwa Al-Istiqlal. 6/5)

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Commenting.....

Commenting on the formation of a new government in Syria, Faik As-Samerrai, in Liwa Al-Istiqlal (6/5) says that Syria will not find her "way to salvation" from unstability unless the new government carry out its program of enacting the new constitution. Indeed, all the Arabs, whatever may be their views, desire political stability for Syria, and the authority be "taken away from the hands of irresponsible persons"; otherwise, Syria is exposed to dangers intensified by the recent tripartite declaration which is to enable France to restore her influence over Syria and Lebanon.

* * *

THREE-POWER DECLARATION.

Al-Inqad, owned by Hashem Al-Dabbagh, is being edited by Khalid Al-Dorra and published daily as from Sunday, June 4. In its Monday issue, it carries a cartoon featuring the tripartite declaration as the "season present to Israel." Britain, the U.S. and France are shown throwing grains to seven hens, representing each one of the Arab states, while Israel is standing by carrying three swords on a cushion.

*

"What shall you do to those whom you call 'conspirators' and 'traitors'? Or the matter is one of airy words?". Under this headline, Ash-Shaab (6/5) comments for the first time on the tripartite declaration.

The declaration, it says, may be considered as an "almost decisive test for the Arab states" and a "new opportunity for ascertaining whether they have benefited from the lessons of the past." Much has been said about it; "needless to say that various ends underlay the various comments made. However, it is clear that the noise made and still being made by some is artificial and not serious."

The declaration "is in itself neither good nor bad for the Arab states; but, its effects depend on the way it would be carried out and on the mentality to direct the Arab states."

"It has been denounced," adds the paper, "as a 'conspiracy to suppress the Arabs and to consolidate Israel; but, we should ask who are the authors of the conspiracy?'"

"The declaration," stresses the paper, "should be considered with a practical view. Unfortunately, some of its antagonists, who represent Arab governments, lack it, missing that their governments have treaties with the authors of the declaration and that such a charge is improper. Besides, have those who criticize the declaration to suggest any other alternative than mere words?".

If the Arab states, warns the paper, are to refuse the obligations set in the declaration, Israel would be supplied with arms as much as the Arab states would be deprived of them. Moreover, they would "afford her the opportunity and means of expanding herself at the detriment of unprepared neighboring states."

Therefore, the Arab states should be "on the safe side", and refrain from "hurried actions to which they are used." The paper goes on saying, "We should remember that only the weak are asked to comply with their obligations, but the strong can dictate their own terms and adapt their obligations to their interest. We should remember too that whoever favor refusing arms and deny Israel her present frontiers contradict themselves because they deprive themselves of an important means for at least preventing Israel from expanding."

The paper concludes saying, "The declaration is not a proposal to the Arab states to state their views, but a definite decision. The Arab states, consequently, have to take their decisions, and making remarks is not enough."

* * *

ISMAIL GHANEM URGES UNDERSTANDING WITH RUSSIA.

Ismail Ghanem, writing in Al-Yaqdha (6/5), says that if the U.S., Britain and France insist on their policy embodied in their joint declaration, and if the Arabs fail to join a "third force", they should seek better relations with Russia. Indeed, the "obstacles" to such an understanding are "imaginary" and are propagated by the Western camp. Indeed, Russia's regime is "a moderate socialism". Besides, ideological differences are no cause for preventing understanding, if the interests are the same. The only real obstacle to such a rapprochement is the mentality of those Arab politicians who have been "grown up in the British's lap."

* * *

CRITICIZMS OF EMERGENCIES LAW.

Sada Al-Ahali (6/4) says that the government has undertaken a new step against the opposition; the first was the Press Law. This new law which has been submitted to parliament to enactment means "that the country will be kept under permanent martial administration." It is being enacted because the ruling class fears about its advantages and prerogatives. Indeed, the law violates the constitution because it authorizes the Prime Minister to intern any persons likely to cause disorder.

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Liwa Al-Istiqlal...

Liwa Al-Istiqlal denounces the emergencies law as a
"new terroristic law."

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SHORT NEWS.

Al-Umma (6/5) denies that there is any cabinet crisis.

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On Sunday, a plane left Baghdad carrying 95 Jewish
denationalized emigrants. (Ash-Shaab. 6/5)

*

As his opponent has withdrawn, Khalil Kanna has
therefore been elected for the Faluja electoral precinct
uncontested. (Al-Ittihad Ad-Dasturi. 6/4)

*

On Saturday, the Chamber of Deputies approved the Law
of the Capital Works Budget of the Railways, the Law of the
Port Budget, and the Capital Works Law. (Sada Al-Ahali. 6/4)

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CPYRGHT

D A I L Y R E V I E W
of the
B A G H D A D P R E S S

Embassy of the U.S.A.
Baghdad, Iraq.

Tuesday, June 6, 1950.

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LEAGUE MEETING LIKELY TO BE POSTPONED.

Al-Nabaa reports,

"An official source has asserted that the meeting of the Arab League Council, slated for June 12, is to be deferred. The delay, it is understood, is due to the government change in Syria."

* * *

ONE-DAY MOSUL CONCLAVE.

After conferring with the Regent in Mosul, Interior Minister Saleh Jabr, attended by Samir Pasha Ar-Rifaye and Mohammed Pasha Ash-Shereiqli, of Jordan, returned in Baghdad by air, yesterday afternoon at 3:00 p.m.

However, Buri Ab-Said and Defense Minister Shaker Al-Wadi, who also participated in the conference, proceeded with the Regent to the Sarpaang summer resort, where they are to spend two days before returning to Baghdad. (Al-Umma)

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SHEREIQLI'S STATEMENT COMMENTED.

Commenting on the statement made by Jordanian Foreign Minister Mohammed Pasha Ash-Shereiqli to the press on Sunday, June 4, Sada Al-Ahali remarks that the public is not being afforded all the facts and the documents of the Jordan v. the League dispute, and therefore, cannot constitute for itself a clear opinion about the case. The League should undertake a thorough investigation of the Palestine war.

However, it is "unquestionable" that the "Palestine campaign cannot be considered as over". Consequently, Jordan's annexation of Eastern Palestine "should be regarded as a temporary arrangement subject to change until the final settlement."

The Egyptian.....

- 2 -

June 6, 1950.

The Egyptian proposal for considering Jordan as "trustee" over the Palestinian territories, is based on a League resolution and on the reference made in the Jordanian Speech from the Throne that Jordan's action "shall not prejudice the final settlement of the Palestine question."

The unification of the two sides of the Jordan can be looked at from another angle than the one elaborated by the Foreign Minister. It means "killing any hope of liberation from Zionist grips in the rest of Palestine."

There is no justification for violating the League resolution of April 12, 1948, if other states had done so. Moreover, the armistices with Israel and the signing of the Lausanne Protocol were undertaken concertedly; then, why should Jordan pursue an "individualistic" policy now? Furthermore, the Lausanne protocol did not adopt the partition plan as a basis for the settlement of the Palestine question, but for the refugees' repatriation.

The interest of the Arab League requires that "Jordan renounce her annexation decision." If she refuses, the "only solution is to adopt a stiff attitude towards her. Iraq should not alone hesitate, in order to avert the collapse of the League, which would cause the biggest harm to the Arabs and their states. If Iraq persists in supporting Jordan, after failing in her mediation, she would bear a heavy historical responsibility."

* * *

THE NEW SYRIAN GOVERNMENT.

In Liwa Al-Istiqlal, Faik As-Samerrai says that the short ministerial crisis in Syria has been characterized by the politicians' determination to boycott the government, if the army officers persisted in their interference in politics. The ministerial crisis has led to a moral defeat of the army officers, and a victory of the politicians. Moreover, it is known that Dr. Nadhem Al-Qodsi tendered the resignation of his first cabinet twenty-four hours after its formation, in protest against the army's interference.

Indeed, the present government would render a great service to the country, if it succeeds in leading it to stability and conditions under which the constitution would prevail.

News agencies reports indicate that all concur that the new cabinet should be afforded the opportunity of carrying out its task, despite the differences of opinion. Indeed, all the Arab states should help Syria to frustrate the maneuvering of the French influence.

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IRAQI.....

- 3 -

June 6, 1950.

IRAQI PRESS DELEGATION'S VISIT TO JORDAN.

Al-Hatif says that few of the local press were invited to attend the Jordanian Independence and Army Days celebrations; and few also were invited to attend Jordanian Foreign Minister Mohammed Pasha Ash-Shereiqi's press conference. The two incidents have given the impression to the public that those who were not invited are hostile to Jordan.

*

In the first article of a series about his trip to Amman to attend the Jordanian celebrations of Army and Independence Days, as a member of the Iraqi press delegation, Salman As-Safwani, editor of Al-Yaqdha, explains that he accepted the invitation because he had not seen before Jordan and Palestine; and he did not want to miss such an opportunity.

Early on May 23, 9 newspapermen, accompanied by Omar Zaki Pasha Al-Afuni, the Jordanian Minister in Baghdad, left Baghdad in two cars. Some of them had not even passports; but, the Minister of Interior had instructed the appropriate authorities to allow the press delegation to cross the frontiers without molestation.

In the evening of the same day, they arrived in Amman, which was crowded. They were forced to sleep three in the same room of an average class hotel.

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Jebbran Melkon, of Al-Akhbar, writes about his impressions of the visit to Jordan. It is not the first time he saw Amman; he had visited it when King Abdullah was crowned. Indeed, amazing progress has been achieved in the Jordanian capital, which was a village, when King Abdullah set up his Emirate, he says.

About the unification of the two Jordan sides, he writes "Everything which has been said about this decision in some of the Arab states differs from what the Iraqi press delegation has seen. All the Palestinians we have met support the decision, because they are aware that they cannot set up their own state, as they would be the prey of Israel's expansionism."

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In his second article of a series, Adel Awni, of Al-Hawadith, tells that the Iraqi press delegation which went to Jordan was driven on May 25 to Jerusalem. But, before reaching Jerusalem and after crossing the river Jordan, they inspected the project being undertaken by Musa Al-Alami for the re-settlement of the refugees. Modern villages are to be built up....

- 4 -

June 6, 1950.

up for housing them; one has already been completed. After that, they were taken to a refugees' camp; there they saw "painful scenes". Indeed, their plight is "a shameful stain on the forefront of the Arab nation."

* * *

SHORT NEWS.

Yesterday, the Chamber of Deputies approved the law of civil pension, as amended by the Senate, the law for the stamp duty, and the amendment of the civil procedure. It adjourned until Sunday, June 11.

Earlier during the meeting, Minister of State Khalil Kanna was sworn in as Deputy for Faluja. (Al-Umma)

*

As it has been evidenced that the examination questionnaire of the primary schools had been stolen, the Ministry of Education has cancelled all the examinations until further notice. (Al-Nabaa)

*

Yesterday, a plane left Baghdad carrying 108 denationalized Jews. And 209 persons applied for emigration. (Ash-Shaab)

*

The Iraqi-proposed answer to the tripartite declaration has reached the Arab League Secretariat General for transmission to the member states for comment prior to sending a joint answer to the three powers. (Liwa Al-Istiqlal)

*

British consultants in London have disrecommended the Tharthar Valley Project, as waters regulation reservoir. Consequently, the government intends to seek the advice of a world expert before launching the project. (Az-Zaman)

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B A G H D A D P R E S S

Embassy of the U.S.A.
Baghdad, Iraq.

Wednesday, June 7, 1950.

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SHEREIQI AND RIFAYE RETURN TO AMMAN.

Yesterday, morning, at 8:30 a.m., Samir Pasha Ar-Rifaye, Minister of the Jordanian Royal Palace, and Mohammed Pasha Ash-Shereiqli, Jordanian Foreign Minister, left by air for Amman, at the end of 4-day visit. (Al-Ittihad Ad-Dasturi)

* * *

TRANSFERS OF MUTASARRIFS.

The following transfers have been decreed:

Kerbala Mutasarrif Abdul Rassoul Al-Khalisi has been appointed Mutasarrif of Diala, in the stead of Hassan At-Talabani who has been transferred to the Muntifik Liwa;

Diwaniyah Liwa Mutasarrif Amin Khalis has been transferred to the headquarters of the Ministry of Interior as Administrative Inspector, while Abdul Wahab Mustafa, who was Administrative Inspector, has been appointed to the Mutasarrifiyah of Diwaniyah. (Al-Ittihad Ad-Dasturi)

* * *

EDITORIAL COMMENTS.

Commenting on the Arab League Council's meeting, scheduled for June 12 in Alexandria, Faik As-Samerrai, writing in Liwa Al-Istiqlal, says, "In this delicate phase, being undergone by the Arab nation, we urge the AL Council not to confine itself to draw up a reply to the tripartite declaration, but to study the means capable of making the Arabs' right prevail over the Zionist wrong and of inducing these imperialistic nations to changing their friendly attitude to Israel. Unless the meeting decide such positive ways and executive means, the answer would share the fate of the previous ones."

Faik.....

June 7, 1950.

Faik says that the "U.S. was aware from the beginning that the Arabs would make use of joint protests and answers only and they would not resort to positive action which would threaten American interests." And he adds, "Had the U.S. been sincere to her international obligations, she could have kept Israel in her place, cutting off the aid being lavishly granted to her. But, instead we see the U.S. forming committees for collecting contributions."

The other matter on the agenda of the AL Council is the Collective Security Pact. Its signing would be to no avail unless the Arabs lend it the importance it deserves.

* * *

Mahmud Ad-Dorra, writing in Al-Inqad, which is being edited by Khalid Ad-Dorra, speaks of the dispute of Jordan v. the League.

He says that King Abdullah's recent remarks, that the League is useless and the collective security is a farce, have aroused much surprise.

King Abdullah's views have much impact on Arab affairs, because they "represent those of Britain." Indeed, Britain would not have "dreamed" of success in her Arab policy, without the assistance of Jordan; and the Arabs would not have been dishonored without Jordan.

Britain, says Mahmud Ad-Dorra, has succeeded in setting up the Jewish state through Jordan; and now because the Arab states are not being easily subdued, she wants to destroy the League in order to attain her goals by playing one Arab state against the other.

The writer concludes, "The other Arab states have to adopt a general policy regarding Jordan, not based on the necessity of a joint government for Palestine and Jordan, but as her being Britain's political base and her being put in the League to Britain's ends... Jordan constitutes a gap in the Arab League front. It is preferable to reveal this gap.

"If the government of Iraq is serious about striving for the Arabs' interest without being influenced by the very policy directing Jordan, it should loyally stretch her hand to the other Arab states instead of remaining undecided as it is."

* * *

A POLITICAL CARTOON.

Al-Inqad shows in a front page cartoon Nuri As-Said with his right hand on Saleh Jabr's shoulder, both boarding a plane

June 7, 1950.

for Mosul for a conference with the Regent, while Towfiq As-Suwaidi is telling them, "There is no cabinet crisis. It is all newspaper gossip."

* * *

SHORT NEWS.

The law for promoting industry has been signed by the Regent. (Al-Umma)

*

The regulation of the Ministry of Works and Communications is to be amended. A draft has been submitted to the Council of Ministers for approval. (Al-Umma)

*

Following the appointment of Hassan At-Talabani to the Mutasarrifiyah of Muntifik, Ahmed Zaki Al-Mudaris, who was holding the post in an interim capacity, has been put in charge of the Mutasarrifiyah of Kerbala in the same capacity. (Al-Umma)

*

Following the withdrawal of his opponent, Finance Minister Abdul Karim Al-Uzri has won his parliamentary seat uncontested. (Al-Nabaa)

*

Following the withdrawal of the other candidates for the Mahmudiyah electoral precinct, Jamil Abdul Wahab has won the by-elections uncontested. (Ash-Shaab)

*

Yesterday, 124 Jews applied for emigration. (Ash-Shaab)

*

Yesterday morning, two representatives of the IPC arrived in Baghdad from Tripoli and conferred with the Prime Minister. They have asked clarifications about some of the points discussed recently during the oil negotiations. The meeting was attended by Economics Minister Dhia Jaffar. (Az-Zaman)

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Embassy of the U.S.A.
Baghdad, Iraq.

Thursday, June 8, 1950.

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MEETING OF THE ARAB LEAGUE COUNCIL.

The Arab League Council is due to convene on Monday, June 12. The following matters are on its agenda, according to the Cairo correspondent of the Sharq Al-Adna radio:

- 1) Jordan's expulsion from the League.
- 2) The Arab Collective Security Pact.
- 3) Answer to tripartite declaration.
- 4) Backing Pakistan Foreign Minister Mohammed Zahfarullah Khan's candidature to the Presidency of the forthcoming UN General Assembly.
- 5) Rights and obligations of the All Palestine government. (Liwa Al-Istiqlal)

*

According to the ANA, the expulsion of Jordan from the League was discussed at a meeting in Cairo among the Egyptian Foreign Minister, Azzam Pasha, the Iraqi Charge d'Affaires, and the Lebanese Minister in Cairo. Iraq is said to have pledged itself to mediation, and shall submit a proposal to the AL Council "stating that annexation does not prejudice the final settlement of the Palestine problem." (Liwa Al-Istiqlal)

* * *

SLIM'S VISIT TO CAIRO AND TRIPARTITE DECLARATION.

Although, says Ash-Shaab, Marshall Slim has denied any political character of his talks in Cairo, observers believe that he discussed with the Egyptian authorities pending military and political problems.

After the paper recalls the various attempts made at concluding a new Anglo-Egyptian treaty, it adds. "Maybe Britain and Egypt have found the circumstances opportune to review their relations. The choice of such a time is likely to indicate Britain's desire to beat the iron while still hot, that is immediately after the tripartite declaration."

1 2 -

June 8, 1950.

"Indeed, Britain's position in the Middle East depends to a large extent on her relations with Egypt for the latter's strategic position and large resources. It is mainly due to the unsettled relations between the two nations that Britain has been unable to define and consolidate her position in the whole of the Middle East. It is probable that Britain is to do her best in order to end such an unstable situation, as long as on it depends her future in this area."

* * *

BRITAIN SEEKS DESTRUCTION OF ARAB LEAGUE.

"Anyone, who observes the new trend of the Western camp's policy, may deduce that its present policy does not want the League to remain. Moreover, it is striving to undermine it and to foster dissension among the member states," says Al-Alam Al-Arabi in its editorial headlined, "Among the fruits of the tripartite imperialistic connivance: Britain striving to destroy the Arab League."

Then, the paper explains that Britain, in 1945, wanted the setting up of the League for siding with her at the UN and for collective subservience of the Arab states. But, under the pressure of popular consciousness, these states have been unable to comply with Britain's ends. Moreover, the U.S.'s appearance on the Middle Eastern political scene and her "participation in the market of imperialism" has brought about a new phase. Consequently, the Arab states had to be divided into spheres of influence, and France had to be given her share. This new phase meant that "the League was no more of any use." Britain began to work on Jordan.

The paper adds, "The tripartite declaration indicates that the Western camp does not consider the League as an existing body, and therefore want to convert every state into a sphere of influence of any of the three imperialistic nations, in complete disregard of the League as a regional agency."

"It remains to know the stand of Iraq who has taken charge of mediating between Jordan and the League. On her depends the preservation or the collapse of the League..."

* * *

SADA AL-AHALI DENOUNCES INDEPENDENCE PARTY.

Allusively assailing the Independence Party for having participated in the by-elections, Sada Al-Ahali warns secondary electors who have to go to the polls on June 10 against those who "have challenged the public opinion which welcomed the mass resignation of the deputies, and stabbed their brethren in the back after having been authorized by the authorities at the detriment of their colleagues."

The.....

- 3 -

June 8, 1950.

The paper concludes, "Naturally, we have to awake the public to the danger arising from any group - either the ruling class itself or a clique which simulates opposition - which does not honorably strive for its goals. Therefore, such a group which disregards all considerations in ascending to power should be resisted more than any other."

* * *

POLITICAL CARTOON.

Referring to the charges and counter-charges being exchanged between the Independence and National Democratic parties, Al-Inqad features in a front page cartoon Faik As-Samerrai and Kamel Chaderchi, armed and carrying two sticks respectively labelled "Liwa Al-Istiqlal" and "Sada Al-Ahali", staring menacingly to each other, while two smiling onlookers, Nuri As-Said and Saleh Jabr, stand by.

The paper caption reads, "War is still going on between the Independence and National Democratic parties. But, who is going to have the upper hand? No doubt, final victory shall be for onlookers."

* * *

SHORT NEWS.

The Council of Ministers has decided to extend the Dujaili project to the remaining Huweija lands and to the lands of Jaziyah and Om At-Telyian, which are part of the Kerbala Liwa. (Al-Umma)

*

As a sequel to Interior Minister Saleh Jabr's contacts in Beirut with Lebanese Premier Riad Al-Solh, continuous telephone contacts have been going on between the two during the last two days, in view of the near date of the Arab League meeting. (Al-Umma)

* *

Regarding the Jewish lawyers who have applied for denationalization prior to emigration, the Lawyers' Association announces that its Administrative Committee will take the "necessary action." (Al-Umma)

*

Hussain...

- 4 -

June 8, 1950.

Hussain Johar and Shawkat Sadiq have withdrawn their candidature for the 6th electoral precinct of Baghdad; therefore, the competition remains between Mohammed Jewad Jaffar and Abdul Hadi Al-Dhahir. (Al-Umma)

*

During the leave of Income-Tax DG Rauf Al-Bahrani, Customs DG Ali Jaffar has been entrusted with his department. (Al-Umma)

*

A plane carrying 94 denationalized Jewish emigrants left yesterday morning. (Ash-Shaab)

*

The Ministry of Finance has completed preparing the draft bill for the World Bank loan, to be called "Draft Law of the Loan for the Tharthar Project." (Ash-Shaab)

*

Three directors and 53 assistant directors of police have been discharged. (Al-Akhbar)

*

The Financial Committee of the Senate has recommended the rejection of the bill for raising properties tax from 12.5% to 15%, on the ground that rents of immovable properties have much gone down. (Al-Alam Al-Arabi)

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E N D



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 »

No. 101

(FOR STAFF USE ONLY)

Monday, May 29, 1950

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PAPERS REVIEWED:

Alif Ba', Al Nasr, Al Fayha', Al Kifah, Al Manar, Al-Masa', Al Qabas, Al Ayyam, Al Insha', Al Balad, Al Jabal, Al'Alam, Al Hadara, Al Shabab, Al Nazir, Al Suri-al-Jadid, Saut al-Taqaddum, and Al Akhbar.

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DOMESTIC AFFAIRS

REPUBLICAN SOCIALIST PARTY:

Al Manar-May 28: The Republican Socialist Party inaugurated last Friday the opening of its branch in Yabrud, the center of Qalamun area. Akram Hawrani, the Party's chief, delivered an eloquent speech in which he reviewed the three coups d'etats made by the valiant Syrian army. Addressing the masses, Hawrani said that it was the duty of each Socialist Arab to fight against colonization, feudalism, and exploitation. With regard to the Party's internal policy, he said that the party was striving to introduce socialist and progressive principles into the constitution. He added: "I cannot guarantee that the Constitution will be ideal, because the obstructionist and exploiting class continues to influence the country's affairs." With regard to foreign policy, he emphasized that the Party will fight to the end every imperialistic project designed to hamper the Arabs' real unity.

ANNIVERSARY OF MAY 29:

Al Qabas and Al Fayha of May 28 bitterly criticized the Ministry of Interior's order forbidding celebrations of May 29. Both papers inquired how peace and order were disturbed when the Islamic Socialist Front held their political rallies in Damascus and Aleppo and attacked the Nationalist Party. The present government is not worried about peace and order but is worried about itself.

CIVIL SERVANTS STRIKE:

Al Kifah: All papers give prominence to a general strike launched by the officials of the Ministry of Finance on Sunday, May 28. The Minister of Finance, 'Abd-al-Rahman al-'Azm, refused to discuss the question with the officials "under such a pressure" and until they return to work." The officials have filed several claims including their treatment on equal basis with the officials of the Ministries of Justice and Public Instruction with regard to salaries and classification.

A NEW FRENCH MINISTER:

Al Fayha' -May 29: A columnist comments in this paper that the arrival of a new French Minister to Syria has concided with the announcement of the three-power declaration concerning supply of arms to Middle East, and with the anniversary of the French aggression on Syria.

Mr. Paris, the new French Minister, the columnist remarks, speaks Arabic as well as Shaykh Muhammad al-Mubarak, and has as many friends in Syria and Lebanon as Shaykh Ma'ruf has.

ANOTHER CAR ACCIDENT:

Al Fayha'-May 29: As a result of a car accident along Damascus-Homs road, Lieutenant 'Adnan al-Kaylani died from a fractured skull. Lieutenant Nihad Da'udi, and a soldier, are critically injured.

THE NEW CONSTITUTION:

Al Fayha: It is reported that the Joint Constituent Committee has completed the study of 160 articles of the new Constitution. Very few articles including the article concerning the religion of the State remained to be studied. A member of the Committee is quoted as having stated that the Assembly will be urged to ratify the Constitution hastily.

(Pr.Dig.101/3)

SYRIA'S FOREIGN POLICY:

Al Jabal-May 29: The Foreign Affairs Committee of the Constituent Assembly will hear today, May 29, a statement by Premier 'Azm on Syrian foreign policy.

Al Qabas of May 29 published a communiqué to the effect that at 10, 00, Saturday, May 27, a Council of Ministers meeting was held at the Presidency under the chairmanship of H.E. the Chief of State. Premier 'Azm reported to the Council on the results of his talks in Cairo, Jiddah, and Beirut. The Communiqué adds that the Council agreed to the suggestions of Premier 'Azm on the conclusion of a commercial agreement with Lebanon for the exchange of domestic goods.

AMERICAN PROPAGANDA AMONG STUDENTS:

Al-Suri-al-Jadid May 28: The Red Cross Society has informed the Directorate of Public Instruction in Homs that gifts from American students are expected to arrive shortly for distribution among their Syrian friends.

This paper, published in Homs, comments:

"Duty stipulates that the Directorate of Public Instruction reject these gifts from persons who want to establish friendship by force. We do not want the friendship of a person who shakes hands with his right and stabs us from the back with his left.

CABINET POSITION:

All Monday morning papers reported today that representatives of the Constituent Assembly blocs yesterday informed the Chief of State of their desire to maintain the present cabinet. Al-Fayha' believes that Akram Hawrani will withdraw his resignation and that Shakir al-'Ass, "who sold his mother's lands to the Jews," will be appointed Minister of Justice to replace Faydi al-Atasi.

ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

IRAQ PAYING ITS DEBT:

Barada-May 29: The Syrian Government has received a check to the amount of 30,000 Sterling pounds from the Iraqi Government. The sum represents the first installment of the Iraqi debt to the Syrian Government being payment for Syrian wheat which Iraq had purchased. The total debt is 300,000 Sterling Pounds to be paid on monthly installments.

AGREEMENT WITH LEBANON:

Al Fayha-May 29: It has been left up to the Lebanese Government to fix a date for economic talks between Syria and Lebanon. The paper believes that an understanding between the two Governments is unlikely to happen in as much as the Syrian Government insists that the 44,000,000 Syrian pounds frozen in Lebanon would be considered as an amount deposited in Syria to be refunded in Syrian goods.

ARAB AFFAIRS

ALIGNMENT WITH RUSSIA:

Alif Ba'-May 27: A despatch by the Lebanese Minister in Moscow to his Government reports that the majority of Moscow papers described the recent demonstration in Syria for alignment with Russia as "another sort of political maneuver."

According to this report the semi-official Soviet papers allege that Syria is following the policy of Egypt, and Sa'udi Arabia, both holding pro-American tendency. These papers, therefore, believe that there would be no benefit from such an alignment.

ANOTHER JOINT NOTE:

Alif Ba'-May 28: London-27- According to well informed sources, Britain, France, and the United States are presently preparing a note to the Arab states asking for the cessation of the economic blockade on Israel as a first step towards the maintenance of peace in the MiddleEast.

REACTION TO TRIPARTITE COMMUNIQUE

Alif Ba'-May 27 Soviet papers in Moscow described the Three-power declaration to supply arms to the Middle East as a "role to form in the Middle East an anti-communist bloc." These papers point out that this declaration "constitutes an encouragement for mobilization of forces against Soviet Russia."

Barada of May 28 quoted Premier 'Azm as having stated in Beirut that "we prefer the continuation of Arab disputes to peace under foreign influence." Asked about the current reports that France was assigned to obtain Syria's assurances regarding the maintenance of peace in the Middle East, 'Azm is quoted as having also said: "There is no difference between giving such assurances to France or to its colleagues Britain and America, because there is no difference between the three-western powers. Further, the new agreement serves only foreign interests and not the Arabs interests."

(Pr.Dig. 101/5)

Al Hadara of May 29 remarked that the people in Syria are inquiring into the significance of the fact that the joint communique was transmitted to the Syrian and Lebanese Governments through the French Ministers in these two countries. Had the communiqué been transmitted by the American or British Ministers, people would not have attached to it such great importance. The choice of France means that Syria and Lebanon should understand that their country has become a zone of French influence. The Arab people are not scared but they are anxious to hear the reaction of their governments.

Al Akhbar observes that Syria is at a crossroad and has to chose between joining the American camp and neutrality. The first path means American dollars, economic prosperity, and improvement of the standard of living in the country. Syria, in return, has to make great sacrifices, notably:

- 1- To abandon the Palestine question and conclude peace with Israel.

- 2- To open its doors to American capital.

- 3- To declare its hostility to Communism.

- 4- To permit Anglo-Americans to establish strategic positions in Syria for the supply of their armies and the armies of their allies should war approach the MiddleEast.

The second path leads to neutrality which has many advantages, notably:

- 1- To win the Soviets' friendship which would be valuable should they be victorious.

- 2- To protect the complete independence of the country.

- 3- To spare Syria the afflictions of war.

On the other hand, neutrality has its disadvantages, notably:

- 1- Degeneration of the economic situation in the country, compared with the prosperity of the countries receiving American aid.

- 2- Syria would always be subject to a war of nerves launched by the two democracies either directly or through their agents in the Middle East.

- 3- Syria's neutrality may drive the Anglo-Americans to take illegal measures which may put an end to our independence.

Therefore, the political situation is difficult and responsibilities should be assumed by persons representing the people and not by individuals representing only their persons.

(Pr.Dig. 101/6)

Alif Ba': The inquiry conducted by the Eastern News Agencies as to the political circles' opinion on the joint communiqué has indicated a diversion of views. Some circles are optimist on the grounds that the communiqué not only protects Arab frontiers from Jewish aggression but also protects the Syrian republic against Hashemite designs. It is also a means of establishing internal tranquility. In addition the supply of arms was not made conditional on the conclusion of peace with Israel. Those pessimists look at the communiqué as full proof on the coordination of the plans the western powers to use all the armies of the world, including those of the Jews and the Arabs, in a coming war with Russia. The communiqué also recognizes the present frontiers of Israel and considers them as final. In other words, the economic blockade, which constitutes the Arabs' strongest weapon against Israel, would be ended at the request of the three western powers. The pessimists also argue that the Arab states would only be supplied with light arms whereas it is established that Israel has been supplied with all the heavy and light arms which it needs.

Most papers believe that the Anglo-American-French joint communique involves division of the Middle East into spheres of foreign influence, consolidation of the status of Israel, preferential treatment in favor of Israel with respect to shipment of heavy arms, and the preparation of the Middle East to withstand communism.

Al-Manar of May 29 describes the communique as a flagrant intervention in the affairs of the Arab countries involving the division of the Middle East into spheres of foreign influence. Under the pretext of the desire to maintain peace and stability, France has undertaken to guarantee the independence of Syria and Lebanon, America, that of Israel, and Britain, that of Iraq and Jordan. Along with this division, the shipment of arms to the Middle East has been lifted with the object of transforming the Arab countries into a second Turkey and preparing them to withstand communist danger. Instead of establishing their relations with the Arabs on the basis of friendship and mutual cooperation, the Western states have ordered the Arab states to participate in consolidating the status of Israel.

The paper believes that the tripartite communique will be opposed by the Arab people, even though it may be supported by certain Arab Governments. It also believes that the communique will not contribute towards achieving the desired stability in the Middle East.

Al-Kifah of May 28 states that the communique is designed:

1. To pave the way for intervening in the affairs of the Middle East in general, and the Arab countries in particular.
2. To consolidate the status of Israel and to guarantee the Jews against.....

against any future aggression.

3. To confirm the influence of the three Western Powers in the Middle East under the pretext of peace and stability and to strangle every attempt to establish direct or indirect relations with Russia.

The paper calls upon the Arab states to make a collective study of the communique and to prepare a joint memorandum explaining the encroachments it involves on the independence and the natural and political rights of the Arabs. Whatever happens, the Arabs should endeavor to reach a state of understanding and mutual cooperation with the Western Powers within the limits of the existing friendly and political relations.

Al-Nasr of May 28 published a message on this subject under the title "France Returns to Syria and Lebanon from the Window Following the Insistance of America".

The paper states that the communique is aimed at finally disposing of the Palestine problem on the basis of the present fait accompli, at transforming the Middle East including Israel into a coordinated military unit - a measure which would mean implicit recognition of Zionist aggression by the Arabs - and at preparing the Middle East militarily with the object of thrusting it into the future world war. The paper remarks that in return for complying with all these demands, the Arabs have been promised to be supplied with limited quantities of light arms. It should also be pointed out that Israel is expected to receive the lion's share from the arms promised to the Middle East, especially with respect to heavy arms. Furthermore, the desire to improve the potentiality and preparedness of the military forces of the Middle East may imply the necessity of using foreign auxiliary reinforcements.

According to informed sources, certain points concerning the discussions of the London Conference have not been disclosed to the public. It seems that the three Western Powers have agreed to transform the Middle East into a second Germany by dividing it into spheres of influence. It has been agreed that Iraq and Jordan are to be the share of Britain, Egypt, Saudi-Arabia and Israel, the share of the United States, and Syria and Lebanon, upon the insistance of America which represents the world jewry, are to be the share of France. These statements conform with the attempts now being made to undermine the Arab League under the pretext of condemning the annexation of Arab Palestine to Jordan and to establish a new rectangle under the auspices of the United States to include the spheres of influence of two big powers.

Al-Suri

(Pr.Dig.101/8)

Al-Suri (Populist from Homs) of May 28 comments on the communique on almost similar lines. The paper states among other things that one of the immediate objectives of the communique is to settle the question of frontiers and peace treaty with Israel and to prevent the occurrence of certain political developments such as the Fertile Crescent Plan and the proposed Iranian-Iraqi-Jordanian bloc without the sanction of the Western Powers. Among the distant objectives of the communique are the establishment of a unified plan for western imperialism in the Middle East and the preparation for concluding an alliance or alliances designed to combat communism inside the Arab countries and to fight Russia in the future world war. In conclusion the paper advocates the rejection of the communique.

Al-Ayyam of May 28 describes the communique as a bait designed to lure the Arabs with the prospect of supplying them with arms and to urge them at the same time to conclude a peace treaty with Israel. The fact that the Western Powers have agreed to supply the Arabs only with light arms proves that they are not sincere in their desire to help the Arab countries participate in the general defense of the Middle East. One is apt to inquire in this connection as to how the Arabs can confront Russia with light arms. The communique is, therefore, simply a diplomatic device aimed at achieving stability in the Middle East and at urging the Arabs to reach an understanding with the Jews. Furthermore, Israel has already armed itself, and will continue to arm itself, with both light and heavy arms. What benefit can the Arabs derive from receiving only light arms from the Western Powers?

Al-Shabab of May 28 describes the tripartite communique as worse than the Sykes-Picot Agreement which was concluded after the First World War and observes that it is aimed mainly at dividing the Middle East into American, British, and French spheres of influence. The paper adds that the communique is also designed to recognize the present regional situation in the Middle East and to protect Israel against future Arab attacks. The communique threatens to impose sanctions against any Middle Eastern country which might resort to aggression in the future. This threat is really directed more to the Arab countries than to Israel, since it is known to all that Israel would not be able to expand in the future in view of the fact that the foreign states which have established Israel would not so permit, and that the Arab Governments which have learned a lesson from their past experiences in Palestine have made serious military preparations to confront future Zionist aggression and would certainly forget their differences when the second round comes.

Al-Hadara of May 28 notes that the Middle East in general, and the Arab countries in particular, have become a sphere of Anglo-American-French influence. It is not yet definite, however, whether this sphere of influence has been considered as an indivisible whole or whether specific areas have been allotted to each of the three powers.

(Pr.Dig. 101/9)

Al Akhbar states that the tripartite communiqué is an indirect recognition of the existence of three spheres of influence. The purpose of this division into spheres is to maintain the balance of powers between the two existing Arab blocs in the Middle East in conformity with the famous British principle "Divide et Impera." The British and their students in politics, the Americans, now realize that the amalgamation of the Arab countries would affect the balance of powers between the Soviet and Western Camps in the Middle East. If we also take into consideration America's anxiety to guarantee the future of Israel, its foster-child, we can understand the motives which have induced Britain and America to agree on a sharp division between the Hashemite and Egyptian-Sa'udi blocs.

As for Syria and Lebanon it seems that Britain and America have agreed:

- 1- To reserve these two countries for future use as a means for preserving the balance of powers between the two Arab blocs in the event of the preponderance of the one or the other.
- 2- To shelve their conflict over Syria and Lebanon until they reach a final agreement as to how to divide the spoil.
- 3- To satisfy temporarily the amour-propre of France which does not view with satisfaction its replacement by Anglo-American influence after it has been ousted from these two countries. France is thus playing the role of trustee in whose hands the common funds of two parties have been placed pending an agreement on the division of these funds.

Al 'Alam of May 28 believes that the communiqué is a conspiracy or smokescreen designed to defend the present frontiers of Israel against future armed Arab attacks. The paper remarks that stability can be achieved in the Middle East only if the injustice committed by the Western Powers is redressed and if the one million Palestinian Arab refugees are repatriated to their country and given the right to determine their own future.

Al Nuqqad, Independent Damascus Weekly, states that the Tripartite communiqué involves the following points:

- 1- Despite a Lebanese communiqué to the contrary, it can be asserted that the report that France has been individually entrusted obtain guarantees concerning their peaceful intentions is authentic.

- 2- The guarantee referred to in the communiqué violate the Partition Plan since they involve the present frontier-lines and impose a compulsory peace treaty with the Jews on the Arabs.

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(Pr. Dig. 101/10)

3- The Arab states can import only light arms from the Western Powers, after America has acknowledged that it has already supplied Israel with its requirements of heavy arms.

4- Syria can, at least temporarily, be secure as to international position, its frontiers and its republican regime. Consequently, the three musketeers in the People's Party can lament the weak prospects of establishing a monarchy in Syria or of implementing the Fertile Crescent Plan.

Barada published an article stating that the three Western Powers had agreed to supply the Arab states and Israel with arms on condition that the arms to be supplied to the Arabs should not exceed the requirements of internal security and legitimate self-defense and should not constitute a danger to Israel. Should Egypt, for example, apply for purchasing modern aircraft from Britain, the latter would study the application on the basis of the supply of aircraft available to Israel and would take into consideration whether or not the sale of aircraft to Egypt would constitute a menace to Israel. ~~Should Syria~~ Should Syria apply for purchasing modern heavy guns from the United States, the latter would apologize under the pretext that this type of arms is used for offensive purposes and not for purposes of internal security and legitimate self-defense. Furthermore, what guarantee is there to prevent the three-Western Powers from selling heavy arms to Israel under the pretext that the defensive forces of Israel should be equivalent to the combined forces of all the Arab states, which have recently concluded a collective security pact.

It is not our intention, however, to advise the Arab Governments to reject the Western Powers' offer before they study the inner purposes and motives involved in the joint communiqué. We would like the Premiers of Egypt, Saudi-Arabia, Syria and Lebanon which have a common harmonious policy to meet and study their countries' requirements of arms in case they are exposed to aggression. Later, each individual state should apply to the three-Big Powers for the type and quantity of arms, as has been previously decided. Furthermore, a joint communiqué should be formed from the Chiefs of Staff of the aforesaid states to meet and coordinate their requirements of arms. If the Western Powers reject the Arab applications within the period fixed for this purpose the Arab states should look for new markets. Experience has taught us not to have great confidence in the intentions of America, Britain, and even France. America gives priority to the interest and safety of Israel over those of the Arabs. As for Britain and France, they have trailed in America's wake ever since the United Nations passed the Partition Plan.

Sawt al-Tagaddum of May 28 also believes that the communique involves the division of the Middle East into spheres of influence and associates it with the visits of Premier 'Azm to Cairo, Al Riyad and Beirut. The paper remarks that if Anglo-American circles have been optimistic concerning the prospects of the situation in the Middle East, it is because they believe that the new policy embodied in the communique would put to an end the conflict of the three Western Powers in the Middle East which has so far exposed the countries of the Middle East to many internal and external dangers.

It should be further noted that the communique opens a new era for the Arab countries. The Arab states would henceforth be able to have dealings with only one foreign state. They can either oppose or be friendly with it in accordance with the dictates of national interest. The Arab states need no longer suffer from the disadvantage of having to fight or establish friendly relations with three fronts at the same time. It can thus be inferred that the foreign policy of the Arab states will shortly be established on a new solid basis.

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LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA DAMASCUS, SYRIA

Daily Review of the Syrian Press

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No. 103

(FOR STAFF USE ONLY)

Thursday, June 1, 1950.

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*PAPERS REVIEWED:

Alif Ba', Al Nasr, Al Fayha', Al Kifah, Al Manar, Al-Masa', Al Qabas, Al Ayyam, Al Insha', Al Balad, Al Jabal, Al 'Alam, Al Hadara, Al Shabab, Al Nazir, Al Akhbar, Al-Nuqqad.

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DOMESTIC AFFAIRS

CABINET SITUATION:

All morning papers reported that a presidential car arrived at 9:30 p.m. last night at the Orient Palace Hotel and escorted Dr. Nazim al-Qudsi to the Presidency. The Chief of State verbally charged Dr. Qudsi to form the new cabinet. Dr. Qudsi delayed his acceptance until the morning in order to consult his party.

Al Nasr learned that the People's Party has agreed to form a cabinet on the condition that it would have a free hand in appointing ministers and distributing the portfolios.

Alif Ba': It is learned that the People's Party's condition for the formation of the new cabinet is the elimination of the causes which led to the resignation of Dr. Qudsi's first cabinet.

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Al Manar...

(Pr.Dig. 103/2)

Al Manar: Although the People's Party prefers to form a completely Populist cabinet, it has no objection to the participation of the Republican bloc in the cabinet.

Al Fayha learns that the Republicans and the Populists have agreed on the formation of the new cabinet.

Barada: The Liberal Republican bloc held a meeting yesterday and deliberated on the present ministerial situation. A fiery argument is said to have taken place between Akram al-Hawrani, Nizam-al-Din, and other members of the bloc, Hawrani felt the bloc should not participate in the next cabinet. Nizam al-Din said he preferred to return to Jazirah to supervise his vast agricultural interests.

Hawrani is reported to have finally agreed to participate in the cabinet under specific conditions.

The People's Party also held a meeting to discuss the present situation, and participation in the next cabinet. Discussion heated and certain members who insisted upon their views were reportedly threatened with expulsion from the Party.

Editor Wajih al-Haffar of Al Insha' editorially urged the country to establish a strong government. "We journalists cannot express our ideas as frankly as we would like. Freedom of speech is restricted. We can only talk of a government which we imagine should come to power." Editor Haffar believes that a government can be strong only if it feels that the prevailing status of the State is stable and natural.

A DANGEROUS CRIMINAL APPREHENDED:

Al Fayha and other papers report that a dangerous criminal called Ahmad al-Jani, nicknamed Abu Zayd al-Hilali, was apprehended yesterday in Bab Musalla, Midan, quarter. The criminal attempted to escape arrest by shooting at the Police.

INTERNATIONAL WHEAT OFFICE:

Al Insha' strongly urges the Government to withdraw from the International Wheat Office. It believes that Syria's membership in this Office has not brought the desired benefits to the country. It relates that in the 1948 wheat season, Syria was instructed by the Office to export 65 thousand tons of wheat to Lebanon. Lebanon, however, did not purchase the wheat which was stored in warehouses for such a long time that Syria was unable to sell it to other consumers.

A copy of the report of the Office was submitted to Syria. It stated that Germany had been accepted as a member in the ~~Approved For Release 2002/01/16 : CIA-RDP83-00415R005600170003-8~~ allotted to her, 75% of which will be supplied by the United States, and

(Pr.Dig. 103/3)

the remaining 25% from Canada, Australia, and France. Why was not Syria, a producing country, included in this transaction? The Office was established to serve the interests of America and other adjacent wheat producing countries at the expense of Syria and other small countries.

The paper concludes by urging the Government to disregard the directions of the Office and assure a market for the country's next harvest.

ARAB AFFAIRS

REACTION TO JOINT COMMUNIQUE:

Al Nasr- In an interview with the Eastern News Agency, Dr. Abd-al-Wahhab Humad, a Populist deputy for Aleppo, made the following declaration concerning the tripartite communiqué:

"The following are the first impressions to occur to my mind concerning the joint Anglo-American-French communiqué. These impressions, however, should not be considered as final, since I have not as yet obtained clear information about the real motives and aims of this communiqué.

1- The Western Powers have included the Arab countries in their strategy without having previously entered into bilateral negotiations with the Arab Governments based on mutual confidence and voluntary acceptance.

2- If the report is true that France communicated the communiqué to Syria and Lebanon, Britain to Jordan and Iraq, and America to Egypt, Sa'udi Arabia and Israel, this indicates that the French, British, and their allies are returning to a policy reminiscent of the Sykes-Picot Agreement.

3- The joint communiqué considers Israel as an established state which is entitled to be guaranteed against aggression or against any attempt to encroach on its status. As the arms promised to us by the West are not to be used in military operations against Israel, it can be axiomatically inferred that they are destined for use against a front which the West considers as a source of danger and which they are preparing to encircle. I believe that the Arabs would derive no benefit from siding with either of the two world camps, and I recommend that they follow a neutral policy as Turkey did in the last war.

4- I do not think that the communiqué would benefit Syria internally. It has been alleged that the communiqué will maintain the present frontiers of Syria and thwart all attempts to implement certain imperialistic projects. The fact is that

(Pr.Dig. 103/4)

Syrians are happy and satisfied with their Republican regime and there has been no serious movement to replace this regime by another form of government. It should also be noted that Syrians do not consider their Republic as a transcendent establishment existing apart and aloof from the other parts of the Arab world. The Syrians are actually awaiting the day on which they will unite with their Arab brethren under a free and democratic system.

5- The communiqué guarantees the frontiers of the Arab states against future Jewish aggression, but the Arabs are not expected to derive any benefit from such a guarantee. Israel is not interested at present in military expansion. The Jews who had waited thirty centuries before they finally established their state, would prefer now to wait a few more years in which to prepare themselves for further military expansion. I believe that the Jews are planning at present to invade the Arab countries economically. An economic invasion would be followed by political domination, in which case a military invasion would become of a relatively secondary importance.

"It seems that the Western Powers are again treating the Arab nation as a commodity for purchase and sale in the market of international influence, as is invariably the case with weak nations."

In conclusion, Dr. Humad asked himself in a soliloquy as to whether or not the Arabs will awake after so many deadly blows. In reply, he said, "I leave it to every Arab to answer this question. Personally, I believe that Arab awakening will be opposed by two enemies, the foreign enemy, and the internal enemy which is represented in the ruling cliques in the Arab countries which are solely interested in exploitation and material self-aggrandizement and which seem to embrace the motto "Après moi le déluge."

Al Shabab believes that the joint communiqué has in view certain ulterior aims beyond the question of armaments. The paper argues that it is unquestionable that the embargo formerly imposed on the shipment of arms to the Middle East did not obstruct armament operations in either Israel or the Arab states. Now that the Arab mentality can no longer tolerate imperialism openly represented in the presence of foreign occupation armies and foreign counselors, the Western Powers are attempting to impose a new kind of disguised imperialism similar to the Soviet imperialism which operates under the guise of ideological principles.

The paper reiterates its view that the communiqué involves an implicit division of the Middle East into spheres of foreign influence and a recognition of the present regional status quo in this part of the world.

(Pr.Dig. 103/5)

Al Nazir criticizes ex-Premier 'Azm for having viewed the communiqué with satisfaction. The paper quotes Reuter and the United Press as having remarked that the communiqué would lead to the following results:

- 1- It would guarantee Israel against future Arab aggression.
- 2- It would guarantee Jordan including Arab Palestine against aggression from other Arab states.
- 3- It would guarantee the Jordanian Army which is led by British officers against expulsion from its strategic bases in Palestine.
- 4- It would guarantee Syria against aggression from other Arab countries.

The paper inquires as to which of these points Mr. 'Azm considers as advantageous to the Arabs. Surely Mr. 'Azm would not be interested in, nor would he view with satisfaction, the first three results which are expected to ensue from the communiqué. It is only the fourth point which Mr. 'Azm might consider as beneficial. Is this point so important as to urge us recognize the status of Israel or to ignore Syria's former attitude towards Jordan in the Political Committee of the Arab League or to defend the strategic bases of Britain in Jordan? Furthermore, which Arab country can attack or is planning to attack Syria? The fact is that Syria is threatened only by Zionist danger which constitutes a menace not only to Syria but also to the other Arab states.

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LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

DAMASCUS, SYRIA

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Daily Review of the Syrian Press

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No. 104

(FOR STAFF USE ONLY)

Friday, June 2, 1950

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PAPERS REVIEWED:

Alif Ba', Al Nasr, Al Fayha, Al Kifah, Al Qabas,
Al Ayyam, Al Insha', Al Balad, Al Jabal, Al 'Alam,
Al Hadara, Al Shabab, Al Nazir, and Al Akhbar.

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DOMESTIC AFFAIRS

ON DEMAND UN PREMIER!

According to Al Fayha, both Khalid al-'Azm and Nazim al-Qudsi have refused to be Premiers. Dr. Qudsi left Thursday evening for Aleppo. The cabinet crisis will certainly be solved as soon as the Chief of State finds a man who agrees to be premier!

The other morning papers quoted Nazim al-Qudsi as having stated that he had not been charged by the Chief of State to form a cabinet.

Alif Ba': A Populist member of the Constituent Assembly told us that the ministerial crisis was difficult to solve and that he had hastened to cash his salary lest the Constituent Assembly should be dissolved.

Dr. Qudsi's...

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(Pr.Dig. 104/2)

Dr. Qudsi's cabinet will probably be formed as follows:

Dr. 'Abd-al-Wahhab Hawmad, Hani al-Siba'i, Ma'ruf al-Dawalibi (or Shakir al-'Ass), Dr. George Shalhub (all Populists) 'Abd-al-Baqi Nizam-al-Din, Ihsan al-Husni, Dr. Sami Tayyara (Republicans), and Dr. Ziki al-Khatib (Independent.)

ARAB HIGHER COMMITTEE:

Al Kifah: The petition of the Arab Higher Committee in Damascus requesting the Government to exempt it from telephone deposits and fees was rejected by the Ministry of Public Works and Communications. Finance offices argue that there are no proofs that the Committee is an official establishment entitled to such exemptions.

YUGOSLAV REFUGEES:

Al Kifah: In a publication distributed to Government offices, the Yugoslav refugees resident in Damascus expressed their desire to remain in Syria. They request the Government to refrain from supplying information to the Yugoslav Government about them for fear that Tito's Communist Government might harm their relations.

A SYRIAN AIRLINES COMPANY:

Al Fayha: A Lebanese capitalist has requested permission from the Government to establish a "Syrian Airlines Company" with purely Arab capital. In his request which included projected air routes, he sought the Government's protection against foreign competition.

THE NEW CONSTITUTION:

Alif Ba': The Eastern News Agency reports that the Joint Constituent Committee set up to study the new constitution has unanimously agreed to maintain the present design of the Syrian flag. The Committee has also approved an article providing that in the event of a cabinet resignation the President of the Republic would charge a person other than the resigning Prime Minister to form the new cabinet.

The Committee has also approved an article which provides that in the case of the death of the President of the Republic or his failure to perform his duties, the Speaker of the Parliament would assume the powers of President of the Republic but would not retain the position as Speaker of Parliament.

(Pr. Dig. 104/3)

The provision that the article limiting ownership of lands should have a retroactive effect was dropped by this committee.

The Committee has reportedly completed the study of all the articles in the new constitution with the exception of article 3 (The Religion of the State.)

REACTION TO TRIPARTITE COMMUNIQUE:

Alif Ba': In an interview with the Eastern Agency, Shaykh Mustafa al-Siba'i expressed his satisfaction with the tripartite communiqué in so far as it lifted the embargo imposed on the shipment of arms to the Arab countries. He bitterly deplored, however, the Western Powers' decision to guarantee the frontiers of Israel and to consider any aggression against them as necessitating their intervention. He described this decision as inconsistent with the Partition Plan passed by the United Nations.

Shaykh Siba'i condemned the division of the Middle East into spheres of imperialist influence which he believed was involved in the join Anglo-American-French communiqué. After a long period of struggle, the Arabs seem not to have achieved anything other than disappointment and a return to the old-fashioned imperialistic mentality which considers weak states as private property.

Shaykh Siba'i added that he could not be certain as to whether or not the recent signs of Arab orientation towards the Eastern Camp had resulted in the lifting of the embargo on arms. He was nevertheless aware that this orientation had prompted the Western Powers to think of satisfying the feelings of the Arabs. Siba'i added: "It is a mistake to believe that our feelings can be satisfied by specious promises or trivial matters. Our right to live free and strong in our countries should be respected, and the Big Powers should abandon the cause of Israel so that we may have a chance to settle our account with the Jews by ourselves."

Referring to the report that France has asked Syria to give a pledge that it will not use its allotments of arms for aggressive purposes, Shaykh Siba'i said, "We are not in a position to contemplate aggression on any quarter, but we want to defend our prestige and legitimate rights."

When asked if the motive behind arming the Middle East was to strengthen the Western defense system against the Soviet Union, Shaykh Siba'i said, "This may be the real motive, but I can assure you that the new national conscious-

(Pr.Dig. 104/4)

ness of the Arabs has begun to wage a war against every attempt to thrust the Arab countries into the furnace of a war from which they are not expected to derive any benefit."

Shaykh Siba'i concluded that the official reply to the joint communique is the concern of the Arab Governments, but that his party, the Islamic Socialist Front, will continue its struggle to draw the attention of the people to the intrigues and devices of the Big Powers and to urge the Arab Governments not to follow a policy inconsistent with the interest of the Arab nation.

Mr. Jalal al-Sayid, a Resurrectionist deputy, was also interviewed yesterday by the Eastern News Agency. He declared that his first impressions regarding the joint communiqué were unfavorable, because the three Western Powers had for no accountable reason discussed Arab affairs without having previously consulted the Arabs. He further described the communique as primarily designed to protect Israel and consolidate its status.

Mr. Jalal al-Sayid also criticized the Western Powers for having arrogated to themselves the right to take action outside the framework of the United Nations in a manner quite inconsistent with the United Nations Charter and the alleged spirit and objectives of this international organization.

Al Nasr believes that the Western Powers' decision to arm the Arabs was not a result of declarations proposing orientation towards the Eastern Camp, as Siba'i thought. The paper remarks that both the Western Powers and the Soviet Union know that such declarations are neither serious nor significant. The Western Powers, however, use such an argument to justify their final attempt to transform the Middle East into an arms arsenal supervised by Israel in agreement with certain ruling cliques in the Arab world. The paper concludes that one single practical step to purchase arms from Czechoslovakia or Russia or to conclude a trade agreement with these two states can be considered as indicating a genuine trend of policy in the Arab East.

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LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

DAMASCUS, SYRIA

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Daily Review of the Syrian Press

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No. 105 (FOR STAFF USE ONLY)
Monday, June 3, 1958

PAPERS REVIEWED:

Alif Ba', Al Nasr, Al Fayha', Al Kifah, Al Qabas,
Al Ayyam, Al Insha', Al Balad, Al 'Alam, Al Hadara,
Al Jala', Al Shabab, Al Nazir, Al Akhbar, Barada,
Al Manar, Al Masa', and Al Nuqqad.

DOMESTIC AFFAIRS

A NEW CABINET

Although all Saturday's morning and noon papers asserted that Dr. Nazim al-Qudsi visited the Presidency Friday evening and officially declined to form a cabinet, a communique issued Saturday afternoon stated that "at 12:00 noon Saturday June 3 the Chief of State received Dr. Nazim al-Qudsi and charged him with the formation of a new cabinet. Dr. Qudsi accepted and will submit the names of the members of his cabinet today or tomorrow".

On Sunday afternoon, the Chief of State issued decree No. 910 dated June 4 listing the new cabinet as follows:

✓ Dr. Nazim al-Qudsi	- Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs
✓ Ziki al-Khatib	- Minister of Justice
✓ Hasan Jabbara-	Minister of Finance
✓ Shakir al-'Ass-	Minister of National Economy and Agriculture
✓ Dr. George Shalhub-	Minister of Public Works
✓ Farhan al-Jandali-	Minister of Public Instruction and Hygiene
✓ Colonel Fawzi Silaw-	Minister of Defense
✓ Raed al-Baraka-	Minister of Interior

Al Fayha'

PROSPECTS OF THE NEW CABINET

Al-Nasr of June 5 describes the new cabinet as the weakest cabinet Syria has ever witnessed and believes that it will not be able to assume the heavy responsibilities with which it has been entrusted or to confront the serious crises and problems with which the country is faced such as the tripartite communique, the future of the Arab League, the Palestine problem, foreign imperialistic economic and political projects, foreign conspiracies and intrigues, the completion of the new constitution, the conflict between parties, the acute economic crisis, and the new economic projects.

MAZM LEAVING FOR PARIS

Al Fayha: It is reported that former Premier Khalid al-'Azam is planning to leave for Paris tomorrow, or day after, to pass the summer months in France.

A COMMUNIST DEMONSTRATION

Al Kifah and Al Manar of June 5 report that a communist demonstration was averted yesterday by the Syrian security officials and 17 communists were arrested. The communists had planned to stage a demonstration immediately after the afternoon movie of the Roxy cinema. An 18-year youth was apprehended carrying a small bag full of communist tracts. Upon interrogation the youth stated that he did not know the contents of the bag but was paid to carry the bag into the cinema.

Al Manar gives the names of several of the communist detainees: Michel Abiyad, Munira 'Azar, Jamilah Jibrah Hilal, 'Abd-al-Ghani 'Arafat, Zayd Qaysari, Zayd Naji, Hunayn Jabra, Khalid 'Azar, and Jean Farah.

Alif Ba', June 3, reports that about 50 communists attempted to organize a demonstration in Aleppo on the occasion of "World Child Day in Russia". The demonstration was checked and a number of communist instigators were arrested and sent to Damascus for trial.

WITHDRAWALS FROM ARAB SOCIALIST PARTY

Al Qabas of June 4 published cables from members of the Arab Socialist Party in Ma'arat and Khan Shaykhun announcing their withdrawal from the party on grounds that leaders of the party in this district were attacking and robbing the inhabitants of these two towns. They described them as "underground communist elements".

EXPLOSION IN ALEPPO TOMB...

Al Manar: A number of children reported to the Police Department in Aleppo that they saw a person dressed in Arab headdress and robe digging in the Jewish cemetery, behind the Latin church. The Police

arrived at the scene with an expert on explosives and found four high-explosive time-bombs planted there.

INCREASED MILITARY STAFF AT FRENCH LEGATION

Al-Nasr, June 5 - With reference to the report that the French Legation in Damascus has decided to increase its military, commercial, and press attaches, an informed source told the Arab Agency that the expansion of the French diplomatic corps was designed to conduct new secret activities relating to the political, economic and military affairs of both Syria and Lebanon. The same source added that this new French measure resulted from the tripartite communique which permits France to regain its position of influence in Syria and Lebanon.

DISPUTE IN THE COMMUNIST PARTY

Al-Nasr, June 5 - The Arab Agency reports that the recent dispute in the ranks of the communist party in Syria and Lebanon has reached such proportions that the leaders of communist organizations have not been able to conceal the dispute from the public. Certain prominent members such as Ra'if al-Khuri, Qadri al-Qala'ji, Hashim al-Amin, and Emile Faris Ibrahim have been recently expelled from the party.

FRENCH NAVAL OFFICERS AT THE PRESIDENCY

Al-Nasr, June 5 - Admiral Labert arrived in Damascus yesterday, June 4, with the captain of the French cruiser, Montcalm. Accompanied by the French Minister to Syria, the French naval officers paid a courtesy visit to H.E. the Chief of State. At 11:15 a.m. they were received at the Ministry of National Defense by the Chief of Staff and other high-ranking officers. An army band saluted the visitors by playing the Marseillaise and the Syrian national anthem.

DENIAL

Al-Nasr, June 5 - "Al-Ruwad, a Beirut daily, published in its issue of June 2, 1950 what it alleged to be the reply given by Colonel Bannud, the Syrian Chief of Staff, in answer to a question concerning the tripartite communique. Certain Syrian papers have also reproduced this report.

"The Chief of Staff denies the reply attributed to him since he has not answered any questions relating to the tripartite communique or to any other similar subject".

Sgd. Colonel Anwar Bannud
Chief of Staff

ARAB AFFAIRS

ARAB AFFAIRS

REACTION TO TRIPARTITE COMMUNIQUE

Al-Nasr of June 5 states in an article that, contrary to an ANA report published by the Egyptian daily, Al-Mugattam, the industrial, commercial, and labor circles in Syria have not received the tripartite communiqué with satisfaction. The paper reiterates that the communiqué involves intervention in Arab affairs, division of the Middle East into spheres of influence, and maintenance of the present status quo which is based on aggression and usurpation and is inconsistent with the United Nations resolutions. As for the decision to arm the Arabs, no benefit is expected to be derived from it since it is confined to light arms.

Al-Ba'ith of June 3, which is now appearing weekly, published a lengthy article analysing and criticizing the tripartite communiqué. The paper remarks that the only point in the communiqué which might at first sight appear favorable is the question of armament. An examination of the purposes behind the decision to arm the Arabs would clearly prove that the communiqué in all its points is detrimental to the interests of the Arabs. The communiqué itself enumerates the purposes of the decision to arm the Arabs:

1. To enable the Arab states to maintain internal security;
2. To enable the Arab states to defend themselves;
3. To allow the Arab states to participate in the defense of the entire area of the Middle East.

With regard to the first purpose, it should be noted that the maintenance of internal security is feasible with the means which the Arabs now possess. Furthermore, real internal security can be established only when national sovereignty and social justice are achieved in the Arab countries.

As for the second purpose, it is nothing more than a fictitious assumption, since Israel, the enemy of the Arabs, is not really a source of fear to the Arab states. Israel has not been established as a result of military victories, but as a result of Anglo-American intervention, pressure and intimidation. The Arabs interpret self-defense differently from that embodied in the tripartite communiqué, since to the Arabs self-defense means the eradication of the Jewish cancer which has been forcibly implanted in the heart of the Arab world.

With regard to the third purpose, it is known that the first enemy of the Arab countries is western imperialism which is represented by the three states which have issued the communiqué. When the communiqué speaks of the defense of the Middle East, the Arabs realize that it is not to their interest to adopt an attitude of strict neutrality to the two camps each of which is

arriving to lord the world.

The paper adds that the Western Powers seem to consider that the alignment of the Arab countries with them is a foregone conclusion which does not even require the consultation of the Arabs. The Western Powers have virtually appointed themselves as trustees of the Arab countries and as responsible for administering their military, economic and political affairs.

The paper further states that, notwithstanding its unwholesome designs, the communique has benefited the Arabs in so far as it has officially revealed the factual trends of the criminal policy which the Western Powers have been following. It should be pointed out in this connection that the validity and strength of statements are never determined by agreements concluded by extraneous elements, but by the attitude of the people who are involved in such statements. It was the Syrian people who at one time succeeded in nullifying the famous Bevin-Bidault Agreement after the last war. If the Arabs collaborate they can, in like manner, invalidate the tripartite communique.

Al Jala', a nationalist Latakia paper, describes the tripartite communique as a part of the imperialist record first begun in 1917 with the issuance of the Balfour Declaration. The paper adds that the communique involves the consolidation of the status of Israel, the state of gangs, and its protection against future Arab attacks. After enumerating the series of criminal acts which Britain, France and America have perpetrated against the Arabs, the paper appeals to the Arab countries to reject the communique and adopt a firm attitude towards the Western powers. The paper remarks that it is true that the Arabs need arms, but they need it to recover their country from which they have been forcibly deprived and to repatriate the refugees to their home-land. If the Western states withhold their arms from the Arab countries, the latter should seek other states which may be willing to supply them with arms unconditionally.

REFUGEES CONDEMN SHORT-TERM PROJECTS

Al-Nasr, June 5 - The Palestinian Arab refugees addressed a letter to the Director of UNRWA in Damascus in reply to his recent press statement. The letter condemns the short-term projects referred to by the Director and describes them as politically inspired and designed to settle the refugees outside their original country and to plant imperialistic wedges in the independent Arab countries. The letter further states that if the Director of UNRWA is really interested in the welfare of the refugees, he should implement his short-term projects in the Arab part of Palestine.

A LEBANESE MESSAGE TO FORMER PRESIDENT QUWWATLI

A LEBANESE MESSAGE TO FORMER PRESIDENT QUWWATLI

Al Masa': A report from Cairo indicates that Mr. Fu'ad Ammun, the Director General of the Lebanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has arrived in Alexandria with two important messages for former Syrian President Shukri al-Quwwatli; the first from Lebanese President of Republic Shaykh Bshara al-Khuri and the second from Riyadh Bey al-Solh, the Lebanese Premier.

ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

SA'UDI LOAN TO SYRIA

Al Kifah, June 5 - The second installment of the Sa'udi loan to Syria was due on May 29. There seems no intention to pay this installment. "We hope the new Government will deal with this question diplomatically", the paper writes.



LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

DAMASCUS, SYRIA

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Daily Review of the Syrian Press ^{25X1A}

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No. 106

(FOR STAFF USE ONLY)

Tuesday, June 6, 1950

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Papers Reviewed:

Alif Ba', Al Nasr, Al Fayha', Al Kifah, AlQabas, Al-Ayyam, Al Insha', Al Balad, Al 'Alam, Al Hadara, Al-Nazir, Al Akhbar, Al Manar, Al Masa', Barada, Al Nuqqad, and Asa al-Jannah.

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DOMESTIC AFFAIRS

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY, MONDAY, JUNE 5, 1950:

Twenty-three members were absent from yesterday's meeting of the Constituent Assembly. All members of the new cabinet, including Colonel Silaw who was in mufti, were present.

The Secretary read the texts of the decrees accepting the resignation of 'Azm's cabinet and nominating the new cabinet. He was followed by Dr. Qudsi who read the following ministerial statement:

"You are aware of the stages through which the country is passing and of the responsibilities now confronting the Constituent Assembly and Government. Duty demands that we

(Pr.Dig. 106/2)

create an atmosphere capable of inspiring the confidence of the people in order that your respected Assembly may hasten the completion of the new constitution upon which depends the achievement of stability and the implementation of the projected reforms in the various aspects of the vital activities of our nation. As it is, the country is in great need of a comprehensive and thorough reform, and considerable time and effort are required for issuing the laws and preparing the programs necessary for the implementation of this reform. It is imperative at present that the Constituent Assembly should devote all its efforts to the completion of the constitution. In view of the foregoing, the Government desires, during this period which we hope will not be long, to refer to you only such draft-laws as the general welfare may urgently necessitate so that the Assembly may not be deprived of the time it needs for the completion of the constitution.

"In the meantime, the Government will fully perform its duties and undertake its responsibilities. It will also handle the country's problems with vigilance and determination as the present crisis so requires.

"The Government will also work for protecting the wealth of the country and for organizing export and import regulations in conformity with the country's interest and needs.

"The Government will not exploit its powers to propagandize for certain individual or group, but will place the higher interest of the country above every other consideration. It will follow a national path and will seek the cooperation of all those who hold this principle.

"With regard to foreign policy, the Government will handle the problems of the hour in conformity with the interest of Syria and the other Arab countries. In its relations with the other Arab governments, the Syrian Government will advocate good will, agreement, and uniformity of views.

"The Government presents this brief statement which is devoid of promises in view of the transitory nature of its role. It requests your confidence and cooperation."

Munir 'Ajlan (Ind-Damascus) urged the Assembly to hold a special meeting to debate the statement. He added that should the Assembly not concur with this proposal, the Independent Bloc would not vote against the Government but would abstain.

'Abd-al-Latif Yunis (Republican-Safita) stated that the ministerial statement did not refer to many important subjects such as the protection of Syria's independence and the maintenance of the republican regime. He requested the Prime Minister to declare the government's policy on these subjects in view of the conspiracies existing against Syria.

President Kikhya asked the Prime Minister if he approved the proposal for the delay in the debate. Qudsi said that the government had no objection, and Kikhya adjourned the meeting until 5:00 p.m. Tuesday, June 6, 1950.

PROSPECTS OF THE NEW CABINET:

Barada believes that Dr. Qudsi's Cabinet will not remain long in power, even if it wins the confidence of the Constituent Assembly. The new Premier has declared that his Government will be provisional and transitory ignoring the fact that the country needs at present a strong cabinet capable of undertaking all responsibilities and of handling all problems with firmness and determination. The country is facing at present major problems such as the tripartite communiqué, Jordan's position in the Arab League, the attempts to urge the Arab states to negotiate a peace treaty with Israel, Syria's position vis-à-vis the two world camps, Syro-Lebanese relations and the economic projects embarked upon by the former Cabinet.

It is also feared that Dr. Qudsi may play the same role as the first Populist Cabinet, which, despite its declaration that it was only a provisional government, began to work for the implementation of the Syro-Iraqi Union project. In this case we should like to warn the Government that any attempt to implement the Syro-Iraqi Union project will result in dangerous repercussions, since the Syrian people can no more tolerate those who tamper with their future and expose their independence and republican regime to danger.

Al Qabas describes the new cabinet as virtually a party cabinet since two of its three non-populist members have participated in it in their capacity as experts, whereas the third has been recently expelled from the Independents' Bloc which is credited for having introduced the innovation of considering itself as a party. The paper favors in principle the formation of party cabinets, but inquires as to whether the Cabinet will be able to assert itself and withstand future attacks inside and outside parliament or share the same fate as the former Qudsi's Cabinet. If it succeeds in withstanding future attacks, in achieving stability and in making each authority operate within the framework of its specialization and prerogatives, the nation will have a new class of qualified rulers, whom it strongly needs, now that it has been deprived of its former competent statesmen. If it fails, the nation should be entitled to look for those who are able to govern it and defend its freedom and independence, wherever these statesmen may be.

Al Fayha'...

Al Fayha' notes that one is apt to view the ministerial statement with concern, in view of the absence of any reference to the republican regime to which the people strongly adhere. It should be pointed out that the People's Party which is now in power has attempted in the past to substitute the republican regime for another regime which would completely overthrow the independence and freedom of the country. As a matter of fact, the People's Party almost succeeded in its attempt, had not the Army in its last movement arrested Sami al-Hinnawi and thwarted the plots contrived by certain professional politicians.

DISSENSION AMONG LIBERAL REPUBLICANS:

Al Manar: The Secretariate of the Liberal Republican Bloc emphatically denied to the Eastern News Agency the press reports that dissension has taken place between the members of the bloc.

Mr. Hamid al-Khuja, a member of the Liberal Republican Bloc in the Constituent Assembly, stated that the Bloc will specify its attitude toward the new cabinet after studying its statement of policy carefully. He asserted that the non-participation of certain liberal Republicans in the cabinet would not necessarily effect the Bloc's attitude toward the Cabinet.

As for the expulsion of Ziki al-Khatib from the Independents Bloc because of his participation in the Cabinet, all papers carried today a statement by Khatib, the Minister of Justice, in which he vehemently justified his action. He pointed out in this statement that on Saturday, June 3, Sa'id Haydar, 'Arif Taraqqi, and himself visited Dr. Qudsi and conveyed to him the Bloc's willingness to participate in the Cabinet. "The next day", Minister Khatib continued, "I was surprised by certain conditions with which Haydar and Taraqqi presented to me namely that the Bloc must be represented by two portfolios in the Cabinet. I rejected their conditions in view of the promise which had been made a day before to Dr. Qudsi."

A PRESS PARTY:

Al Nasr: Editor of Al Insha' Wajih al-Haffar gave a dinner Party at Ain Figh in honor of Mr. Fletcher, the Press Attaché at the British Legation in Damascus. Several pressmen were also invited.

INCREASED...

(Pr. Dig. 106/5)

INCREASED MILITARY STAFF AT FRENCH LEGATION:

Al Nasrr The French Legation in Damascus has bluntly denied the ANA report that the Legation has decided to increase its military, commercial, and press attachés. (See Pr.Dig.105/4) The Legation described these reports as mere fabrication and unfounded.

T A P L I N E . . .

Al Nidal: An agreement was concluded between the Director of Qunaytra TAPline Camp and the Director of Unemployment Office in the presence of the Caimacam of the Area to divide the workers into two categories; the first category to work 8 hours from early morning until noon and the second to work in an afternoon shift, also 8 hours. This constitutes a compromise arrangement to meet the complaints of the workers that the Company was employing them 13 hours a day.

ARAB AFFAIRS

SYRIA SUPPORTS JORDAN?...

Alif Ba': Muhammad Pasha al-Shurayqi, the Jordanian Minister of Foreign Affairs, stated in Baghdad that Syria will believably side with Iraq in the Arab League and vote against the proposal calling for the expulsion of Jordan from the League.

The Jordanian Minister also stated that Jordan will attend the Arab League Council's meeting but will not participate in the debates on the question of the annexation of Eastern Palestine to Jordan.

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LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

DAMASCUS, SYRIA

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Daily Review of the Syrian Press

25X1A

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No. 107

(FOR STAFF USE ONLY)

Wednesday, June 7, 1950

Papers Reviewed:

Alif Ba', Al Nasr, Al Fayha', Al Kifah, Al Qabas, Al-Ayyam, Al Insha', Al Balad, Al 'Alam, Al Hadara, Al-Nazir, Al Akhbar, Al Manar, Al Masa', Barada, Al Nuqqad, and Asa-al-Jannah.

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ARAB AFFAIRS

TRIPARTITE COMMUNIQUE:

Al 'Alam: A Foreign Office spokesman denied the report that in a note to the Arab League and Arab states Syria has made the following remarks on the Tripartite Communiqué:

- 1- That the communiqué consolidates the position of Israel in the Middle East and constitutes a final settlement of the Palestine Question.
- 2- That the Communiqué interrupts the accomplishment of the United Nations of any settlement of the Palestine Question.
- 3- That it permits Israel to possess arms equal to that possessed by all the Arab states together.

(Pr.Dig. 107/2)

THE GREATER SYRIA PLAN:

Al Nidal strongly refutes an allegation published in Al Misri, an Egyptian daily, that former Minister of Interior Dr. Sami Kabbara is advocating a Greater Syria Plan together with H.E. Hasan al-Hakim, and Colonel Amin Abu Asaf, the Commander of the first division.

The Egyptian daily states that this allegation was made by the Egyptian Minister in Syria in a report to his Government.

Al Nidal, which is owned by Dr. Sami Kabbara, asks the Egyptian Legation in Damascus to immediately publish a denial if this statement is untrue. If the Legation has actually submitted such a report, it should "permit us to state that it has been misinformed."

"It is possible," the paper believes, "that the report was either prepared by a spy or dictated by one of the political opponents of Dr. Sami Kabbara,"

To refute these allegations Al Nidal makes quotations from an article by Dr. Kabbara in which he styled himself as a strong supporter of a "Republican Regime."

DOMESTIC AFFAIRS

EXPULSION OF JABBARA:

Al Kifah: Editor Amin Sa'id editorially attacked the new Minister of Finance, Hasan al-Jabbara, and urged his immediate expulsion from the Cabinet on grounds that he participated in the Za'im's regime.

Editor Sa'id argues that Jabbara was a tool in the hands of Za'im. He planned, and implemented all the projects dictated by Za'im disregarding the interests of the homeland. He urged his expulsion on grounds that 1) he served as Minister of Finance during Za'im's regime, and 2) the failure of his corrupt wheat policy in Jazirah.

THE RELIGION OF THE STATE:

Al Kifah: The President of the Constituent Assembly, Rushdi Kikhya, extended an invitation to all the Christian members of the Assembly and other Christian personalities to attend a meeting at his office, yesterday. It was reported that President Kikhya is seeking the opinion of the Christians concerning the subject of the State's religion.

MINISTER SILAW...

(Pr. Dig.107/3)

MINISTER SILAW IN BEIRUT:

Al Fayha and other papers report that the Minister of Defense, Colonel Fawzi Silaw, accepted the invitation of Admiral Labert to visit the French Cruiser Montcalm anchored at Beirut. The Minister dined yesterday, 1:00 p.m. with French naval officers aboard the Cruiser. Colonel Silaw was accompanied by the Chief of Syrian Army Staff, Colonel Anwar Bannud, Lt. Colonel Mahmud Binyan, the Commander of the Desert Forces; Captain Hisham Sarman, and Captain 'Umar al-Qabbani. French Military Attachés in Beirut and Damascus also attended the dinner party. Colonel Silaw and his entourage returned to Damascus the same afternoon.

PREMIER'S VISITORS:

Al Fayha : Prime Minister Nazim al-Qudsi received yesterday 'Abd-al-Rahman al-'Azm, the former Minister of Finance who reported to him on the state's financial situation. Later the Premier received Dr. Izzat al-Tarabulsi, the chairman of the board of directors of Latakia Port Project. The question of placing for sale the shares for Latakia Port project was the tonic of their conversation.

Premier Qudsi then received the Commandant of the Syrian Gendarmerie, Colonel Muhammad 'Ali 'Izmat. After office hours the Premier returned the visit of former Prime Minister Khalid al -'Azm.

WITHDRAWALS FROM MOSLEM BROTHERHOOD ORGANIZATION:

Al Qabas : Messrs 'Adil Khadim al-Jami', Nasib and 'Adnan Shammut, Muhammad and Zahir al-Qassar, Muhammad Mawlawi, Wasif Nadim, Khalid Shammut, Sa'id Misri, and Nadir Misri announced their withdrawal from the Moslem Brotherhood on grounds that the organization has diverted from its religious principles and had become a political party.

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY MEETING OF TUESDAY, JUNE 6, 1950

The meeting was declared open at 5:15. The visitors gallery was crowded mostly with Aleppeans. After the names of 15 absentees had been read, deputies were invited to debate the ministerial statement of the new Cabinet.

Abd al-Hasib Raslan (Ind. Homs) was the first to speak. He inquired about the future of Syro-Lebanese economic relations and referred to the reports that efforts were made to terminate the present economic rupture during the visit of the former Premier to Cairo and Riyad. He concluded by requesting the

Government to make a clear statement about this subject and not to delay the issue in view of the urgent need for a settlement.

Abd al-Latif Yunis (RL./Safita) then spoke on behalf of the Republican Liberal Bloc. He said that after his Bloc had studied the ministerial statement it maintained that the general welfare required stable conditions which would enable the Constituent Committee to ratify the new constitution in a tranquil atmosphere. He paid tribute to the Government's pledge not to exploit its power to propagandize for certain individuals and groups. He concluded that though his bloc intended to vote for the Government it regretted the absence of any reference to the republican regime in the ministerial statement.

Jalal al-Sayyid (Resur. - Deir-ez-Zor) said that he viewed the formation of the new cabinet with a mixed feeling of satisfaction and anxiety. He was satisfied that the Cabinet was a party Cabinet but he viewed with concern the possible continuation of economic rupture with Lebanon in view of the new Minister of Finance, Hasan Jabbara, being a champion of rupture. Referring to Syria's attitude toward the Arab countries, he regretted that the ministerial statement failed to mention that Syria should not only advocate understanding between the Arab countries but should also play an important role in directing Arab policy. He also criticized the statement for not having referred to the tripartite communique which has divided the Middle East into zones of foreign influence. He added that the unity of the Arabs would be the best reply and counteraction to foreign imperialistic policies. He concluded: "After God I believe in Arab unity, socialism, and freedom. Accordingly every government which does not implement or postulate these three principles shall not win my confidence."

Ra'if Milqi (Ind - Hama) inquired about the causes which led to the resignation of Azm's Cabinet and expressed his fear that the new Cabinet might all of a sudden have to resign under similar circumstances. Referring to Hawrani's resignation from the previous Cabinet, he said that this resignation was attributed by the resigning Minister to lack of coordination and to certain factors of a more serious nature. He inquired about these factors and asked whether or not these same factors threatened the position of the present Cabinet. Referring to the resignation of the first Qudsi's Cabinet, he said that Hawrani alleged at that time that there were conspiracies and intrigues against the republican regime. He exonerated Qudsi from such accusations but expressed his amazement at the present willingness of the Republican Bloc to support Qudsi against whom accusations of treason were directed in the past.

With regard to the pledge that the new Cabinet did not intend to exploit its powers to propagandize for a certain group of individuals, he referred to the rumors concerning the possible

(Pr. Dig. 107/5)

the possible discharge of Major Ahmad al-'Azm, Director General of Police and Security, and Dr. Anwar Hatim, Secretary General of the Prime Ministry and their replacement by pro-Populists.

With regard to foreign policy, he urged the Government to follow a frank policy particularly with the Arab states. He concluded that the point of weakness of the new Cabinet centered on the presence of a certain Minister whose name he declined to mention.

Akram Hawrani (Hama - ASP) replied to Milqi's remarks pointing out that the causes of his resignation were well known to the Assembly and the people. He denied the report that all Assembly groups were in favor of the continuation of the former cabinet and asserted that the Liberal Republican Bloc, the Independents, and the Resurrectionists had decided to withdraw their confidence from the former Cabinet.

Munir Ajlani (Independent Bloc - Damascus) supported the government's policy of understanding between the Arab countries but criticized the ministerial statement for its obscurity. He declared his Bloc's intention to abstain from giving a vote of confidence in the Government.

Premier Qudsi declared that collaboration and harmony characterized his Cabinet. He reiterated his promise not to let the Government interfere in the debate on the constitution. He added that if Cabinet members were to participate in the debate they would do so only in their capacity as members of the Assembly. With regard to the absence of any reference to the republican regime in the ministerial statement he said that "it was taken for granted that the Cabinet supported the republican regime."

As for Syro-Lebanese relations, the Premier distinguished between Customs separation and severance of economic relations. He said that his Government will adopt the policy of the former Cabinet as regards separation of Customs and common interests. He added that Customs separation was approved by the Assembly. There was no objection, however, against the conclusion of a trade agreement with Lebanon.

Qudsi then spoke about the tripartite communiqué. He said that the Government intentionally abstained from referring to the communiqué in the ministerial statement because this question involves all Middle Eastern Governments and no Arab Government should take a unilateral position vis-a-vis the communiqué before consulting the other Arab Governments, especially since western powers would not give any weight to unilateral action in this respect.

The Premier concluded by urging the Assembly to hasten the completion of the new constitution.

Husni al Barazi

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Husni al-Barazi (Hama - Independent) expressed his belief that the completion of the constitution would not provide a guarantee for stability but that it was in the hands of the Constituent Assembly to achieve the desired stability. He reversed his former opinion that the administrative and political affairs of the country should be entrusted to civilians, and, in view of the recent activities of blocs and certain interventions, recommended the formation of a strong military government, especially as the Ministry of National Defence has been entrusted to an army representative. He pointed out that subversive currents had been recently witnessed and that former opponents had been converted into supporters.

With regard to the Republican Bloc's remarks that there was no reference to the Republican regime in the ministerial statement, Barazi said that this subject need not be referred to as it had become a means of exploitation.

Hawrani interrupted and resented what he described as a direct allusion to him and his bloc.

Barazi continued his speech. He criticized economic rupture with Lebanon and made an appeal for Arab unity.

Ahmad Qanbar (P - Aleppo) asserted that the new Cabinet was formed in a free atmosphere and supported his assertion with the fact that the first Qudsi's Cabinet did not last long. With reference to Barazi's recommendations that a military Government be formed, Qanbar affirmed that the new Minister of Defence did not represent the Army. He added that neither the people nor the Army favored the formation of a Military Government, he reminded the Assembly of the autocratic rule of Barazi when he was for a while military governor of Aleppo under Za'im, and during which he summoned the Qaimaqams and ordered them to ignore the existing laws and to comply with his commands.

Milqi interrupted but was asked by President Kikhya not to interfere. Milqi refused. President Kikhya threatened to order him to withdraw from the floor. Milqi challenged him to do so. Minister Shakir al 'Ass intervened and asked Milqi to shut up. Milqi retaliated with stronger words.

A clamor ensued and certain Independent deputies withdrew in protest against the conduct of the President and Shakir al 'Ass.

Hani al-Siba'i (P - Homs) reaffirmed that the Government should be administered by the people and not by any other organization. He added that the People's Party had discussed the present situation prior to the formation of the new Cabinet and that no pressure, intimidation, or intervention accompanied its formation.

Milqi

(Pr. Dig. 107/7)

Milqi spoke again about the circumstances which accompanied the formation of the new Cabinet. He reminded the Assembly that the people used to consider as traitors those deputies who under the French Mandate were in the habit of frequenting the French Intelligence Officers. Addressing Yunis and certain other deputies, Milqi challenged them to state whether or not (Syrian Army officers) had not visited them to urge them to give their confidence to the new Cabinet.

Hawrani intervened and violent words were exchanged. Kikhya postponed the meeting for 20 minutes in order to calm the tense atmosphere. When the deputies reassembled, Premier Qudsi took the floor and said: "You are aware that the Assembly was elected after a military coup in order to prepare a new constitution for the country. It is not my intention to state here whether or not the atmosphere was then free. Nevertheless I can affirm that it was a national atmosphere. I can further assert that there is no benefit in discussing such subjects. It is the achievement of stability which would really benefit the country. As for myself, my past career is sufficient to prove that I have never worked in an atmosphere lacking in freedom."

A motion was then raised to close the debate and start voting. The Assembly gave Qudsi's government an overwhelming vote of confidence with 78 voting in favor, 2 against, and 7 abstaining. Jalal al-Sayyid and 'Abd al-'Aziz Harwil (both Resurrectionists from Deir-ez-Zor) voted against. Those who abstained were: Munir 'Ajlani (Damascus) Ra'if Milqi (Hama), Hasan al-Hakim (Damascus), 'Abd al-Rahman al-'Azam (Hama), 'Abd al-Hakim Rislani (Homs), Farid Mirhij (Hama), Husni al-Barazi (Hama).

The meeting was adjourned until Monday June 12, at 5:00 p.m.

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LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

DAMASCUS, SYRIA

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Daily Review of the Syrian Press ^{25X1A}

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No. 109

(FOR STAFF USE ONLY)

Friday, June 9, 1950

Papers Reviewed:

Alif Ba', Al Nasr, Al Fayha', Al Kifah, Al Qabas, Al-Ayyam, Al Insha', Al Balad, Al 'Alam, Al Hadara, Al Nazir, Al Akhbar, and Al Masa'.

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DOMESTIC AFFAIRS

OPPOSITION IN THE ASSEMBLY:

Al Qabas: Editor Najib al-Rayyis today expressed his opinion that members of the opposition who at the last meeting of the Constituent Assembly raised the question of "intervention" in the formation and support of Qudsi's cabinet should be praised instead of insulted. Rayyis pointed out that the opposition was only fighting for the "freedom" of the Prime Minister and his legal constitutional powers. Had the Prime Minister been free to choose his colleagues, certain ministers would not have their portfolios now. Instead of attacking and insulting the opposition the Populists ought to have exploited the opposition's stand as a check to any further "intervention."

ATTACKS...

ATTACKS ON JABBARA:

Al Kifah: Editor Amin Sa'id today suggested that Minister Jabbara should be tried for his wheat policy which last year was disastrous to the whole nation and particularly farmers. He also accused Jabbara of having conspired against Syria before the annexation of Alexandretta to Turkey. Jabbara formed a political party of which he was chairman and his present colleague, Henri Ra'ad, a member. The party advocated the attachment of Alexandretta to France.

PRESIDENTS OF FOREIGN STATES SHOULD BE RESPECTED:

Al Fayha' : The Directorate General of Propaganda and Information sent a letter to this paper requesting it to be cautious in the publication of news items involving presidents of foreign states and not to publish anything prejudicial to their prestige and official position in the interest of general welfare and in conformity with Article 65 of the Press Law.

The paper inquires as to which presidents are involved in this letter.

EMBEZZLEMENT IN JAZIRAH:

Al Nasr: The Inspector of the Ministry of Interior, Mr. Ihsan al-Qawwas, arrived in Damascus from Jazirah and reported to the Minister of Interior on the embezzlement cases in the municipality of Kamishliyah. He stated to our reporter that the sum embezzled was 39,000 Syrian pounds and not 290,000 as previously reported.

USE OF ATOMIC BOMB:

Al Nasr: A number of lawyers, law graduates, and law students in Homs sent a cable to the Secretary General of the United Nations in which they requested that the UN draft legislation prohibiting the use of atomic bombs and providing that any nation using an atomic bomb would be considered a war criminal.

COMMEMORATION IN HOMS:

Al Nasr: The Nationalist Party's branch office in Homs will commemorate the second anniversary of the death of Mazhar Pasha Arslan, the head of the office. The commemoration will be held on June 10, at the Opera Theater. Many personalities are invited.

PRESENTATION....

PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS:

Al Nasr: The Indian Minister to Syria, H.E. 'Ali Asfar, presented his credentials to the Chief of State, at 10:00 a.m. yesterday, June 8, 1950.

The French Minister, Mr. Jacques Emile Paris, presented his credentials at 11:00 the same day.

ENCOURAGEMENT TO MEZZEH AIRPORT:

Alif Ba: A circular issued by the Directorate of Security and Police instructs the Security station in Mezzeh airport to permit air passengers to visit the city of Damascus without paying visa fees provided the length of their visit does not exceed 24 hours. For longer visits passengers will be requested to pay visa fees.

DETENTION OF COMMUNISTS ALONG FRONTIERS:

Al Akhbar: Three communists carrying communist tracts and pamphlets have been apprehended along the Syro-Lebanese frontiers and sent to Damascus under escort for trial.

FIRST CABINET MEETING:

According to a communiqué published today by the morning papers, the Council of Ministers held a meeting Thursday evening and approved a number of draft decrees relative to certain customs tariffs which have recently been put into force.

The Council also approved the reduction of governmental and municipal taxes on gasoline used by airlines.

ARAB AFFAIRS

KENNEDY WARNING THE SYRIAN GOVERNMENT:

Al Balad reports that Mr. Kennedy, Director General of UNRWA, has warned the Syrian Government in a note that the agency would open the Naqura-Israel road should Syria persist in its attitude towards the shipment via Syria of supplies to the refugees in Jordan.

ARAB...

(Pr. Dig. 109/4)

ARAB LEAGUE AFFAIRS:

Alif Ba': Prime Minister Nazim al-Qudsi began yesterday noon studying reports concerning Arab League affairs and the minutes of previous League meetings concerning the annexation of Eastern Palestine to Jordan.

The Premier expressed his hope that the present tension between the Arab states would be eliminated and that in the next session of the League the Arabs would cooperate closely in order to provide a collective front against dangers threatening the Middle East and particularly the Arab states.

TRIPARTITE COMMUNIQUE:

Al Nasr carried today an article written by writer 'Abd-al-Qadir al-Qawwas who inquired whether the seven Arab states are independent or protectorates. He claimed that three western powers are dictating orders to the Arab states by threatening them with force should they endeavor to restore their rights in Palestine or should they even try to implement, by their own means, the partition decision approved by the United Nations. In conclusion, he expressed the fear that the Arab governments have already concurred with the communiqué and to the status quo in Palestine.

FRANCE AND THE LEVANT:

Al Insha': In an editorial published by this paper, Dr. Adib al-Da'udi comments on the report that France is to be given a naval base in either Syria or Lebanon in accordance with the Tripartite communique which involves the division of the Middle East into spheres of foreign influence. The writer states that the three Western Powers are free to hold conferences and make decisions in conformity with their interests, but Syria and Lebanon are entitled to defend their freedom and independence which are threatened by foreign military occupation.

If this report is true it means that France is still clinging to its old dreams which the painful memory of 25 years of French rule does not seem to have dispelled from the minds of French statesmen and military leaders. Syria and Lebanon should categorically refuse to allow the establishment of a foreign naval base in their territory which would imply loss of their national sovereignty and jurisdiction in favor of the foreign state to which the naval base is to belong.

The independence of Syria and Lebanon has been recognized by all the members of the United Nations including France. It would be a serious blow to the Arab League's policy and

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harp the old tune of its influential position or traditional relations with the Levant States.

Syrians have so far considered bygones as bygones and, since the termination of the French Mandate, have treated France as a friendly power. If it is true that France is asking for a naval base this would open healed wounds and not only revive but also aggravate the painful memories of the Mandate.

Syrians hold that this report about the naval base is unfounded and that the recent visit of the admiral of the French fleet to Syria and Lebanon was purely a courtesy visit.

Al Fayha views this report with alarm and takes this opportunity to pay tribute to Shukri al-Quwwatli who achieved the unconditional evacuation of French troops from Syria. The paper adds that it learned from a friend in Cairo that Mr. Khalid al-'Azm, the former Premier, had during his visit to Cairo given his written approval of the tripartite communiqué prior to its publication and that it was he who invited Admiral Lambert to visit Damascus. The story further runs that Mr. 'Azm chose to return to Beirut by sea on board the Providence in order to meet Mr. Paris, the new French Minister to Syria, and a group of French diplomats and military officers and that during this voyage agreement was reached on all subjects. The paper states that recent French activities are only the first results of this agreement.

Al 'Alam: It is reported from Cairo that the American Ambassador to Egypt has recently given certain explanations concerning the tripartite communiqué to the Egyptian Foreign Minister.

The United Press reports that informed circles have denied that the tripartite communiqué involves the return of French influence to Syria and Lebanon and attributes the apprehension of Syria and Lebanon regarding this subject to misunderstanding.

According to informed sources in Beirut, the American Minister to Lebanon reassured the Lebanese Government that the tripartite communiqué would not pave the way for foreign intervention in the affairs of Syria and Lebanon.

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LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA DAMASCUS, SYRIA

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Daily Review of the Syrian Press

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No. 108

(FOR STAFF USE ONLY)

Thursday, June 8, 1950.

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Papers Reviewed:

Alif Ba', Al Nasr, Al Fayha', Al Kifah, Al Qabas, Al-Ayyam, Al Insha', Al Balad, Al 'Alam, Al Hadara, Al-Nazir, Al Akhbar, Al Manar, Al Masa', Barada, Al Nuqqad.

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DOMESTIC AFFAIRS

DENIAL...

All Papers: The Directorate of Propaganda and Information denied the report that the new Minister of National Defense had attended the luncheon party given in honor of high-ranking Syrian officers on board the French cruiser, Montcalm. (Pr.Dig.107/3)

STATE RELIGION:

Al Kifah reports that a tentative agreement has been reached between the various parliamentary groups concerning state religion. According to this agreement the President of the Republic is to be Moslem, Islamic legislation is to be one of the chief sources of legislation in the Syrian Republic, and the Republic is to fight and checkmate apostasy.

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Al Manar...

Al Manar: Shaykh Mustafa al-Siba'i of the Islamic Socialist Front denied that such an agreement had been reached.

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS' MEETING:

Alif Ba': The Council of Ministers held a three-and-half-hour meeting yesterday evening. The paper believes that the general policy of the new Cabinet as well as the agenda of the Arab League Council session were the subject of discussion.

PRESIDENT QUWWATLI IN LEBANON!..

Al Jabal quotes the ANA as reporting that former President Shukri al-Quwwatli has been invited to pass the summer months in Lebanon.

ARMY AND POLITICS:

Al Fayha': Lt. Colonel Adib Shishikli stated to the Arab News Agency in Beirut that the present political situation in Syria is normal and that the responsible statesmen are concerned over a prosperous future for Syria.

When asked about the rumors that the Syrian Army is interfering in all the affairs of the State Colonel Shishikli said, "The Army does not interfere in politics or any other affairs of the State. These are left up to the rulers of the country to deal with."

ADMIRAL OF MEDITERRANEAN FLEET VISITING SYRIA:

Al Fayha: Sir John Oslten(?) the new Admiral of the British Mediterranean Fleet is scheduled to visit Beirut aboard the Cruiser Gambia on June 9. The Admiral is expected to visit Damascus on June 11 to call on the Chief of State and the Minister of Defense.

PREMIER'S VISITORS:

Al Fayha': Premier Nazim al-Qudsi received yesterday, June 8, the Indian and the French Ministers in Syria. The Indian Minister is scheduled to present his credentials to the Chief of State at 10:00 a.m. and the French Minister at 11:00 a.m. today.

FRENCH...

(Pr.Dig. 108/3)

FRENCH INFLUENCE IN SYRIA:

Al Fayha': Commenting on the reports that the French Legation in Damascus has recently expanded its offices and increased the number of its military, press and commercial attachés following the announcement of the tripartite communiqué a columnist strongly urges the responsible leaders to wake up from their slumber and protect the independence of the country. He cautions the people that conspiracies are being plotted against the independence of the country which was attained through blood-shed and sacrifice.

PROSPECTS OF THE NEW CABINET:

Al Insha' published an editorial by Dr. Adib al-Da'udi explaining the first impressions of the people on the formation of the new Cabinet. The writer remarks that the new Cabinet is virtually a Populist cabinet and that the People's Party has for the first time been given the chance to undergo a test of competence and political ability. It is true that members from the People's Party participated in former cabinets, but they did so either in their personal capacity or as members of a coalition cabinet as was the case with Hashim al-Atasi's Cabinet.

The writer describes as politically insignificant Dr. Qudsi's statement that his Cabinet is only provisional and transitory. It believes that government is an indivisible entity and that governmental responsibility should not be affected by the long or short duration of the cabinet in power.

In conclusion the writer advises Dr. Qudsi and his colleagues not to be influenced by personal and regional considerations. Al Kifah published an article in support of the new Cabinet. It believes that the Cabinet possesses the elements of success, since it has in view the immediate completion of the new constitution and since it truly represents the Constituent Assembly, an advantage which the former Cabinet did not enjoy. The paper adds that relations between the Government and Assembly are expected to be characterized by harmony and coordination.

Al Fayha' fears that the new Cabinet might work for the implementation of the Syro-Iraqi Union project and deplores the absence of official statements expressing the Government's intention to defend the Republican regime, other than a few random words uttered by the new Premier in the last meeting of the Constituent Assembly. The paper concludes that Rushdi al-Kikhya, the Dean of the People's Party, has recently told his intimate friends and confidants that he intends to implement the Syro-Iraqi Union project at any cost.

(Pr.Dig. 108/4)

ARAMCO TO PURCHASE OIL CONCESSIONS:

Al Fayha': The Eastern News Agency reports that Aramco is secretly negotiating the purchase of the S.P.C. Oil exploration concession in Syria.

TRIAL OF COMMUNISTS:

Al Kifah : The Directorate of Police and Security has completed its investigation into the cases of the communists who were arrested last Sunday for holding a demonstration on the International Maternity Day. Three communists have been discharged and 15 men and the two women will shortly be referred to the Council of Justice.

Yesterday a delegation of 8 women visited the Prime Ministry, the Minister of Interior, and the Minister of Justice and requested medical treatment for three detainees, Joseph Nahlawi, Ibrahim al-Khuri and George Muhawash, who were seriously wounded during their clash with the police.

Al Nasr reports that a delegation representing the League of Syrian Women for the Protection of Maternity and Childhood visited the Chief of State and the Ministers of Justice and Interior to express their condemnation of the tripartite communiqué and to deplore the incidents of Sunday, June 4, and the maltreatment of communist detainees.

NUMBER OF REFUGEES IN SYRIA:

Al Shabab: Statistics prepared by the Palestinian Arab Refugees Organization show that the number of Palestinian refugees in Syria is 83,325 of whom 39,831 are living in Damascus.

ARAB AFFAIRS

A SECOND BALFOUR DECLARATION:

Al Nasr and other papers: In an interview held yesterday with the Eastern News Agency, a prominent Palestinian Arab personality described the tripartite communiqué as a second Balfour Declaration involving all the Arab countries and peoples and as a grave precedent for future intervention in the affairs of other countries. The same personality added that the communiqué was aimed at winding up the Palestine problem, confirming the present truce frontiers and at providing Israel with a military guarantee against future aggression. The communiqué further invalidates the work of the Conciliation Commission and violates the United Nations Partition Resolution. The personality

(Pr. Dig. 108/5)

concluded that the communiqué did not necessarily mean that Israel would stand by its pledges after it completed its armament programs.

REFUGEES CONDEMN WORK OF UNRWA:

Al Nasr: The Palestinian Arab refugees submitted a memorandum to the Syrian Prime Minister reiterating their condemnation of a recent declaration made by the Director of UNRWA in which he stated that his Agency intended to implement agricultural projects in the vast lands of Syria which belonged either to the State or to big landlords. The memorandum asserts that this declaration clearly indicates that the purpose of UNRWA is to settle the refugees outside their original country and to plan imperialistic economic and political wedges in the Arab countries. The memorandum further notes that the Agency is transgressing the reservations made by Dr. Qudsi regarding the Economic Survey Mission when he was Foreign Minister in Hashim al-Atasi's Cabinet and is even going beyond the scope of Clapp's projects which are confined to afforestation, building of terraces, asphaltting of roads and similar other works. The memorandum reiterates the refugees' insistence on repatriation to their homes and on the implementation of Clapp's projects in the Arab part of Palestine or in those parts of the territory allotted to the Arabs by the Partition Plan which can be returned to the Arabs.

AN ISRAELI LAW LIQUIDATING ARABS PROPERTY:

Alif Ba' : A London report indicates that the Israeli Government has passed a Law no. 5710 concerning custodianship of Arab property in Palestine. According to the provisions of this Law the Custodian is authorized to liquidate the property of persons not resident in Israel. These provisions involve the property of persons residing in the Arab portion of Palestine or in other Arab countries.

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