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25X1 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.

These attachments are of a free classification.

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AMERICAN LEGATION, BEIRUT

June 26, 1950

Review of the Local Arabic Press
APPEARING ON JUNE 25, 1950.BEIRUT (Editor: Muhyiddin Neuli, Sunni-Moslem, opposition) 434

editorializes on the Lebano-Syrian economic conference held in Bludan Saturday, June 24. Pointing out the damages the economic disruption has inflicted on both countries, the paper reminds the negotiators that Syria and Lebanon constitute an integral economic unit and that it is their primary duty to base their negotiations on this fact if they want to save the economy of their two countries from inevitable disaster. It argues that the adoption of the principle of customs separation will not lead these negotiations anywhere and will not solve the present problem. Thus, it says that the customs union was not the direct cause for the economic disruption, but there were many causes amongst which absence of scientific methods in handling joint economic issues and fear of facing facts and figures. Therefore, it concludes that if the current negotiations are based on facts and figures and on courage, the negotiators will undoubtedly agree on preserving the customs union and on solving all the differences.

In describing the meetings the various cabinet Ministers held Saturday (June 24) for discussing the present political situation, the paper writes that during one of their meetings, the Ministers heard that Sheikh Salim Khuri was organizing a big demonstration for Sunday (June 25) to demand the resignation of the present government. The paper then goes on to say: Premier as-Solh discussed this question with the Ministers and asked one of them to contact Sheikh Salim and persuade him to call off the demonstration. The Minister immediately called on Sheikh Salim but returned after a short while to tell the Premier that Sheikh Salim was insisting on the demonstration. Thereupon, the Ministers decided to stop the demonstration even at the risk of using force and the Premier said that he would bear the responsibilities which might arise from the act of stopping the demonstration. The paper then concludes:

"at 6:00 p.m. Premier Riadh as-Solh visited the Republican Palace at Aley and had a long meeting with the President. He understood that the discussion at this meeting was restricted to the new movement which Sheikh Salim Khuri wants to undertake; and the measures the government proposes to adopt for suppressing this movement and for preserving public order. Premier as-Solh then came down to Beirut and called the State Security Council to a meeting at his house at night."

- 2 -

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

deeply regrets the abuses that are being exchanged between Riadh as-Solh's newspapers (AD-DIYAR and AL-SAYYAD) and Sheikh Salim Khuri's mouthpiece (NIDA AL-WATAN). It says the battle of words has become so intense that it is threatening to develop into violence. The paper complains that the internal disputes with the attendant press recriminations, have overshadowed all other issues, including the current Lebano-Syrian economic negotiations at Bludan.

AL-HAYAT'S Diplomatic Correspondent writes on the subject of American bases in Lebanon:

"Two days ago, THE ECONOMIST of London published an article on the subject of the defense of the Middle East in which it referred to Communist activities in the Middle East and said that the Soviet Legation in Beirut was the center for such activities. It repeated rumors regarding the desire of the American Air Force to build a military base in Lebanon along the line of the American air base in Dahrán, but said that the treaty of friendship and co-operation, the text of which has been agreed upon by America and Lebanon, has not yet been signed.

"Informed quarters yesterday declared, in commenting on the above, that the rumors mentioned by the newspaper were unfounded and that the treaty of friendship and co-operation which is being negotiated between Lebanon and the United States did not contain military provisions..."

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

Pierre Gemayal 439
deplors the critical political situation in Lebanon which has arisen from the "duel between the two heroes" and wonders when the leaders will realize that the administration does not mean centers for the implementation of mean conspiracies and vile partisanships, and that government officials are not the servants of influential leaders, "Justice alone safeguards the state and strengthens peace. Law alone is the siege of liberties and of the dignity of authority. Let the example come from above so that the nation might not issue its cruel judgment; Thorns do not bear figs."

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

attacks Sheikh Salim Khuri and deputy Milla Lahhad "his obedient political servant."

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

LAHOUZ (4/39)
severely criticizes Premier Riadh as-Solh. It says that when Deputy Milla Lahhad interpellated the Premier regarding the case of the Director of Police, the Premier replied "I am alone concerned in this case." The paper then recalls, in this connection, a former statement made by Premier as-Solh to the effect: "I will leave the administration whenever I like." Thus, the paper states, Premier as-Solh has even exceeded Louis XIV

in possessing the state for himself and in believing or almost believing that he was really the owner of the state. The paper then goes on to say:

"I am alone....

"Who are you?

"You are, according to the understanding of Lebanon and to the law and the constitution, the head of a cabinet in a democratic country. You are responsible for all your acts to the deputies, including the honorable deputy who asked you what had happened to the Director of Police. It is your duty to stand up before every deputy and render an account of what you do and what you do not do also, of what transpires in the State with or without your knowledge, with or without your consent. You are a man, like all men. You are not a god, not a demigod. You are a man who is asked by the Chief of the State to be in charge of the executive authority, provided that the administration exists so long as the legislative authority wishes it to exist..."

HAQT AL-AHRAH (Editor: ^{LAHAMOLIN 1439} Camille Yusuf ~~Shamun~~, Maronite, opposition)

urges the revision of the present Election Law and says the revision of the law will result in reducing the size of the electoral district and will halt feudalism which must not thrive in Lebanon.

AL-HADAF (Editor: ⁴³⁹ Zuhair Usairan, Shia-Muslim, pro-government)

^{LOSEIRAN} attacks Sheikh Salim Khuri and defends Premier Riadh es-Solh.

AD-DIYAR (June 24)

This paper's commentator on Arab and World Affairs writes that the new thing in the Arab states' reply to the tripartite declaration are the assurances the Arab states have received from the three Western powers and have included in the text of the reply as explanations for the declaration. The Arab states have thus regarded the assurances as elements for confidence which were not forthcoming when the declaration was first issued. The commentator then states after censuring the Arab states for failing to note, in their reply, that the Western powers had violated the UN Charter by acting outside UN:

"It is regrettable that the Arab states should be in an international and internal position which does not permit them to do more than this reply. We have previously indicated here how the reply should be made. We said that expression of our resentment should not be effected by an eloquent reply but should be effected by an act in which they would realize our unity on the one hand, and our will to prove our existence in the international field on the other. But our governments have been accustomed to answer deeds by words of eloquence..."

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AMERICAN LEGATION, BEIRUT

June 23, 1950

Review of the Local Arabic Press
Appearing on June 21, 1950BEIRUT (Editor: Mahyiddin Nsuli, Sunni Moslem, opposition)

editorializes on an article appearing in the London Times No. 51719 dated June 16, 1950 under the title "Russian aims in the Arab Countries" by the pen of the TIMES' correspondent in the Middle East. The Editor says that he was stunned when reading this article, particularly by a passage charging that Lebanon had the "most corrupt administration." In deeply regretting that Lebanon should be subjected to such an accusation, the editor says that this accusation cannot be denied because it is substantiated by actualities. He then quotes the TIMES as saying that there were seventy thousand Communists in Lebanon, that half the students at the AUB were affected by Communist propaganda and that the two opposites - wealth and poverty - met in Lebanon. Complaining that every Lebanese will revolt when hearing that his administration is the most corrupt, the editor charges that the responsible authorities have utterly disregarded spiritual values during the last few years, have flouted the law and have exploited the state in the interests of incense burners, with the result that great wealth and dire poverty are meeting in Lebanon today and that "Communism is infiltrating into the Lebanese home to disturb it, into the school to confuse it, and into the community to turn it upside down. Where are we heading?" Finally, the editor tells the responsible authorities that, in view of Lebanon's unenviable reputation abroad, they must either leave the government or restore Lebanon's prestige.

439
AL-SAYYAD (Editor: Kamil Maruwaa, Shia Moslem, independent)

comments on the incident between the Director of Police and Sa'id Fraiha, publisher of AL-SAYYAD, a humorous political weekly. (Fraiha is reported to be Premier as-Solh's protege.) The paper writes in part:

"For the first time in the era of independence and since the enactment of the Press Law, the state is upholding a newsmen against one of its functionaries in the incident which has developed between Nasir Had, the Director of Police, and Sa'id Fraiha, publisher of AL-SAYYAD. Undoubtedly, political factors are lurking behind all this case. It is the good luck of the press that this case had developed with Fraiha... Nevertheless, the case reveals - like other cases - the extent of the disregard for the press and for its rights. There is no one in this profession to protect its members against challenges. It is therefore inevitable for them to depend upon themselves, their friendship and their political contacts in order to safeguard their rights."

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

editorializes on the forthcoming meeting between the Lebanese and Syrian Premiers for the resumption of economic negotiations and says that the Lebanese are ready to cooperate provided that such cooperation would not affect their sovereignty and independence; and to make friendship provided that such friendship would not cause the loss of part of the independence or an iota of their sovereignty.

An official communique was issued yesterday for the formation of the Lebanese delegation to the Sudan economic conference, of the following officials:

(Philip Taala, Minister of Foreign Affairs
Hanna Ghosn, Head of the Supreme Council of
the Lebanese Customs
Andreas Tawini, Director of the Ministry of Finance
David Kassar, Director of the Ministry of National
Economy)

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

continues its campaign against Sheikh Salim Khuri, brother of the President of the Republic, and calls Deputy Emile Lahhad, who defended the Police Director at the Chamber of Deputies yesterday, as the "voice" of Sheikh Salim. The paper then states, after blasting at Sheikh Salim and Deputy Lahhad, that Nasir Kad, the Police Director, was granted, by a presidential decree, a month's leave of absence beginning from yesterday. It then goes on to say:

"Sheikh Salim realized that the punishment inflicted on the Police Director by granting him a month's leave is a blow to his influence and leadership... Sheikh Salim then turned toward his "Voice" at the Chamber and appealed him to save the situation at the Chamber even though temporarily. Emile Lahhad complied with the high wish and took the floor to defend the Police Director at the expense of the law and on the back of democratic principles."

(Translator's Note: AL-HAYAT reports that Hanna Ghosn - AD-DIYAR - has lodged a suit with the Law Courts against Elias Ghiryeff - publisher of NABA AL-WAFAN, which is the mouthpiece of Sheikh Salim Khuri - because of the latter's attacks against Hanna Ghosn.)

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AMERICAN LEGATION, BEIRUT

25X1

June 22, 1950

Review of the Local Arabic Press
Appearing on June 22, 1950.

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

is gladdened by reports that economic negotiations will be resumed between Lebanon and Syria next Saturday at Bludan, but objects to a sentence appearing at the end of the joint Lebano-Syrian communique announcing resumption of negotiations. The sentence reads: "The establishment of new relations between Lebanon and Syria on the basis of the customs separation." This sentence, the paper argues, should have been overlooked until the negotiations are over and until the two sides see whether it is in their countries' interests to decide on customs separation. The paper then says that separate customs would eventually cause each one of the two countries to adopt different economic policies, while the two countries complement one another economically. Therefore, it feels that it will be unwise for Lebanon and Syria to formulate separate customs tariffs, to raise barriers and to mobilize troops along the frontiers for suppressing smuggling which should be avoided because it inflicts heavy losses on the treasuries of both countries. Finally, the paper declares that customs union is the only solution for safeguarding the economic welfare of the two countries. It also demands that the Lebanese and Syrian currencies be equalized and that the new economic relations be guided by a new mentality dominated by good will..

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

objects, like BEIRUT, to the resumption of economic negotiations between Lebanon and Syria on the basis of customs separation. It recalls, in this connection, "that the Syrian Constituent Assembly had decided to renew the partnership with Lebanon only on the basis of complete economic unity. The Congress of Lebanese Economic Organizations in Lebanon decided, several days ago, to reject the conclusion of bilateral agreements with Syria and to revert to the principle of economic unity. What is the reason, therefore, for blocking the way, in advance, to the question of unity? Who is responsible: Damascus or Beirut?" The paper then goes on to say that the negotiations as promised in the joint official communique are a new attempt for patching, the results of which will not be different from the separation experiment. This being the cause, "why don't the two governments replace the new experiment with fixed solutions on the basis of connection?" the paper concludes.

Columnist Bassil Daqqaq writes the following on the Arab governments' attitude toward the UN Palestine Conciliation Commission:

- 2 -

"We wonder who has believed that the five Arab states that are bound by permanent armistice agreements have actually boycotted the Conciliation Commission?

"Reports about the return of the Arab delegates from Geneva and about their replacement by the 'available' Arab representatives in Switzerland, have been couched in the form of a boycott before Arab public opinion to increase its blindness, and before American public opinion to increase its provocation against the Arabs.

"Is there any use in this half measure?

"The chairman of the Egyptian delegation to Geneva yesterday said that the Conciliation Commission was biased in favor of the Jews. He did not proclaim any new thing. He also declared that the great powers took part in creating Israel, thus repeating what the Arabs know about the indignation of these powers against them because of their refusal to co-operate with a usurping and imperial state. The Westerners wish to turn this state into a creator of Western renaissance, culture and civilization in this backward Arab East, and into a bogey which they will use for strengthening their bases and oil resources.

"After all this talk and after the proved partiality of the Conciliation Commission for the Jews at Arab expense, the Arab governments have modified the boycott of the Commission by saying that they have in Geneva those who will represent them on the Commission.

"What are the five Arab states waiting for, in order to utter the word 'boycott' which they have been chewing for the last two years?

"Half solutions, half settlements, half objections, half protests against Western and Zionist imperialism. This is the gist of an endless Arab policy."

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

asserts in its roundup of the local political scene that despite the efforts of the responsible authorities to hide it, the Cabinet crisis does exist. The paper then refers to the official communique denying press reports concerning the crisis which developed at a recent meeting of the Council of Ministers as a result of the interrogation by the Police Director of two local journalists. It says that it is positive that the crisis did develop; that the Premier tendered his resignation; and that a number of Ministers objected to the Premier's attitude and threatened to resign in case any one interferes with the investigations the Police Director is now conducting with the two journalists. The paper

- 3 -

concludes after describing in two columns the political activities which ensued as a result of the incident that the fight between Hishah as-Solh and Sheikh Salim Khuri has become open and that the position of the Cabinet does not call for confidence. "But Hishah as-Solh is not prepared to resign in such circumstances." (Translator's note: The incident of the Police Director and the two journalists is evoking considerable speculative and conflicting reports in the press. BEIRUT accepts the government's denial and asserts that no resignations were in fact tendered during the meeting of the Council of Ministers. However, its tone is critical of the action of the Police Director and says that political observers are maintaining that the incident is political and might bring about dangerous consequences if a group of politicians would continue to dominate all or part of the security forces.)

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

violently criticizes Sheikh Salim Khuri because of his meddling in local politics and compares his leadership with that of his brother, the President of the Republic. It says in part:

"The leadership of the President is based on thought, culture, nationalism and loyalty. Thus, it is an eternal leadership. Sheikh Bishara Khuri has played a great role in the history of Lebanon and the Arab East because he is an intellectual leader whose power is concentrated in his bright and productive mind and in his high and overwhelming culture.....Therefore, if Sheikh Salim Khuri dreams of leadership, he must learn from events and from history in order to realize that the leadership of a Mukhtar (elder) or a nightwatchman, for instance, is like every leadership based on official influence the capital of which are the benefits given to supporters...Sheikh Salim must realize that every leadership of this type is born in the coffin!"

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

editorializes on the forthcoming meeting between the Lebanese and Syrian Premiers for resuming economic negotiations. It says that Syria stipulated that the new negotiations be conducted on the basis of separation while the Lebanese government wished them to be on the basis of the customs union which existed before the disruption of the economic relations between the two countries. However, the paper welcomes the policy of joint meetings and exchange of views and says in part:

"Customs separation has one advantage, namely, each one of the two countries could, within two years, be able to know its economic balance and to realize its real revenues. This question was a subject of disputes for thirty years between the Syrians and ourselves. Each country felt that it was cheated in its share. But the two countries will realize, through the separation, their actual shares and revenues which are the mainstay of the customs union..."

- 4 -

(Translator's note: The vernacular press published, without editorial comment, the text of Lebanon's reply to the three-power declaration regarding security in the Near East. Following are headlines under which some of the leading papers carried the reply:

AL-HAYAT: Arab reply...takes note of explanations and rejects mandates.

AL-'ANAL: Arab countries' eagerness for promoting peace; Best means for stability: repatriation of refugees.

AD-DIYAR: Best ways for assuring peace in East is solving its problems on basis of justice.

NAHAR : Arab countries do not reject declaration but support it by reaffirming their eagerness to promote peace and security in Middle East.

SAWT AL-AHRAR :The Arab countries do not recognize any action which might affect sovereignty and independence.)

AMERICAN LEGATION, BEIRUT

25X1

June 21, 1950

Review of the Local Arabic Press
Appearing on June 21, 1950

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

It has been the custom of this paper to address to the President of the Republic an open letter on the 21st of every month to remind him of the promises contained in the message he addressed to the Lebanese people on the occasion of the renewal of his term of office as President on September 21, 1945. The paper tells the President that it is "our right to ask you to implement these promises and it is your duty to implement them regardless of the sweat and tears that will be needed for their implementation." Realizing that the President sincerely wants to introduce reforms, the paper states that such reforms should have been effected through the Chamber of Deputies, the term of which will expire in eleven months from now, but this Chamber became paralyzed since the tragedy of May 25, 1947. Therefore, the paper hopes that the Election Law will be revised to pave the way for a plebiscite. "If such revision is effected, and it will not be effected without your (the President's) will, the Lebanese people will send to parliament men who will handle our national issues with courage, truthfulness, intelligence and honesty..."

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

editorializes on the speech the Minister of Information has recently delivered before organizations interested in estivage and says the Minister hit the nail on the head when he declared that the promotion of estivage depended upon the behavior of the people. The paper then complains of the treatment which the villagers of the summer resorts accord to resorters and says in part:

"The government has done more than it is required to do in promoting estivage, as the Minister of Information said. It has denied many districts the benefits of development in order to spend tens of millions on the summer resort villages. Therefore the responsibility for the deadness of estivage falls on the shoulders of the inhabitants before others, because estivage is not only air, water, roads, houses and hotels. It is, before everything else, good, sincere and honorable conduct."

AL-HAYAT publishes the text of the note the Lebanese National Congress has issued in reply to the tripartite declaration. The note, which is fully translated below, is signed by Habib Sabais, Secretary; and Abdurrahman Sahmarani, head of the Lebanese National Congress. The paper states:

"The Lebanese National Congress yesterday submitted a note to the President of the Council of Ministers on the occasion of the issuance of the Western tripartite declaration:

'The Arab countries are jointly facing a dangerous question arising from the tripartite declaration which America, Britain and France have unilaterally addressed to the powers of the Arab East. Arab public opinion unanimously maintain that this declaration contains:

'1 - These powers' disregard for the existence of the United Nations and for the pledges they made under this Organisation's Charter of June 26, 1945; and their unilateral monopolization of the authority of the General Assembly and of the Security Council for promoting their military and imperial purposes contrary to international principles for peace (Article one of the Charter).

2 -

'Violation of the principle of equality among the big or small powers (Article two of the Charter), treating the independent Arab countries as countries placed under trusteeship, and not respecting their absolute sovereignty in violation of Article 78 of the Charter.

'3 - Openly interfering in the sovereignty of the Arab countries; meddling with their liberties, independence and honor for strengthening Israel which they created as a passage for them to the gates of these Arab states; and dragging these states into the policy of world domination they are attempting to impose contrary to international rights and pledges.

'4 - Hinting at force and the use of force when necessary instead of resorting to international rights and to the International Court of Justice in accordance with the procedure of the last institution; and disturbing the atmosphere of peace in the Arab countries which have never violated international right and which have demanded only liberty, legitimate rights and stability in their peaceful lands.

'While Arab public opinion is still indignant at the unusual behavior of these powers which claim to be the stronghold of democratic liberty and international rights;

'And while the Arab League and every Arab state are engaged in preparing the reply to this criminal declaration, the Lebanese National Congress finds that this interference on the part of the aforesaid powers is more painful, more harmful, and more far-fetched than their Zionist and imperial policy. It is an inauguration of a new policy on the part of these powers for meddling with the independent existences of the Arabs, interfering in their affairs and imposing their will on them. This reminds us of the days of mandates, trusteeships and imperialism from which the Arabs heroically endeavored to liberate themselves by dint of the costly sacrifices they offered in this respect.

"Therefore, the Lebanese Congress appeals to the Lebanese government firstly; to the Arab governments secondly; and to Arab public opinion lastly to answer this declaration frankly. Firstly to demand its withdrawal because it violates international rights and disregards and meddles with the independence of the Arab states and with the honor of their people; secondly - in case of refusal, to submit the question to the UN General Assembly and to the Security Council on the grounds that the declaration prejudices peace in this area. Thirdly, taking effective measures in the Arab countries for upholding our honor and prestige and preventing the repetition of such international agitation."

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

severely attacks Sheikh Salim al-Khuri, brother of the President of the Republic for his interference in government affairs. (This attack is apparently inspired by Premier as-Solh because the vernacular press is now openly referring to the backstage struggle between Premier as-Solh and Sheikh Salim al-Khuri, particularly to the recent action of the Director of police, who is said to be backed by Sheikh Salim, in interrogating two journalists without the knowledge of Premier as-Solh in his capacity as Minister of Interior.) The paper dates the history of local political exploitation and interference to the time when Sheikh Salim fancied that "he could become a Sultan without a crown and a scepter". Describing how Sheikh Salim used his influence to gratify his desires and the desires of those who recognize his power, the paper says that Sheikh Salim's desires first chased with public interest which gave in to him, and then collided with governments which deemed it advisable, for the preservation of the interest and prestige of the rule, to disappear and with them disappeared the prestige and interest of the rule. This resulted in Sheikh Salim's desires soaring to the heavens!" The paper then recalls how Sheikh Salim clashed with and then succeeded in dislodging (Nuriddin Bey al-Rifa'i, Commander of the Gendarmes, from his position last year with the result that Sheikh Salim's "forces opened a gap in the internal security front and then succeeded in overcoming all the pockets of resistance! The conqueror then looked around and decided to occupy the stronghold of the Surete General. He warned its Director. Since (Amir) Fared did not take a lesson from the catastrophe of Nuriddin Bey al Rifa'i, Sheikh Salim instructed the Director of Police to punish him (Amir Fared). Skirmishes then developed between the two sides and the Surete General advance guards had to retreat in the face of the Police pressure. They continued to retreat until the Police succeeded in besieging them in the main stronghold. It is now said that Sheikh Salim's forces are bombarding the Surete General's "stronghold with heavy guns and that the end is approaching. The people are therefore wondering about the next objectives and desires and are turning anxious eyes toward the authorities and asking: "Who is the holder of authority in the country, the residents of the government's Serai at Beirut, or the resident of Furn al-Shibbak's Serai?"

AMERICAN LEGATION, BEIRUT

25X1

June 20, 1950

Review of the Local Arabic Press
Appearing on June 20, 1950BEIRUT (Editor: Muhyiddin Kauli, Sunni Moslem, opposition)

writes that the Lebanese farmers are bitterly complaining because the Syrian markets are closed to their fruits; that the industrialists are complaining of the paralysis in their factories with the result that they have closed some of them and dismissed hundreds of workers; and that the merchants are complaining of the inactive trade and of the strangling crisis which is threatening their very existence. The paper then goes on to say:

"We have neglected planning the Lebanese economy and proceeded to treat this economy with palliatives. We have promised the merchants, the industrialists and the farmers that we will conclude commercial agreements with Iraq and Saudi Arabia for replacing the Syrian market. Where are these promises? Has the government realized any one of them?... One hundred days have elapsed since the disruption of the Lebanese-Syrian economic relations without the formulation of a single economic program to lead us out of this crisis.... Hasn't the hour for fruitful action struck yet? The Lebanese house needs order and organization. When shall we bear our full responsibilities before this house falls on our heads?"

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

carries the following editorial on the Arab League:

"Undoubtedly, the League has passed a dangerous test in settling the Jordan crisis in the known manner, regardless of the reasons given in justification of this settlement. The League chose, in the end, a practical settlement because it is, at any rate, the lesser evil.

"But the settlement of this crisis has not settled anything. Furthermore, the signing of the Collective Security agreement has not altered the situation, because the doubts which sapped the vitals of the League and which caused the misunderstanding between Egypt and Jordan, are still extant.

"We demanded the preservation of the League's unity during the last crisis. This was done. But keeping the League as a status or as a piece of furniture will be useful to no one.... The relations between Egypt and Jordan, or rather the Egyptian-Saudi Arabian bloc and the Hashimite bloc need a settlement. We wish that they would leave details aside and return to the real disease...."

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

fully supports, in two editorials, the open letter Pierre Gemayel, head of the Lebanese Phalange Party, addressed to the President of the Republic Sunday, June 18, appealing to him to lend his assistance for the revision of the present Election Law.

AL-DIKYAR (Editor: Hanna Ghosn, Greek Orthodox, opposition)

writes that the Lebanese Foreign Minister is contemplating issuing a series of decrees for the purpose of undertaking an extensive diplomatic move which will include Ministers Plenipotentiary and most of the diplomatic personnel abroad. The Foreign Minister, according to the paper, paved the way for this move by the issuance several months ago of a special decree defining the period during which a Lebanese diplomat could stay abroad in one post, et cetera. The paper then continues after complaining that favoritism and nepotism are blocking the Foreign Minister's efforts in this respect:

"There are numerous officers in the diplomatic service who represent Lebanon in big capitals in a manner which is inconsistent with the country's national policy. No power in the country could touch a single hair on their heads because those who support them do not believe in the country's policy and in its full independence. Indeed, they believe in a special policy and in special desires. Woe to him who interferes with their favorites because he would prejudice their special desires and interests.

"It is known that the Foreign Minister is keen on characterizing the new diplomatic move with the stamp of public service and the interest of the state; that he is endeavoring to overcome all the obstacles; and that he prefers one thousand times to halt the move rather than issue crooked decrees. So long as Taala insists on serving the country... the diplomatic move will sleep until the Minister goes away or accepts and agrees to leave friends aside! The basic principle is written in letters of fire over every page of the administration: Our friends and our aims first."

AL-NUJUMAD (Editor: Bishara Maroun, Maronite, pre-government)

criticizes the government for its reluctance to expedite the revision of the present Election Law and says in part:

"The Ministers approved the proposal (for revising the Election Law) but when it reached the stage of earnest action, they removed the masks from their faces and took over the noisy leadership for nipping the proposal in the bud in order to suppress the liberties of the electors.

"We share the nation's indignation at the heroes of this new drama which is being enacted on the open stage. We frankly tell the responsible authorities that we share the indignation of the nation with all the colors known in this country."

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AMERICAN LEGATION, BEIRUT

25X1

June 19, 1950

Review of the Local Arabic Press
APPEARING ON JUNE 18, 1950BEIRUT (Editor: Bahyiddin Msuli, Sunni-Moslem, opposition)

reviews the business which the Arab League Council conducted during the present term and reaches the conclusion that the Council has, because of the disagreements of the Arab countries, "registered a negative balance." It then asks, "Will this negative balance cause us to despair of the League and to urge withdrawal from it?" It answers:

"No, we believe in the League as an Arab regional institution for composing differences and for creating constructive plans and programs, if not today, then in the near future when the reins of the League are taken over by men other than those who have so far handled our questions with an old and obsolete mentality. The Arab youths do not believe in saving appearances, in procrastination and in patching....If the League's balance is negative today, this balance will be positive when men, who emanate from the will of the Arab peoples in free elections, meet in the League."

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

This paper's commentator on Arab and world affairs criticizes Bahyiddin Msuli, chief editor of BEIRUT, for asking the three Western powers to prove their good will in the tripartite declaration so that the Arabs might accept the declaration, refrain from criticizing or totally rejecting it. The commentator then says that the holder of these views "is one of the prominent members of the opposition in Lebanon. He severely censures the Lebanese government and the Arab government for their internal and foreign policies. Nevertheless he encourages them, in his editorial, to follow methods, in preparing the reply to the declaration, similar to those that have led us to the declaration and, before the declaration, to the calamity of Palestine. No one knows the calamities that will await us as a result of this declaration." The commentator then demands that the Arab states base their reply to the declaration on actualities and make the three Western powers understand that the Arab states have legitimate desires in the international and Middle Eastern fields not less legitimate than the desires for security and universal diplomacy that are guiding Acheson, Bevin and Schuman. The commentator then concludes:

"The Middle Eastern region is ours. Peace or war therein, are from the standpoint of principle, our peace and our war. Its fate is our fate and the fate of our children. The only things that concern the Western powers in the Middle East are the military bases and the oil wells. For these two purposes they are trying to impose on this region a status of their own choosing, as if we do not count anything. Yet there are those amongst us who talk to them about good will!"

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

publishes in its editorial space an open letter in Pierre Gemayel, head of the Lebanese Phalange Party, has addressed to the President of the Republic appealing to him to use his good offices for revising the Election Law. Gemayel reviews the fight between those who are for and against the revision of the law and expresses fear lest this fight might bring about untoward consequences. Praising the President for his patriotism and pointing out the unprecedented circumstances which permit him to act freely without internal or external impediment or pressure, Gemayel tells the President that he could successfully revise the Election Law, if he made up his mind to do so.

Gemayel then says in part:

"The nation with all its groups, parties, bodies and beliefs is unanimously.....demanding such revision because it is the door which will save us from the many hardships and difficulties about which the people are complaining....Today Lebanon is passing through one of its most critical hours. Indeed, it is on the brink of the abyss because of the despotism of political blasphemy...We appeal to you to intervene for realizing the wishes of the overwhelming majority of the people..."

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

editorializes on the crisis which the Arab League recently confronted as a result of Jordan's annexation of Arab Palestine. It maintains that Premier Riadh as-Solh saved the League from collapse by his successful maneuvers suggesting the postponement of the Jordan issue till next October. The paper then states that although the Arab League has not accomplished anything, "its existence is essential for many reasons, because it prevents the realization of ambitions and designs and the expansion of some at the expense of others." Thus, it argues, if the League had expelled Jordan from it, dangerous events would have developed to the detriment of the Arab East. It then continues:

"We openly spoke to the leaders of the Arab countries from the moment some of them wanted to 'remove' Jordan from the international map of this East because its monarch annexed the remaining part of Arab Palestine to his kingdom. We told them that this annexation was wise because withdrawal of the Jordan army from this part would open the way for Israel to occupy it, and because there is an international policy which is playing its role in this part of the world on the grounds that it has its value and weight in military operations in the event of the outbreak of new hostilities.

"If the leaders had thought a little on the international aspect and taken into consideration future developments and surprises, the three powers would not have agreed in London on adopting a unified policy toward the Arab East and would not have

notified its governments with a joint declaration. We do not think this declaration is 'greatly' consistent with the sovereignty, independence and the pledges given to the peoples forming the Arab states, particularly the states that are not bound by pacts or treaties...."

AL-HADAF (Editor: Zuhair Asairas, Shia-Moslem, pro-government, extreme Arab nationalist)

writes that the political observers did not expect that the delegates to the Arab League would sign the Collective Security project in this term of the League. However, it asks, "Does this mean that the patching and folding policy has proclaimed its bankruptcy and that the critical and dangerous situation does not permit the continuation of this policy? Thus, Egypt seized the opportunity to learn Iraq's stand, its reply and the extent of its union projects which are no longer secret.. If we would not be taken unawares by a new report till this evening and if the Egyptian, Saudi Arabian, Syrian, Lebanese and Yemenite delegates would sign the Security project, this would mean the emergence of two Arab policies openly clashing with one another: The Collective Security front...and the Hashimite front which advocates the policy of unions between the Arab League states and which regards the Collective Security project as a means for delaying and impeding these unions...."

AL-RU'AYAD (Editor: Bishara Marcoua, Maronite, pro-government)

lauds Premier as-Solh for his successful efforts in the Arab League.

DO NOT DETACH

AMERICAN LEGATION, BEIRUT

25X1

June 16, 1950

Review of the Local Arabic Press
Appearing on June 16, 1950.BEIRUT (Editor: Muhyiddin Nusli, Sunni-Moslem, opposition)

devotes its leader to the tripartite declaration under the headline "Good will"

"The tripartite declaration Britain, America and France issued several weeks ago on supplying the Arabs and the Jews with arms and on safeguarding stability in this part of the world, has caused the flow of much ink. Writers have scrutinized it, sifted its lines, what lies between its lines and what its lines do not say! Thus, the declaration has called for caution, indeed for fear and even for more than caution and fear - we intentionally or unintentionally do not see the good will in it after good will has, according to our understanding, disappeared from all over the world.

"The three great powers issued the declaration May 25, 1950, i.e., twenty-two days ago. Every Arab country has studied it separately. The Political Committee examined it the day before for three hours at its session at Antoniadis Palace, Alexandria. Some members demanded that the declaration be definitely rejected, while others recommended its acceptance with reservations the recognition of which must be announced by the three powers if they wish to revive confidence in the Arab countries and to have them accept the declaration.

"We do not know the arguments some of the Arab governments have offered for absolute and irrevocable rejection of the declaration, while logic and reason demand that we study and scrutinize it in the light of Arab interests and of international developments. We must make realistic observations on it after exhaustively discussing and sifting it so that if we lean toward those who held that we must study the declaration and note down our observations on it, we would lean toward logic and reason and prove that the Arabs knew how to give and take, how to negotiate fairly and how to bow to positive proof and indisputable evidence.

"It appears to us, after having followed the Political Committee's debates over the tripartite declaration that most of the Arab states are prone to accepting its contents on condition that they offer observations on some of its ambiguous clauses. Undoubtedly, the declaration contains ambiguities! But if this declaration

- 2 -

promotes stability in this East - we greatly need stability - compels Israel to abide by UN resolutions on partition and repatriation of the refugees and prevents it from purchasing arms from the nations revolving in Russia's sphere, then we welcome the declaration provided that the three great powers will clarify its ambiguities and give us full evidences of their good will for strengthening our independence and safeguarding our present and future. We the Arabs demand tangible evidences of the good will of the great powers after having been stung more than once since the days of the late King Husain until now. If good will is mutual, it will have a magical effect on safeguarding peace and security."

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

hopes that the Arab League has by now overcome the crisis which has arisen from Jordan's problem and that it is now attending to more serious business headed by the three-power declaration. It then goes on to say:

"We all know that the struggle between the Egyptian-Saudi Arabian bloc and the Hashimite bloc is the root of the trouble in the League. Each one of these blocs aims at a specific purpose. It might be impossible to reconcile these two purposes in the end. But both blocs are still far from the end and the issuance of the tripartite declaration - after the birth of Israel - has come to deal a severe blow to the two blocs - it has left no room for greed and ambition and has given self-defense top priority.

"We believe that no Arab state is interested in having the foreigner dominating any other Arab state anew. So long as the challenge affects them all, without exception, logic demands unity of ranks in accordance with the popular saying: 'I am against my cousin but my cousin and I are against the stranger!'

"Let us remember on this occasion that the division of spheres of influence, as envisaged by the tripartite declaration, is not born of chance and is not a concocted lie. It is the result of actualities toward which the Arab countries have contributed. The present disputes between the Arab states opens the door widely for the great powers. Shall we hear tomorrow that the League Council has closed this door?"

AD-DINAR (Editor: Hanna Ghosa, Greek-Orthodox, pro-government)

Reporting that Lebanon has withdrawn from the UN Conciliation Commission, this paper states that the reason for this withdrawal is due to the fact that the Lebanese government "believes that there is no hope of arriving at a solution as long as the powers do not submit to any resolution whether issued by UN or by

- 3 -

any other international organization which is not favorable to them; and so long as they reject the first stipulation the Arab countries have made for entering into direct negotiations. This stipulation provides for the repatriation of all the Palestinian refugees. An official source has declared that the Lebanese government will reject any negotiation with the Jews if not based on the repatriation of the refugees."

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

Editorializes on reports that the Lebanese and Syrian Premiers have agreed in principle to initiate economic negotiations immediately following their return from Cairo. It argues that both Lebanon and Syria have suffered from the economic disruption and that Syria is apparently abandoning the idea of complete economic unity with Lebanon and is now insisting, under pressure of the agricultural season, on exchanging its produce. In Lebanon, the paper states, the economic situation is confused and discouraging. Hence, it believes that the Lebanese government might welcome any way out of its present impasse. Therefore, the paper warns the government not to act hastily because the conclusion of an agreement for exchanging produce might solve the agricultural and industrial crisis in Syria but would not answer Lebanon's requirements. The editorial then concludes that although it opposes economic separation from Syria, it nevertheless asks the Lebanese government to assume a firmer stand so that it will not be the party that always gives in to the other.

439
ASH-SHARQ (Editor: Khairi Katki, Sunni-Moslem, extreme nationalist)

Reporting that two British naval units will visit Beirut next Monday, this paper makes the following brief comment:

"These units were preceded last week by the French cruiser MONTCALM. What is the new military policy?"

AL-'AFAL and TELAGRAPH, both Maronite and opposition, repeat their usual arguments for the revision of the Election Law, while AR-RUWAD, Maronite and pre-government, charges that the revisionists are trying to further their own political interests at the expense of the elector.

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

THIS IS AN ENCLOSURE
DO NOT DETACHEmbassy of the U.S.A
Baghdad, Iraq.

Wednesday, June 14, 1950.

* * * * *

ARAB LEAGUE MEETING.

Last night, the AL Political Committee convened. The meeting was not attended by Jordan. After examining the matters on its agenda, the Committee adjourned until this evening.

According to Beirut radio, Saleh Jabr, of Iraq, has drawn up a new proposal, providing: 1) that the unification of the Jordan sides has been dictated by the economic, political and military circumstances of Palestine, and does not imply any territorial partition because the other parts of Palestine cannot constitute a self-sufficient economic unit and there was no other way than to annex Eastern Palestine to Jordan for protecting it against Zionist aggression, and 2) that this incorporation shall not affect the final settlement of the Palestine question; thus, the statute of this part of Palestine shall be reconsidered.

According to Sharq Al-Adna radio, Iraq Premier Towfiq As-Suwaidi has disclosed his secret proposal liable to overcoming the League deadlock. It provides for the League's approval of Eastern Palestine's annexation by Jordan as a temporary measure, provided that it does not prejudice any final settlement. (Az-Zaman)

* * *

EDITORIAL COMMENTS.

Nehru, says Sada Al-Ahali, made a speech before the Indonesian parliament calling the Asian nations for unified policy. This seems to have displeased the "Iraq Times" newspaper, which assailed him and branded him as an idealistic. But, Nehru's statements have their importance, due to his personal prestige and his being the head of a big nation in Asia. Indeed, he has expressed "the Asians' desire to avoid being driven into a conflagration by partaking in blocs." Moreover, Nehru has proved himself to be a realistic statesman, as well as a revolutionary and a militant; and a man like him cannot speak lightly.

The.....

The paper concludes, "If she can settle her problems with Pakistan, India is the only nation which can crystallize the Near and Middle East around a policy of its own which would be inspired by its interest and which would help to preserve world peace. Therefore, this appeal made by Nehru is worth being well received in all the Arab states, in order that they cooperate with its author for achieving the aspirations of the Arabs who long for peace only."

*

We were not mistaken, notes Ash-Shaab, in comparing the Arab League to an ostrich for avoiding to face facts. Indeed, the Council has referred the Political Committee's recommendation regarding the expulsion of Jordan to the Political Committee itself. Such a continual avoidance of facts cannot be useful to Arab states and their League, because whatever they avoid shall pursue them until it imposes itself.

* * *

CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES MEETING.

Yesterday morning, the Chamber of Deputies convened under the presidency of Abdul Wahab Merjan. New deputies were sworn in.

Finance Minister Abdul Kerim Al-Uzri, answering Ismail Ghanem's interpellation about the flood damages, stated that the question of reparations to farmers because of the willful breaches of the Daudiyah, Farhatiyah and Yehudiyah bunds is under consideration, and that the best answer which can be given to the deputy is that the Tharthar Project Loan Law is to be submitted to parliament on June 16.

Returning to the question of exports tax on dates, the Finance Minister, answering Ahmed Al-Naqib's interpellation, conceded that it violates article 10 of the contract signed by the Dates Association and Andrew Weir & Co., and the matter is up to the former which has to decide whether to bear the tax or to revoke the contract.

Answering Nasir Barakat's interpellation about the distribution of harvesters in the Mosul Liwa, the Minister of Economics explained that they were distributed by the Chamber of Agriculture under the supervision of the Mosul Mutasarrif.

The Chamber, then, passed the supplement to the judicial service act, and an amendment to the criminal procedure. Regarding the supplement to the judicial service act, which provides for its purge, Siddiq Shanshal contended that it violates Article 68 of the Constitution and Faik As-Samerrai asked for referring the matter to the Supreme Court. (Al-Umma)

June 14, 1950.

SHORT NEWS.

The Ministry of Social Affairs has been handed by the Pakistan Charge d'Affaires in Baghdad 13 parcels containing medicines and first-aid means as a relief to the latest flood victims. (Al-Umma)

*

Yesterday, 154 Jews have applied for emigration. (Ash-Shaab)

*

Nuri As-Said is due to fly today for London. (Ash-Shaab)

*

Senator Omar Nadhmi left by train for Istanbul where he is to spend the summer season. (Ash-Shaab)

*

The mixed irrigation commission provided for in the Turco-Iraqi treaty is to convene this month. Indeed, Irrigation DG Abdul Amir Al-Uzri and Vahe Sevian left yesterday morning for Ankara for representing Iraq on the commission. Its session is to last a month. (Az-Zaman)

*

Cyprus has proposed an air agreement to Iraq, reports the ANA. (Az-Zaman).

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E N D.

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25X1

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

Tuesday, June 13, 1950.

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IRAQ REJECTS TRIPARTITE DECLARATION.

Iraq Premier Towfiq As-Suwaidi stated in Alexandria that the Iraq Government has decided to reject the tripartite declaration regarding arms shipments to the Middle East. The reason is that the said declaration is considered as an action outside the UN and as relying on the use of force.

Suwaidi added, "Some Arab states have put us in a very difficult position by expressing their fear from being attacked by other Arab states. This fact has given to the Western nations the weapon they want, as they desire to maintain the present boundaries inside the Middle East in favor of Israel." (Liwa Al-Istiqlal)

*

A British Foreign Office spokesman commenting on Premier Towfiq As-Suwaidi's statement, said that Britain has received official assurances from Iraq regarding the arms shipments to the Middle East and has not been notified of any decision to the contrary. If these assurances are revoked, it would create a new situation. (Liwa Al-Istiqlal)

* * *

ARAB LEAGUE MEETING.

The Arab League Council convened yesterday evening. Jordan failed to be represented, while the All-Palestine government attended the meeting. A cable had been received from the Jordan government explaining that it had not decided to boycott the AL Council, but as the first item on the agenda was the question of its expulsion it has deemed more advisable to be absent in order to permit the delegates of the other Arab states to deliberate impartially.

Indeed, as soon as the Council convened, a cable from Jordanian Foreign Minister Mohamed Ash-Shereiqi was read out saying, "The decision of annexing Eastern Palestine by Jordan shall not prejudice the final settlement of the Palestine question..."

The.....

June 19, 1950

The Iraqi delegation asked for the summoning of the Political Committee; and it was agreed to, provided that it convenes this evening.

According to the ANA, the prevailing opinion among the Arab delegates in Alexandria favors postponing the consideration of the question of Jordan's expulsion. (Liwa Al-Istiqlal)

* * *

According to the Beirut radio, Iraq Premier Towfiq As-Suwaidi disclosed that Lebanon and Iraq had asked for the postponement of the meeting of the AL Council, in order to avoid taking up the question of Jordan's expulsion, because there are more important matters.

He disclosed too that the position of the present Syrian government differs from the previous one's.

Asked whether the Council would be adjourned, he stated that what matters is that the question of Jordan's expulsion should not be stirred up. (Liwa Al-Istiqlal).

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Describing the present meeting of the AL Council as the "most important one since the Palestine catastrophe", Liwa Al-Istiqlal deplures that the question of Jordan's expulsion is coinciding with the tripartite declaration, or as, it says, with the time when "the imperialistic nations are showing the teeth of their greediness in disrespect of the Arabs' honor and threatening their existence and interests."

*

The Arab politicians, says Ash-Shaab, are used to "hackneyed statements and promises, and to opposing in public the very thing which they support undercover." A "new theme of these cheap statements" has been struck by a Syrian government spokesman when saying that Syria would stand by the majority in the deliberations of the Arab League Council over Jordan's expulsion. Such a statement is a "new type of opportunistic and melting policy."

*

Al-Alam Al-Arabi regrets that Premier Towfiq As-Suwaidi has made statements which "imply support to Jordan". It seems, adds the paper, that Iraq was not a "neutral mediator" in the dispute between the League and Jordan; and this has done harm to the whole case, because Jordan was encouraged to adopt a stiff stand and Egypt was provoked. Moreover, Iraq's stand has caused the delaying of a decision in this respect, and has, thus,

afforded.

afforded the big powers the opportunity for insuing their tripartite declaration.

All indicates that the League is on the verge of collapse, and the efforts made for erecting it were meant to achieve the "imperialists" ambitions". However, Iraq is still being afforded the opportunity to save the League, if she adopts a "frank and determined" attitude. Indeed, the collapse of the League would open the way to Israeli expansionism and to the Big Powers' maneuvers for achieving their aims in this strategic area of the world.

* * *

SHORT NEWS.

The final results of the by-elections for the two Christian deputies for Baghdad, following polling in the 2nd precinct yesterday, show that both Izzet Murad Al-Shaikh and Razzouq Shammass have won the two parliamentary seats. (Al-Umma

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The Regent has signed the amendment of the Agricultural Bank Law passed by parliament. (Al-Umma)

*

Finance Minister Abdul Karim Al-Uzri stated that the World Bank loan agreement would be signed on June 15 in Washington. It has been learned that the Ministry of Finance has drafted the requisite bill, which is to be submitted to the Council of Ministers either today or tomorrow, in order to forwarding it to parliament on June 16. (Al-Umma)

*

Education Minister Saad Omar has disclosed that a three-day inquiry into the theft of the questions of the government examinations has led to the discovery of the author after interrogating 600 persons, including 500 students. The author of the theft is the "Farrash" (janitor) of the Director General of Examinations, Ministry of Education. (Al-Umma)

*

Minister of State Khalil Kanna, has stated to the ANA in his capacity as Secretary of the Constitutional Union Party that Nuri As-Said's trip to London is for medical treatment only. (Al-Nabaa)

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Yesterday.....

June 13, 1950.

Yesterday, 184 Jews applied for emigration. (Ash-Shaab)

*

Sada Al-Ahali reports that the result of the by-elections in Koysenjeq has not been known because no election was held on June 10. Secondary electors were insisting on voting for Abdul Rahman As'ad against the government candidate, Mulla Huweiz Agha. In order to avoid the defeat of the government candidate, the magistrate and the government official who had to attend polling failed to show up.

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The Arab Awakening Club (Nadi Al-Ba'th Al-Arabi) has applied to the Ministry of Interior for a magazine licence. (Az-Zaman)

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E N D

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D A I L Y R E V I E W

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

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

Saturday, June 10, 1950.

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According to Az-Zaman, Premier Towfiq As-Suwaidi, after attending a three-hour extraordinary meeting of the Council of Ministers, left on Thursday evening for Sarsang to call on the Regent.

The Council of Ministers reviewed the present inter-Arab relations in general, and the question of the Jordan unification in particular. One of the cabinet members, interviewed after the meeting, said, "It is hoped that the intensity of the crisis between Jordan and the League states had diminished." When asked about Iraq's stand, he added, "I assure you it gives rise to optimism."

Premier Towfiq As-Suwaidi went to Sarsang to expose to the Regent his government's views about the matter. In addition, it should be reported that Iraq has agreed to the meeting of the AL Council on June 12. The Iraqi delegation is expected to leave for Cairo within the next two days; and most probably, the Prime Minister will lead the delegation. (Az-Zaman)

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After meeting Lebanese Premier Riad Al-Solh, Iraq Minister in Beirut Ibrahim Al-Khedairi told the ANA that the Iraqi-Lebanese economic agreement is expected to be signed after the coming meeting of the AL Council. (Az-Zaman)

*

Towfiq Tougan, Chairman of the Refugees Committee in Jordan, has appealed to the Iraqis for: 1) contributions in cash and in kind for refugees, 2) subsidies for the National Militia of Palestinian youth, and 3) financial aid for a setting of an asylum for orphans and children of Palestinian refugees. (Az-Zaman)

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E N D

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D A I L Y R E V I E W

25X1

of the

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

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

Friday, June 9, 1950.

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MEETING OF THE ARAB LEAGUE COUNCIL.

According to the Sharq Al-Adna correspondent in Cairo, the Lebanese delegation to the meeting of the Arab League Council is due in Cairo on Monday. As far as it is known, the meeting is slated to be held in Alexandria and to begin on June 12. (Liwa Al-Istiqlal)

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According to the Cairo correspondent of the France-Presse news agency, the governments of Iraq, Syria and Lebanon are still playing the role of mediator between Cairo and Amman. The Egyptian government has been proposed to withdraw its demand for the expulsion of Jordan against Jordan's definite commitment that annexation of Eastern Palestine is a temporary measure which shall not prejudice the future of Palestine.

Informed Egyptian circles display caution despite the fact that these attempts have removed the prevailing tension between Egypt and Jordan. The Egyptian government is said to have asked Amman for clarification through Iraq, Lebanon and Syria. That is why, the meeting of the AL Council is likely to be postponed a week or two, if the attempts at compromise do not lead to a satisfactory formula. (Liwa Al-Istiqlal)

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According to the Amman correspondent of the France-Presse quoting an informed source, it has been found in Baghdad a formula which is likely to settle the dispute between Amman and Cairo. A wave of optimism has prevailed over the Jordanian capital following the return of Samir Ar-Rifaye and Mohammed Ash-Shereiqi from Baghdad and following Iraq's and Lebanon's acceptance to act as mediators and Syria's support to their mediation. Jordan is hoped to facilitate their task by giving up her objection to that the unification of the Jordan sides be discussed and the Egyptian government would withdraw its demand for the expulsion of Jordan. Political circles are hopeful that such a formula would satisfy both sides. (Liwa Al-Istiqlal)

June 9, 1950.

ARABS' INTERNATIONAL PRESTIGE DEFENDS ON UNDERSTANDING AMONG THEMSELVES.

Al-Ittihad Ad-Dasturi notes that the Arab League Council is to meet very shortly. On its agenda, are two major items, which are interrelated, and they are the question of unification of the Jordan sides and the answer to the tripartite declaration. Needless to say that the Arab states cannot make a joint answer to the declaration unless they all agree on the incorporation of the Arab parts of Palestine to Jordan. As much as they would agree over their relations among themselves, they would gain importance and weight in international politics and the world developments confronting them from all sides. If the Palestine war were the first test for the Arab states, the tripartite declaration is the second one; and we hope the Arab states have learned from the first one. Indeed, the Arabs' enemies, even before the partition plan, were voicing that the Arab states cannot agree among themselves; and this opinion has caused the disregard of the Arabs' rights and of their threats.

* * *

ARAB LEAGUE SHOULD BE REHABILITATED.

Prompted by the coming meeting of the Arab League, Al-Umma points out that on it depends the future of the League. Indeed, the Arabs have lost faith in it; and therefore, do not attach any importance to it. Consequently, the Arab governments should seriously think of rehabilitating the League, if not for its sake at least for the Arabs'.

* * *

EGYPT SHOULD REVERSE HER STAND.

Al-Nabaa says that "three decisive days" are separating the Arabs from the League's coming meeting which is to decide its preservation or collapse. The paper remarks, "Those who are concerned about the Arabs' future, honor and freedoms are hoping that Egypt reconsider her stand towards Jordan, the Arabs' interest concurs with Jordan's action of unification for safeguarding the Arab part of Palestine, and since the annexation has been made in accordance with the will of the Palestinians themselves... Egypt is hoped to pursue a wiser line. However, if some of her politicians mean to destroy this Arab organization, let them look for another pretext than the unification of the Jordan sides."

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TRYGVE.....

June 9, 1950

TRYGVE LIE'S PROPOSALS.

The following is the first comment made on UN Secretary-General Lie's proposals since reported by the press:

"Despite the welcome accorded by the world to what UN Secretary-General Lie has undertaken and proposed, the U.S. Secretary of State's tune does not give rise to optimism. Mr. Acheson repeated warmongers' usual saying, "The best way of reaching understanding with the Soviet is to strengthen ourselves and make them feel our military strength, our unity and our ability to face aggression." And he added that he does not expect the world to change overnight.

"It seems that one of the main obstacles to understanding is China's representation. the U.S. is insistently refusing to recognize the government which in fact rules the country and still considers Chiang Kai-shek's government as the legitimate one, although buried in Formosa. Moreover, the U.S. had issued a White Book on China where she put on record that Chiang Kai-shek's government is the most corrupt of our times.

"Although Lie's proposals are a repetition of previous ones, such as meeting of Big Powers' heads, resumption of the Atomic Energy Commission, control of armament, setting up the Military Staff Committee, enforcement of the Declaration of Human Rights, and admission of applicants to UN membership, the disturbed conditions of the world require persistent efforts for world peace, and these proposals are part of them."
(Sada Al-Ahali)

* * *

SYRIA. KING LEOPOLD. SCHUMAN PLAN.

Besides commenting on Lie's proposals, Sada Al-Ahali, in its weekly review, speaks of the new Syrian government, of the general elections in Belgium and of the Schuman plan.

438
About the new Syrian government, it remarks, "Its formation by Nadhem Al-Qodsi is significant, as he is one of the Populist leaders who favored union with Iraq. However, observers do not believe that his ascension to power means the revival of that trend, but interpret it as a sort of truce which limits the army's meddling with politics and administration..." The paper adds, "Those who wish Syria's welfare hope that the apprehension prevailing among some political circles because of union with Syria should not drive them into France's lap or to support the tripartite declaration. They wish that a stable civilian administration be restored and that any imperialistic power's influence do not return."

June 9, 1950

Commenting on the narrow parliamentary majority obtained by Belgian royalists, Sada Al-Ahali writes, "It should be understood that any king's position does not resemble to a prime minister's who can rely on a narrow majority in parliament or among parties. The king, in any constitutional country, must not rely on one party or on a specific group. He derives his strength from his absolute neutrality. Monarchies, such as in England and in the Scandinavian states, would not have enabled to remain, had not they followed such a line necessitated by constitutional developments and the nature of parliamentarism."

Concerning the Schuman plan, the paper points out, "It is more obvious day after day that the so-called Schuman plan is but an Acheson plan. Has not Schuman finished with his speech that Mr. Acheson supported it, followed suit by Dr. Adenauer Head of the Bonn government in Western Germany... This plan shall be a new factor for intensifying disagreement between Britain and the U.S. over economic problems, as indicated by the proposal of a U.S. senator who suggested that American aid be denied to Britain, if she opposes the plan..."

* * *

BY-ELECTIONS.

It has officially been announced that Dr. Sadiq Khayat who was contesting Independence Party Leader Mohammed Mahdi Kubba in the fourth electoral precinct of Baghdad, has withdrawn his candidature, and, therefore, Kubba has returned uncontested. (Liwa Al-Istiqlal)

*

Sada Al-Ahali reports that the government is interfering in the by-elections in Mosul in favor of Ramzi Al-Umary, Siddiq Shanshal and Dr. Hanna Khayat.

*

Moreover, Sada Al-Ahali reports to have received a telegram from Mawloud Moukhles urging the government to instruct the Qaimaqam of Samerrah for refraining from interference in the by-elections.

*

Following the withdrawal of Cassim Al-Kawwaz and Abdul Amir As-Sa'di from the 5th electoral precinct of Baghdad, Mansour Al-Gailani is gaining more support. (Az-Zaman)

*

June 9, 1950

Arkan Al-Abadi has withdrawn from Shamiyah electoral district. Abdul Razzaq Al-Uzri, thus, returns uncontested. (Az-Zaman)

* * *

SHORT NEWS.

The following official communique has been issued by the Directorate General of Propaganda:

"Some newspapers have been reporting news and rumors about the resignation of the government. We state that whatever has been published is absolutely unfounded." (Al-Umma)

*

Yesterday evening, the Council of Ministers held an extraordinary meeting lasting from 5:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. It discussed some important plans which the government means to undertake and studied some draft laws. The Council of Ministers is to hold its ordinary meeting on Saturday evening. (Al-Umma)

*

Al-Inqad newspaper has been suspended for a month by order of the Ministry of Interior. (Al-Umma)

*

Yesterday, a plane left Baghdad carrying 80 denationalized Jewish emigrants. (Ash-Shaab)

*

The Ministry of Justice has decided a reformation of the Board of Judges and Qadhis as follows:

Judge Frichard, President of the Court of Cassation
Antoine Shammass, President of the Codification Department
Abdul Jabbar At-Tekerli, Member of the Court of Cassation
Ahmed Taha, Member of the Court of Cassation
Omar Hifdhi Al-Melli, Legal Draftsman and Acting DG of Justice. (Liwa Al-Istiqlal)

*

According to Az-Zaman, the Council of Ministers discussed yesterday evening Iraq's attitude towards the unification of the Jordan sides. However, informed Iraqi sources did not reveal the government's attitude or the nature of the consultations held last week following the arrival of Samir Ar-Rifaye and

June 9, 1950

It is understood that the Council of Ministers has elaborated last night on Iraq's attitude to the tripartite declaration. An official source had told Az-Zaman some days ago that the government was preparing a memorandum to be submitted to the other Arab states.

Most probably Premier Towfiq As-Suwaidi would head the Iraqi delegation to the Arab League. Reliable sources have asserted that the League meeting will be held at its set date. (Az-Zaman)

*

The Constitutional Union Party has applied to the Ministry of Interior for opening a branch in Basra. (Az-Zaman)

*

The Minister of Finance told Az-Zaman reporter that the government has no other tax laws than those already submitted to parliament. (Az-Zaman)

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E N D



LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA DAMASCUS, SYRIA

Daily Review of the Syrian Press

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25X1

THIS IS AN ENCLOSURE
DO NOT DETACH

No. 114

(FOR STAFF USE ONLY)

Friday, June 16, 1950

- * -

PAPERS REVIEWED:

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

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WORLD AFFAIRS

NO MORE LOCAL EMPLOYEES

Alif Ba' - Washington 15 - According to an AFP despatch from Washington, the Senate's Foreign Relations Sub-Committee has prepared a report recommending the State Department to replace all foreign employees in American embassies, legations and consulates abroad with American nationals as soon as possible.

The report states that the number of foreign employees in American diplomatic and consular missions is three thousand.

SOVIET BROADCASTING STATION

Alif Ba' inserted today a 4½ x 4½ inch advertisement of the Arab programme of the Soviet Broadcasting station. Following are the times, wavelengths and frequencies:

| <u>Time</u> | <u>Wavelength</u> | <u>Frequency</u> |
|--|-------------------|------------------|
| 2:15 to 2:44 p.m. (Fridays) | 19,07 meters | 15230 |
| " | 25,23 | 11890 |
| " | 19,53 | 15360 |
| 7:00 to 7:29 p.m. (all the days of the week) | 25,41 | 11805 |
| " | 25,21 | 11900 |
| " | 30,74 | 9760 |
| " | 41,47 | 7235 |
| " | 31,65 | 9480 |
| 8:30 to 8:59 p.m. (all the days of the week) | 25,41 | 11805 |
| " | 25,22 | 11900 |
| " | 41,47 | 7235 |

DOMESTIC AFFAIRS

KHAN SHAYKHUN'S INCIDENT:

Al Fayha': The number of persons killed in the Khan Shaykhun's incident has increased to 5. The arrest of Talib al-Hiraki and his followers has been denied.

QUDSI DINES WITH QUWWATLI: ⁴⁸ *all*

Al Balad: A report from Alexandria indicates that Premier Qudsi visited former President Shukri al-Quwwatli in his palace at Ramlah and dined with him yesterday noon, June 15.

Al Misri: believes that the conversation between Qudsi and Quwwatli centered around the state of affairs in Syria and the avarice of certain powers who would engulf Syria.

Dr. Qudsi had reportedly assured Quwwatli that Syria's independence and the republican regime will be preserved.

A NEW MUHAJIZ FOR HAWRAN:

Al Kifah: By a decision of the Council of Ministers, Mr. Adnan al Azhari, former Chairman of the Lattakia Municipal Council, has been appointed as the Muhajiz of Hawran.

Approved For Release 2004/02/23 : CIA-RDP83-00415R005700030001-4

ARMS DISTRIBUTION AMONG FALAHEEN

Al Balad reports that the deputy for Misyaf, Mr. Hamid al-Mansur, called on the Minister of Interior and reported to him that a certain Wasil al-Hawrani, an official of the Forestry Department in Hama and the brother of former Minister of Defence Akram al-Hawrani, visited Nisaf village in the District of Misyaf and distributed 23 rifles to the farmers who have risen against Kaylani landlords. "Each rifle", the deputy asserted, "had been sold at 125 Syrian Pounds." 100 438

Al Balad inquires about the opinion of the Minister of Interior concerning such incidents. "We want to know the extent of his concern about this subject as he is responsible for the internal security of the country," Al Balad urges.

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY, Meeting of June 15, 1950

Forty Five members were absent from yesterday's meeting of the Constituent Assembly. The new rental bill was referred to the Judicial Committee for consideration.

Husayn Muraywid (Qunaytra - Ind) discussed Tapline and said that this company's workers have been working for 14 hours a day. He asked the Government whether or not it intends to put an end to this violation of the Labor Law.

At the request of the Assembly, Minister Jabbara 7 26 outlined the Government's wheat policy as follows:

1- Export of wheat is free and is subject only to the return of export exchange to Syria.

2- The Wheat Office, proposed by the former government and adopted by the present Government, will only concern itself with the purchase of wheat at world prices from farmers who are willing to sell their crops to the Wheat Office. The motive behind the creation of the Wheat Office is to guarantee purchase at moderate prices and to check any attempts by wheat merchants to jeopardize the farmers' interests by obliging them to accept less than world prices.

3- The Wheat Office will be financed by a loan from the Banque de Syrie. This loan was contracted with the Banque de Syrie last year, and will be used this year.

4- It is not the intention of the Government to monopolize the purchase and sale of wheat because such an operation requires a capital of 150 million pounds, and would involve the Government in unnecessary responsibilities.

(Pr. Dig. 1144)

Minister Shakir al-'Ass stated the following in answer to a remark concerning the Government's refusal to recognize Lebanese currency for export exchange: "This subject is connected with Syro-Lebanese future relations, and need not be raised for Lebanon has prohibited the import of wheat from Syria."

The meeting was adjourned until 9:00 p.m., June 26. It is believed that the meetings will be held at night during the month of Ramadan and that the debate of the draft constitution will begin after Ramadan.

ARAB AFFAIRS

AMERICAN CONCEPTION OF DEMOCRACY:

Alif Ba': In a recent article, Miss McCormick compared the Arab Governments with Eastern European Governments and described them as dictatorships which had assumed power under the guise of democracy.

The paper remarks that Americans seem to have a strange conception of democracy. They judge it by the criterion of their own practices and acts when there is no trace of genuine democracy in their own public activities and their international policy.

If it is universally admitted that equality between citizens is a basic condition of democracy, how can Americans reconcile their pretence to democracy with the fact that their courts permit color discrimination in trains, schools, and other aspects of public activities? If democracy implies the acceptance of the views of the majority, how can America account for its contradictory attitude of supporting at one time the Partition Plan, in complete disregard to the wishes of the majority of the inhabitants of Palestine, and of opposing at another the internationalization scheme for Jerusalem under the pretext that it is not acceptable to the majority of the inhabitants of the Holy City?

Is it not America which, under the guise of democracy, imposes its dictatorial rules on others by exercising pressure, by creating a fait accompli, or by establishing a forced majority in the committees of the United Nations?

How can America expect the average man in the Arab world to understand the democratic principles of Lincoln, Emerson, Wilson, and Roosevelt through the perspective of his unfortunate experience in President Truman's sham

TRIPARTITE COMMUNIQUE

The following item released by the Eastern News Agency in its bulletin of June 15 was not published today, Friday 16, in any local paper, though it may be later published by Al Manar which does not appear on Fridays:

Damascus 15 (E.N.A.) In an interview with the Eastern News Agency, a prominent political figure in Damascus asserted that the tripartite statement followed Dr. Dawalibi's declaration in Cairo. He added that the motive behind the issuance of the statement was to preclude the Arab countries in general, and Syria in particular, from orienting towards the Eastern camp as a result of the erroneous policy of the three western powers which has been characterized by their complacent attitude toward Israel at the expense of the Arab people and the afflicted Palestinian Arabs. The same person added that the reaction to the statement strongly indicated lack of confidence in the western powers and the resentment of the Arab peoples. The statement however is unilateral and is not binding on the Arabs. 438

The figure asserted that the assurances formerly given by the Arab states as referred to in the statement were oral. The Arab countries, however, can benefit from the statement since it enables them to obtain various kinds of arms provided that these arms are not to be used for aggressive purposes.

The same person confirmed a statement made recently by a highly placed source to the effect that Dr. Dawalibi's declaration had greatly helped the Arab cause notably with respect to the purchase of arms of which the Arab countries have so far been deprived. The person concluded by describing the tripartite statement as a remedial measure somewhat in favor of the Arabs despite the fact that it does not prejudice the interest of Israel.

ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

SYRO-LEBANESE ECONOMIC TALKS:

Al Balad and Al Kifah report that Premier Riyad al-Solh asserted, in a cable to the Lebanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, that an agreement has been reached "with Dr. Qudsi to resume Syro-Lebanese economic talks immediately after their return to Beirut and Damascus." 437

Official circles refrained from giving the details of this cable but nevertheless stated that new bases for future economic relations between the two countries were established in discussions between the two Premiers in Alexandria.



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No. 113

(FOR STAFF USE ONLY)

Thursday, June 15, 1950

PAPERS REVIEWED

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

DOMESTIC AFFAIRS

COURTESY VISITS

Al Nasr: The French Minister to Syria, Mr. Jacques Paris, called yesterday on the Minister of Finance, Hasan Bey Jabbara, and conversed with him for approximately half an hour. The Finance Minister told our reporter that the visit was only a courtesy call and that no commercial or financial matters were discussed.

A RELIGIOUS RALLY

Al Nidal: It is reported that a meeting was held at Denkez Mosque attended by Moslem religious dignitaries from Damascus, Homs and Hama to discuss the organization of religious and educational matters in Syria.

DISPUTES BETWEEN PARTY CHIEFS

Al Nazir: This Aleppo paper reports that as a result of a

dispute.

(Pr. Dig. 113/2)

dispute over chairmanship of the Resurrectionist Party, Salah-al-Din al-Bitar resigned from the Party. Mr. Bitar had proposed that Jalal al-Sayyid be entrusted with the Party's leadership while Michel Aflaq insisted upon holding the position himself.

The paper also reports that there was dissension within the ranks of the Communist Party and that Rashad Isa, one of the prominent members, had been expelled.

TRANSFER OF LANDS IN SOUTHERN DISTRICTS

Al Fayha': A communique published in this paper labels as untrue press reports concerning transfer of lands to the Jews in southern districts. (See Pr. Dig. 112/1)

KHAN SHAYKHUN'S INCIDENT

Al Balad, Al Qabas, and Barada carried today strong editorials attacking Akram Hawrani and his party in connection with the Khan Shaykhun's incident. According to Al Jabal of Suayda, Talib al-Hiraki and a number of his followers were arrested by the Gendarmes because the inquiry conducted by the Ministry of Interior's inspector established their responsibility for the bloodshed.

ARAB SOCIALIST PARTY

Al-Qabas published an editorial accusing Hawrani's Arab Socialist Party of being responsible for the recent disturbances in Khan Shaykhun in the Ma'arra district. The paper compares the Arab Socialist Party with the Communist Party asserting that both aim at agitating class trouble, at sowing dissension and hatred between the people and at instigating workers and peasants against investors, industrialists, and landowners. The paper adds that Hawrani has spread dissension, confusion, and disorder from Hama to the Ma'arra district which he claims is oppressed by feudal lords. The fact is that Khan Shaykhun is ideal in so far as small ownership and fair distribution of lands are concerned.

The paper deplores the failure of the Government to take action against the destructive activities of the Arab Socialist Party. It concludes by warning the Government that Hawrani, who has ostensibly given it his support, is only exploiting it for the purpose of realizing his unwholesome ambitions, and that once he strengthens himself and his party he would overthrow it by subtle and cunning methods in which he has become deeply versed.

ARAB AFFAIRS

ARAB AFFAIRS

INDIFFERENT ATTITUDE TOWARDS ZIONIST ATROCITIES

Alif-Ba' deplores in an article the indifferent and passive attitude of the Arab Governments towards recent Zionist atrocities in the Hebron district. The paper notes that even the United States to which Israel owes its existence could not help deploring these atrocities. The least that the Arabs could have done was to share the denunciation of the American Secretary of State instead of engaging themselves in a sterile discussion concerning the expulsion of Jordan from the Arab League as though it was Jordan which perpetrated these atrocities. The present generation of the Arabs are like the living dead and are a disgrace to their ancestors who never brooked injustice or humiliation.

TRIPARTITE STATEMENT

Alif Ba' A member of the Constituent Assembly declared that the Arab Governments intended to prepare a joint reply to the tripartite statement. He discredited the allegation that certain Syrians or Lebanese had contributed towards the issuance of this statement and ascribed it to the desire of the imperialistic powers to maintain the present frontiers of Israel and to establish a foothold in Syria and Lebanon since these two states are the only Arab countries which are not linked by treaties to any foreign state. The same member asserted that the general tendency in the Arab countries is to reject and denounce the tripartite statement and to make every possible effort to raise this question at the forthcoming meeting of the United Nations.

Referring to the annexation of Arab Palestine to Jordan, the member declared that Syria had changed its attitude towards this question and had decided not to give its support to the proposal for expelling Jordan from the League. He added that the new Premier, Dr. Nazim al-Qudsi, did not have sufficient time to explain to the Foreign Relations Committee the purposes and results of the visit of the former Premier to Riyadh and Beirut because he had to depart immediately for Egypt to attend the meetings of the Arab League Council. In conclusion, the member expressed his belief that in view of the present situation in the Arab countries the Collective Security Pact was not expected to be signed at the current session of the Arab League Council.

Al-Alam editorially describes the tripartite statement as a manoeuvre designed to shoot two birds with one stone. It is aimed at guaranteeing the present Israeli frontiers and at consolidating the position of imperialistic powers in the Middle East under the pretext of the necessity of forming a collective

(Pr. Dig. 113/4)

defense system between the Western Powers and the Arab countries. The recent visit of the British Chief of Staff to Egypt which was really aimed at creating panic and terror by alleging that a future war was imminent is a vital part of the conspiracy involved in the tripartite statement which justifies the Western Powers' attempts to overthrow the remnant of Arab independence and sovereignty under the pretext of the necessity of forming a collective defense system.

The paper concludes by appealing to the Arab nation to rely on themselves and to thwart imperialistic projects which are designed to sacrifice the Arabs as scapegoats and to exploit their natural resources.

SEQUESTER JEWISH PROPERTY

Alif Ba' published an article by the Secretary of the Central Committee of the Palestinian Arab refugees in Damascus calling upon the Arab Governments to sequester Jewish property in their countries in retaliation to a recent Israeli law placing all property of Arab absentees under judicial custody.

A NEW BALFOUR DECLARATION

Al-Jabal published a lengthy editorial commenting on a report that America had decided to adopt the Kurdish national cause, that the American Embassy in Baghdad was openly working for furthering this cause, and that an American controlled clandestine broadcasting station had been appealing to the Kurdish people to collaborate in achieving a Kurdish national home.

The paper remarks that this report reminds us of the circumstances which led to the issuance of the Balfour Declaration thirty three years ago. The serious nature of this report is not diminished by the fact that the Kurds are Moslems, that most of them have already been Arabized or that there are countries other than Iraq and Syria in which Kurds are living. Should a Kurdish state be established the fact that the Kurds are Moslems would not diminish the dangers of such a state to the Arabs, since it would be a tool in the hands of the power which has created it. As for the argument that many Kurds have already been Arabized, it should be pointed out that Arabized Jews have constituted a greater danger to the Arab countries than non-Arab Jews. As for the third point, it is evident that America would not, in view of its inability or unwillingness, think of establishing the Kurdish national home in Russia or Turkey, but would attempt to establish it in either Syria or Iraq or in both countries.

The paper fears that action might have already been taken in this respect and that Washington might shortly issue a declaration similar to that of Balfour.

(Pr. Dig. 113/5)

ARAB LEAGUE MEETINGS

Al Insha' hopes that the Arab League will come out intact from its present discussions concerning Jordan's position. The paper believes that there is no reason so cogent as to necessitate the expulsion of Jordan from the League. It also hopes that the retention of Jordan in the League would not induce Egypt to withdraw from it.

THE TRIPARTITE COMMUNIQUE

7100
Al Fayha': The Secretary General of the Arab League, Abd al-Rahman Azzam Pasha, stated to the correspondent of Caïro Broadcasting Service following the adjournment of the second meeting of the Political Committee, that the Committee had discussed the tripartite communique concerning the supply of arms to the Arab states, and the opinions of each of the Arab states on this communique.

ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

THE WHEAT OFFICE

406
Al Nasr: Minister of National Economy Shakir al-'Ass stated that at its Tuesday afternoon meeting, the Council of Ministers approved the establishment of a Wheat Office to purchase wheat from small farmers in order to protect them from the greed of the rich merchants. The Minister further stated that purchasing centers would be established in each of the following districts: Jazirah, Euphrates, Aleppo, Homs, Hama, and Hawran.

SHIPPING ACTIVITIES AT LATAKIA

Al Nasr: Between June 2 and 9, eight ships anchored at Latakia with cargo totaling 6988,290 tons. Six ships left the port with cargoes totaling 1703,117 tons.

In addition 10 sailing vessels arrived at the Port with cargoes totaling 3770,236 tons and seven left carrying cargoes totaling 1137,364 tons.

THE SA'UDI LOAN TO SYRIA

1136
Al Balad: The Sa'udi Minister to Syria, Shaykh Abd-al-'Aziz Ibn Zayd, called on the Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs, Shakir al-'Ass and conferred with him for 40 minutes.

The reporter of Al Balad believes that the Sa'udi Minister called on the Foreign Minister to inform him that the second instalment of the Sa'udi loan had been sent to Syria.

Foreign Minister.

WORLD AFFAIRS

ACHESON'S SPEECH

A large part of the speech delivered last night by Mr. Acheson on the US attitude toward Russia was published this morning by Al Balad, Barada, and Al Fayha. No comment.



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No. 112

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THIS IS AN ENCLOSURE
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Wednesday, June 14, 1950

PAPERS REVIEWED

Alif Ba', Al Naar, Al Fayha', Al Kifah, Al Balad, Barada, Al Manar, Al Masa', Al Qabas, Al Ayyam, Al Insha', Al 'Alam, Al Hadara and Al Akhbar.

DOMESTIC AFFAIRS

TRANSFER OF LANDS IN SOUTHERN DISTRICTS

Al-Fayha': The Eastern News Agency has learned from reliable sources that the Ministry of Interior is preparing a bill lifting the restrictions imposed on the transfer of lands in the southern districts which will be submitted to the Council of Ministers for approval.

The paper views this report with alarm and fears that if this bill is passed Arab lands might be sold to Jews. The paper adds that during the "outworn regime" of Quwwatli certain restrictions were imposed on the sale of lands in the southern districts for the purpose of preventing the transfer of Arab lands to Jewish hands or Jewish agents. The paper concludes that had these restrictions been imposed a longer time backwards lands owned by the al-'Ass family would not have passed over to Jewish hands.

(Pr. Dig. 112/2)

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING:

438
Barada: At 7:00 p.m. yesterday, June 13, the Council of Ministers held a meeting under the chairmanship of Ziki al-Khatib, the Acting Prime Minister and Minister of Justice and approved loans to the municipalities of Kasab and Jablah. The Council also approved certain amendments to the structures of MIRA and the Syrian Police. The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

THE STATE RELIGION:

Barada: The Eastern News Agency reports that the Joint-Constituent Committee has charged Mr. Rushdi Kikhya, the President of the Constituent Assembly, with the task of drafting Article 3 of the new constitution concerning the state religion. President Kikhya hopes to reach a compromise consistent with national interests.

FEES ON CINEMATOGRAPHIC FILMS:

Al Qabas: The Directorate of Police and Security has inquired from the Ministry of Finance whether or not financial taxes should be imposed on films imported by foreign missions in Syria. The Finance Ministry's reply is believed to be in the negative provided these films bear educational and social characteristics.

ARAB AFFAIRS

STATE DEPARTMENT SEEKS INFORMATION

All Papers reproduced a USIS release, datelined Washington 9, stating that the State Department had asked the Israeli Government for information concerning alleged mistreatment of Arabs who recently entered Israeli controlled territory without authorization.

Al-Nasr commented unfavorably on this report and headlined it as follows: "THE STATE DEPARTMENT RELUCTANTLY ATTEMPTS TO SEEK INFORMATION". The paper remarks that the wording and style of the release indicate that the State Department views Zionist atrocities with little concern as though they were slight incidents which did not require any action other than an "informal discussion of the matter".

Al-Nasr also reproduced another USIS release indicating that the State Department had given its support to Congressional action to include Palestinian Arab refugee students in the United States within the provisions of the Displaced Persons Bill. The paper describes this action as tragicomic and compares it with the action of a murderer who goes to the funeral of his victim.

TRIPARTITE STATEMENT:

Alif-Ba': An authorized official source declared that the tripartite statement would have no significance if Syria achieves stability and favorable conditions within the coming four or five years and if it is able to increase its production, improve its economy, and strengthen its army both in number and equipment. With a special reference to the Bevin-Bidault Agreement, the same source compared the tripartite statement with other international agreements concluded at the expense of Middle Eastern countries.

According to this source, the Arab states' reply to the statement will explain that it is inconsistent with the United Nations Charter and that it furnishes a grave precedent for future intervention of states, notably big powers, in the affairs of other countries. The reply is also expected to observe that the statement, far from contributing towards the establishment of peace in the Near East, would increase the threats to the cause of peace in the world.

The same source did not deny the possibility of raising the question of this "strange statement" at the Security Council and at the forthcoming session of the United Nations in September.

The source bitterly criticized the rumors disseminated by certain unscrupulous quarters about the possible return of foreign influence to Syria and Lebanon. The source concluded by discrediting the allegation that Syria and Lebanon were responsible for the issuance of the tripartite statement as was implied in a recent declaration by the Iraqi Premier, (see Pr./Dig./111/2).

REFUGEES CABLE TO ARAB LEAGUE:

Al Balad published a cable sent by a number of Palestinian refugees in which they urged that they be repatriated to their homeland where "they can resume activities and strive against aggressors."

ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

ECONOMIC AGREEMENT:

538
Barada: The Minister of National Economy and Agriculture, Mr. Shakir al-'Ass, asserted in a statement to our reporter, that he was considering the conclusion of economic agreements with Italy, Turkey, and Western Germany. "The Ministry," he added, "will shortly submit the outcome of its studies on this question to the Council of Ministers for consideration and approval."

The Ministry of National Economy has informed the Foreign Office in a letter of its readiness to conclude commercial agreements with neighbouring countries. The Ministry supplemented its letter with lists of commodities which Syria can export and requested the Foreign Office to approach the Greek Legation in Damascus with a view to obtaining information on Greek exports.

IMPORT OF BAD COTTON:

Al Manar: Contrary to provisions of Tariff No. 518 poor quality cotton has been exempted from Customs duties by a decision of the Ministry of National Economy. This decision will remain in force until August 31, 1950.

SA'UDI LOAN TO SYRIA:

Al Kifah: Yesterday the Minister of National Economy, Shakir al-'Ass, received at his office the Syrian Minister to Jiddah, Sa'udi Arabia, Mr. (Jawad al-Murabit.

When asked about the second instalment of the Sa'udi Loan to Syria, Minister 'Ass stated, "There had been obstacles which hindered the payment of the second instalment. The Prime Minister will study this question in Cairo with the Sa'udi Minister of State, Shaykh Yusuf Yasin. I discussed this question with our Minister to Jiddah and we hope that the obstacles will be eliminated after the return of Minister Murabit to his post."

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No. 111

(FOR STAFF USE ONLY)

Tuesday, June 13, 1950

* PAPERS REVIEWED

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

DOMESTIC AFFAIRS

EXPROPRIATION BY TAPLINE

Al Nidal: The Directorate of Awqafs (Moslem organization in charge of mosques, endowments, etc.) in a letter to the Ministry of Public Works and Communications protested against the expropriation by TAPline of Tafas village in Hawran. The Awqafs argued that part of the village belonged to the late Rakan al-Din Umar al-Ba'uni and its expropriation should have been negotiated with the Awqafs directly.

THE RELIGION OF THE STATE

Al Manar: The Joint Constituent Committee held a meeting yesterday in the office of the President of the Assembly to continue the study of Article 3 of the Constitution concerning the state religion.

There is every indication that the discussion of the
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constitution.....

(Pr. Dig. 111/2)

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- constitution will be postponed until after the month of Ramadan, the Moslems fasting month.

This Moslem Brotherhood Organ believes that there are two conflicting schools of opinion concerning the religion of the state and a third one advocating a compromise.

OFFICE HOURS IN RAMADAN

Alif Ba': A circular issued by the Council of Ministers fixes the office hours in government offices as follows: 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (Ramadan month may begin Saturday, June 17).

TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS BETWEEN SYRIA AND LEBANON

Alif Ba': Asked about press reports that the Government had decided to lift all travel restrictions existing between Syria and Lebanon, Minister of Interior Rashad Barmada stated, "The situation between Syria and Lebanon still prevails and the restrictions imposed on travel will remain in force without change".

ARAB AFFAIRS

ARAB LEAGUE

Alif Ba': The first meeting of the extraordinary session of the Arab League Council was held in Alexandria yesterday, June 12. All the Arab delegations to the Council attended the meeting with the exception of the Jordanian delegation. A cable was received from Jordan stating that the annexation of Arab Palestine to Jordan had been approved by parliament and that it would not affect the final settlement of the Palestine problem. The cable added that Jordan was anxious to safeguard all the international rights of the Arab inhabitants and that it was willing to cooperate with the Arab League on all the other subjects listed in the agenda. The cable concluded that Jordan did not wish to participate in the deliberations over the question of annexation so that the other delegations might carry out their work in complete freedom.

At yesterday's meeting the Arab League Council decided to ask the Political Committee to give its recommendations as to what measures should be taken against Jordan.

IRAQ REJECTS TRIPARTITE STATEMENT

Al-Kifah: The Iraqi Premier, Mr. Tawfiq al-Suwaydi, declared in Alexandria yesterday, June 12, that Iraq intended to reject the tripartite statement. He described the statement as illegal, because it was prepared outside the United Nations and was inconsistent with its Charter. The statement also threatened to use force against certain members of the United Nations without

having previously obtained their agreement.

The Iraqi Premier ascribed the intervention of the three western powers into Middle Eastern affairs to certain Arab states which alleged that they were in a critical position and that they were threatened by other Arab states.

SA'UDI LOAN

Barada: Information received from official circles confirmed current reports that the Sa'udi Arabian Government has suspended payment of the second installment of the Sa'udi loan to Syria as well as the provisions of the Syro-Sa'udi commercial agreement. The Sa'udi offer to grant Syria the machinery used in the construction of Jiddah harbor has also been shelved.

It is learned from authoritative sources, that the Sa'udi Arabian Government's main grievances center on the delay of the present Syrian leaders to restore the constitutional and legal conditions in the country, Syria's apparent objection to the expulsion of Jordan from the League, and the fact that politicians who have been conspiring against the republic and advocating Syria's subjugation to Iraq have assumed power and won the confidence of the Constituent Assembly.

We do not reveal a secret in stating that Egypt's present attitude towards Syria is no less resentful.

ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

EXPORT OF WHEAT

Al Manar: The Ministry of National Economy has issued the following communique:

"Exporters are informed that decision No. 123 dated May 4, 1950 concerning authority to export agricultural, animal, and industrial products, also provides for the export of wheat without prior permits in accordance with Article 2 of the decision of the Council of Ministers dated June 9, 1950".

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY, Meeting of June 12, 1950

Al Nasr and other papers: It seems that the public is more interested in the work of the Constituent Assembly than the Assembly members themselves. Whereas the gallery was crowded with visitors, the hall looked empty with the absence of 34 members.

Adil Kikhya (P-Harim) asked the reasons for the delay in the payment of the second installment of the Sa'udi loan to Syria

(Pr.Dig. 111/4)

and the non-delivery of Jiddah machinery.

'Abdullah al-Tamir (Ind - Salamiah) asked about the method used by the previous government in the distribution of tractors and agricultural machinery to farmers. He also proposed the allotment of one million pounds, free of interests, to those who incurred damages during the recent flood in Salamiah.

These questions were referred to the Government for reply.

Next was read the reply of the Ministry of Defense to a previous question posed by Duham al-Dandal (Ind - Abu Kamal) concerning the fine which was imposed on Abu Kamal district because of the murder of the captain of Gendarmerie there. The reply explains that it was customary to impose collective fines on tribes on such occasions.

The Assembly approved two draft laws extending loans of 125,000 and 100,000 Syrian pounds to the municipalities of Ma'arah and Baniyas respectively. Barazi objected arguing that such loans would be a burden on the Treasury. He was opposed by Antaki and Hawrani who argued that these loans were necessary.

The report of the Budget Committee was then read recommending that the Ministry of Finance guarantee a loan to the Agricultural Bank covering the value of the agricultural machinery delivered by Mira. The report also recommended that the Agricultural Bank devote its effort to collecting the installments due from farmers to whom agricultural machinery was distributed and not to concern itself with the collection of Mira debts for the years 1947 and 1948.

'Abd al-Wahhab Hawmad (P - Aleppo) said that the only persons who benefited from loans advanced by the Mira were big farmers whereas small farmers were confronted with all kinds of obstacles. He asserted that the present draft law served only the big feudal lords and demanded that the loans be repaid by big farmers.

Akram Hawrani pointed out that small farmers have been regularly paying their installments with 9% interest, whereas big land lords have exploited the administration by neglecting to pay the loans granted to them.

'Abd al-Rahman al-'Azm, the former Minister of Finance, criticized Hawrani for having opposed the project after he had agreed to it when he was a member of the former cabinet. 'Azm admitted that when he was a minister he discovered that some loans had been granted by the Mira to fictitious persons.

Ahmad Qanbar (P - Aleppo) asked the present Minister of Finance to supply the Assembly with a list of the names of debtors who had failed to pay their debts to the Mira.

Several other deputies also criticized the confusion prevailing in the Mira. Finally Ziki al-Khatib, the acting Premier withdrew the draft pending further study.

The report of the Public Works Committee was then read recommending the ratification of the aviation agreement with Holland. When certain deputies expressed the desire to debate the report.

'Abd Al-Rahman Al -'Azm requested that debate be delayed until the present Government had time to determine its position on it. The report was withdrawn by the Government for further study.

Ilyas Dummer (Dam. Ind.) requested the President of the Assembly to fix a date for the debate on the constitution. The President replied that the date would be fixed at the coming meeting of the Assembly.

Munir al-Ajlani (Dam. Ind.) spoke about the tripartite statement proposing that the Government express its view regarding this subject at a special meeting of the Assembly. He expressed his hope that the Government's statement on this subject would be clear and concluded by appealing to the members of the Assembly to waive their differences and disputes and present a solid front at this critical stage in which the country is exposed to grave dangers.

Mr. Ziki al-Khatib, the acting Premier, replied that Premier Qudsi had already discussed this question with the Foreign Relations Committee, the proposed the postponement of the discussion on this subject until after the return of Premier Qudsi from Alexandria.

The President then adjourned the meeting until 5 o'clock, Thursday, June 15.

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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. 110

~~(FOR STAFF USE ONLY)~~

Monday, June 12, 1950

NEWSPAPERS REVIEWED:

Alif Ba', Al Nasr, Al 'ayha', Al Kifah, Al Balad, Barada, Al Manar, Al Masa', Al Qabas, Al Ayyam, Al Insha', Al 'Alam, Al Madara, Al Nazir, Al Shabab, Al Akhbar, Al Jabal, Al Nuqqad.

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ARAB AFFAIRS

TORTURE OF ARABS IN PALESTINE

The local press published during the week-end dramatic stories on the physical mistreatment suffered by 120 Arabs who were detained by the Israelis in concentration camps in Palestine's controlled area. Al Masa' headlined a release that "the US State Department has asked the Israeli Government for information concerning alleged mistreatment of Arabs who recently entered Israeli controlled territory without authorization" as follows: AMERICAN PROTEST AGAINST ISRAEL!

PRESIDENT TRUMAN'S STATEMENT

Al Ayyam of June 12 published a recent statement by President Truman which welcomed the Congress' approval of the funds allotted to the Arab refugee works projects and to the program of extending technical assistance to under-developed areas.

Commenting on this statement, the paper describes the allotment of a few dozens of millions of dollars to the refugees as a sign of sympathetic feeling which should be appreciated.

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(Pr. Dig. 110/2)

despite the unfortunate memories which are associated with it. However, President Truman's feelings would have been nobler had he or his Government made efforts to repatriate the refugees to their homes and to help them recover their property and cultivate their own lands. The repatriation of the refugees would not cost so many millions of dollars. It could be achieved were America to exert pressure on Israel and urge it to execute the United Nations resolutions and to abandon its attitude of disregard and indifference to this international organization. If America exerted such pressure it would save one million Arab refugees from remaining in a state of permanent need for assistance. As it is, the refugees are now desperate and resentful and they yearn to see justice done to them. Their present conditions provide a fertile ground for the spread of the very destructive propaganda which President Truman desires to curb.

President Truman is, more than any other responsible statesman, capable of doing justice to one million expatriated men, women and children and of restoring to the refugees their lost faith in justice and right. It is indeed illogical to attempt to help others tolerate their disasters, when the very causes of these disasters can be eliminated.

As for President Truman's program for extending technical assistance to under-developed areas, the meagerness of the funds allotted to it are apt to weaken its prospects and the hopes centered on it. Even President Truman who declared that the motive behind this program was to champion the cause of freedom and withstand communist imperialism, has himself felt that the funds are insufficient and has, in consequence, made the reservation that these funds will be available to the nations which are in a position to benefit by their own potentialities from American technical and scientific experience.

In conclusion, it should be pointed out that communist imperialism can be checked only if America and its allies treat other nations justly, equitably, and impartially.

TRIPARTITE STATEMENT

Al Insha of June 11 reports that the tripartite statement involves among other things the following points:

1- Reestablishment of French influence in Syria and Lebanon in return for ceding French Indo-China to America and for permitting the investment of American capital in Syria and Lebanon through the implementation of Truman's Point Four program. Le Monde, the French daily, made a reference to this point in its issue of May 30.

(Pr. Dig. 110/3)

2 - Increase of American political and economic influence in Egypt provided that America should exert pressure on Egypt to agree to the retention of British troops in Fayid, Suez and Sudan and to confine Anglo-Egyptian negotiations to formalities which would lead neither to the evacuation of British troops nor to the unity of the Nile Valley.

3 - Retention of Sa'udi Arabia under American influence, American infiltration into Yemen, and consolidation of American influence in Israel, Turkey, and Iran.

Al Alam continues to describe the tripartite statement as a conspiracy designed to consolidate the status of Israel, protect imperialistic interests in the Middle East, and to deprive the Arabs of the remnants of national sovereignty which they still enjoy. The paper adds that it would be a great disaster if the Arab League decides to accept the tripartite statement with certain reservation. It concludes by appealing to the Arab nation to fight the triple-headed imperialism which the tripartite statement involves.

Al Balad of June 11 editorially urges the Arab delegations to the Arab League to center their deliberations on the tripartite communique not on the trifling subject of the annexation of Eastern section of Palestine to Jordan.

Barada of June 12: According to a prominent political figure, the tripartite communique has not stopped the continuous sale of arms to the Jews.

Al Balad of June 11 published a statement attributed to the American Ambassador in Cairo in which he corrected the prevailing opinion that the tripartite statement means that the Arab states should recognize the present frontiers with Israel. Mr. Caffrey explained that the present frontiers are not at all final and that Israel occupies presently more lands than was given by the Partition decision - an occupation which is not acceptable to the three Western powers. Mr. Caffrey concluded that final frontiers would hinge upon a final solution to the Palestine problem.

ARAB LEAGUE

Al Manar of June 12 - A Cairo report indicates that Prime Minister Nazim al-Qudsi landed at Almasa Airport in Cairo on his way to attend the Arab League Council meeting which is scheduled to open in Alexandria on June 12. In reply to a question posed to him concerning Syria's policy at the League, the Premier stated, "Syria's sole aim is to bring about cooperation and understanding between the Arab states in the

(Pr. Dig. 210/4)

interest of all the "Arab nations." The Premier is further quoted as having said, "We pin great hopes on our sister Egypt at this critical time."

Al Insha' advises the Syrian delegation to the Arab League Council to realize that the expulsion of Jordan from the Arab League would have unfavorable repercussions. The paper adds that the question of Jordan was not formerly discussed by the Arab League on a logical and factual basis. Syria should not be exploited to serve certain individual designs or caprices but should be guided by the dictates of its national duty.

DOMESTIC AFFAIRS

TROUBLE IN MA'ARAH

Al Insha': The Muhafaza of Aleppo cabled the Ministry of Interior on Saturday noon that a fierce battle broke out in Khan Shayknun, in the neighborhood of Ma'arah between members of the Arab Socialist Party (Hawrani's) and certain inhabitants. Reportedly about 450 persons participated. Four were killed, 19 wounded, and 45 arrested. The situation is now under control, and inquiries are proceeding. According to a cable received from the Mukhtars of this village, the Arab Socialist Party has for the last four months been attacking the peaceful inhabitants

with immunity, and on Saturday, Party members attacked the inhabitants with machine guns and hand grenades and killed four children. Cables of protest have also been received from the Arab Socialist Party in Hama accusing Hiraki family, the feudal lords of the country, of arming their followers and preparing for action.

Barada asserts that for hundreds of years the peasants have been living peacefully and prosperously with their land owners from the Hiraki family. Recently, however, the peasants have been urged by destructive propaganda to revolt against the land owners. Members of the Arab Socialist Party toured the district in cars calling upon the people to join a new party whose dean claims to possess the supreme power. A number of naive inhabitants were deceived by the Arab Socialist Party's propaganda which centered on the promise that every peasant was to own the land which he cultivated. These naive inhabitants imagined that Moscow's principles had been inserted in the Syrian constitution and they had joined the Party. The Hiraki family and others were compelled to defend themselves. That explains the recent regrettable incidents. In conclusion, Barada urges the Government to reveal the names of those who were responsible for the trouble.

Al Alam published a statement by Akram Hawrani in which he said that it was the Arab Socialist Party which was first attacked. Hawrani supported his statement by the fact that all of those who

were injured in the incident were members of his party.

Al Fayha', June 12, -- The following is a summary of an editorial published by this paper under the title "TO AKRAM AL-HAWRANI" :

"You are vain, conceited, and reckless. Ever since your youth, you have been feeding on spite, malice, and dissension. You love to play with fire even at the risk of burning yourself, your people and your country. If you reflect for a while you would realize that you alone are responsible for the present widespread confusion and the dangers to which the country is exposed. It did not please you to see tranquillity and order prevail in Ma'ara for long, but you chose to sow dissension and kindle spite and malice. Innocent blood has in consequence been split and defenceless children have fallen victims of injustice and aggression.

"You claim that you are patriotic when your conception of patriotism is based on exploitation, opportunism, and spread of dissension and feuds. You claim that you are republican when you venally trade with independence and republican principles according to the flits of your whims and caprice as though republican principles were a commodity for purchase and sale. Was it not you who advocated union with the enemy at a meeting of the Council of Ministers a few months ago? Was it not you who ignored the blood of martyrs on the Evacuation Day? Was it not you who at one time sided with 'Azm and fought Qudsi, and later fought 'Azm and sided with Qudsi, at the expense of the independence and republican regime of the country which you always use as a pretext to justify your actions? Was it not you who applied your subtle stratagems to urge the Constituent Assembly to place its confidence in the present cabinet after you had sworn a mighty oath that such a cabinet would assume power only at the points of appears? How strongly do we desire to ferret you out from your lurking places, but you insist on playing the part of a bat and on plotting in the dark!

"We are told that you declared a few years ago that you were the man who would make Hama a second Munich. There can never be a more unfortunate comparison, since neither can you be compared with Hitler or the Germans, nor can Hama be considered as ready to acquiesce in despotism, intimidation, and injustice."

THE NATIONALIST PARTY COMMEMORATES.....

Al Fayha': Although the Government has forbidden the National Party branch in Homs to commemorate the anniversary of the late Nationalist Minister Mazhar Pasha Rislan at the Opera Theater in Homs, the commemoration was held yesterday, Sunday, at the house of 'Abdullah Farkih, the well-known Nationalist member of Homs. Several speeches were delivered and telegrams of sympathy from the Chief of State and Premier Qudsi were also read. Representatives from all over Syria were present.

A NEW POST TO NAZIH AL-HAKIM:

Al Manar, June 12 - The Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Shakir al-'Ass, has appointed Nazih al-Hakim, a Foreign Office official, director of his private bureau. (Nazih al-Hakim was acting director of the Directorate of Propaganda and Information).

'AZM'S LETTER OF RESIGNATION

Barada, June 10 - Failure to publish the text of Premier 'Azim's letter of resignation to the Chief of State is somewhat mystifying as it had been customary to publish such letters and the President's replies. Some persons reason that 'Azim's letter of resignation was a very detailed one and that the Chief of State believed it was not a proper time to publish it. He permitted only his reply to 'Azim's letter be published.

TRIBAL DISPUTES

Al Hadara of June 13 as well as all the week-end papers report that as a result of a tribal quarrel between Shammar and Al-Tay, 9 tribesmen were killed and 7 wounded. The fight which broke out over questions of land, took place in Al 'Arja, Jazirah. Shaykh Dahham al Hadi, of the Shammar, and 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Nayif and Ahmad al-Silmi of the Tay were arrested on charges of instigating the fight. Lt. Colonel Mahmud Binyan, the officer commanding the Desert Forces is personally handling the situation.

A communique issued by the Ministry of Interior asserts that the situation is now under control.

A NEW IRAQI MINISTER TO SYRIA

Al Nasr, June 12 - Mr. Musa al-Shabandar, the new Iraqi Minister accredited to the Republic of Syria, arrived in Damascus on Sunday by the Nairn Transport Company Pullman. He was officially received by the Syrian Foreign Office officials and Iraqi Legation staff.

In its issue of June 11, Al Fayha' remarks that the arrival of Minister Shabandar coincided with the formation of Qudsi's Cabinet just as his departure from Damascus a few months ago coincided with the third coup d'etat and the consequent arrest of Sami

Hinnawi. "Minister Shabandar" the paper comments, "was accredited to Syria when the question of Union between Syria and Iraq came up. What are the steps which the new Minister will undertake with the view to materializing the union? Would he intercede to have Hinnawi released, or, on the contrary, have his supporters imprisoned?..."

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS' MEETING

Barada, June 12: Communique

"At 7:00 p.m., Sunday, June 11, 1950, the Council of Ministers held a meeting at the Government House under the chairmanship of Ziki al-Khatib, the Acting Prime Minister and Minister of Justice. A draft rental law as well as decrees regarding customs tariffs were passed. The Council also approved a decree granting the municipality of Katana a 75,000 Syrian pounds loan to execute its electricity and water projects. The meeting adjourned at 10:30 p.m."

TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS BETWEEN SYRIA AND LEBANON

Barada, June 12 - This paper labels as untrue press reports and rumors that all travel restrictions between Syria and Lebanon have been lifted. It quotes reliable sources as stating that these restrictions will remain in force until a complete understanding between the two countries is reached and agreements concluded.

DISCHARGES IN THE DEFENSE MINISTRY

Al Balad, June 10 - The following officers in the Compulsory Service Department of the Syrian Army have been discharged by ministerial decisions: Lt. 'Abd-al-Ghani Tawfiq Ghazal, Captain Mahmud Bakir, and Captain 'Abd-al-Razzaq 'Ayrud.

CENSUS OF ARAB REFUGEES IN SYRIA

Al Qabas, June 11 - The total number of Palestinian Arab refugees resident in Syria is given as 83,325. They are distributed as follows:

| | |
|-------------|--------|
| Damascus | 39,831 |
| Jawlan | 10,354 |
| Hawran | 16,175 |
| Jabal Druze | 905 |
| Homs | 3,541 |
| Aleppo | 8,157 |
| Latakia | 1,249 |

DETENTION OF COMMUNISTS

Al-Ahram, June 11 - Inquiries conducted into the communist

demonstration....

demonstration last Sunday before the Roxy Theater have revealed the names of certain instigators. The Security Police apprehended Miss Munir 'Azar, of Kassa', 'Abd al-Latif Mur'i Abu Jamli, and Tawfiq Mur'i both Palestinian refugees, and Jamilah Halal, of the Jewish Quarter.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Al Fayha, June 11 - This paper reports that Premier Nazim al-Qudsi met the Constituent Assembly's Foreign Affairs Committee on Saturday afternoon and outlined his policy toward the Agenda of the Arab League. The Committee has reportedly agreed to Qudsi's policy and entrusted him with necessary powers.

BARMADA OPPOSED

Al Nuqqad: Mr. 'Adil al-Kikhya and Nazim al-Kayyali, both members of the Constituent Assembly for Harim, expressed dissatisfaction with the selection of Rashad Barmada as Minister of Interior by leaving the Parliament Hall when the vote of confidence came up. They were Barmada's bitter opponents in the Harim elections for the Assembly.

DENIAL

Al-Fayha: With reference to an Arab Agency report that 2,000 French troops were on their way to Lebanon, a spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated to the Eastern News Agency that neither the Syrian Government nor the Lebanese Government had any information concerning this report and described it as a rumor which cannot at all be authentic.

The paper criticizes the obscurity of this denial and states that the Foreign Ministry should, either alone or in conjunction with the French Legation, have issued an official denial or at least revealed the name of the spokesman who denied the report in question. Furthermore the absence of information concerning this report does not deny that France is desirous of regaining its influence in Syria and Lebanon. It is only natural that if France desires to return to Syria and Lebanon it would not ask the permission of the Syrian and Lebanese Governments.

ACCUSATIONS AGAINST JABBARA

Al Kifah in an open letter to the Prime Minister requested him to form a parliamentary or judicial committee to investigate the following accusations brought by this paper against the Minister of Finance, Hasan Jabbara:

1 - Deliberate paralyzation of Mira activities and objection to the formation of the Wheat Office - during Za'im's regime - to enable the Syriac French Company to purchase wheat at less than world prices. This action by Jabbara caused a 20 million Syrian pound loss to farmers who were compelled to sell their

(Pr. Dig. 110/9)

wheat at 10-12 piastres per kilo instead of world price of 22-25.

2. Conclusion of the agreement of July 8, 1948 with Lebanon by which he agreed to credit Lebanon with 4½ milliards French francs in return for the 44 million Syrian pounds frozen in Lebanon. The succeeding governments refused to recognize this unilateral agreement.

3. His possession of 200 shares in the Banque de Syrie while occupying the position of Government controller of the Bank.

4. His drafting of a decree by which the Banque de Syrie would be entitled to 1% interest in case of devaluation of the currency cover. This decree was disavowed by succeeding governments, but the Banque de Syrie continues to demand its implementation.

5. His issuance of a legislative decree on the eve of the assassination of Za'im granting the Banque de Syrie extensive powers. The succeeding governments disavowed this legislative decree.

6. His responsibility for the conclusion of Tapline, Anglo-Iranian, and Banque de Syrie agreements.

AT THE FOREIGN OFFICE

Al Balad, Saturday morning: Premier Qudsi received individually the British Charge d'Affaires, the Turkish, Iranian, French and American Ministers. It is understood that the Syrian Premier discussed with the British Charge d'Affaires the visit to Damascus of the Admiral of the British fleet in the Mediterranean and the visit of certain units of this fleet to the harbor of Latakia on June 15. It is to be noted that Mr. Keeley's visit lasted 75 minutes. It is certain that the Ministers of the three big powers presented to the Syrian Premier the clarifications he had asked for concerning the Tripartite Communique. Our representative learns that the American and French Ministers transmitted to the Syrian Premier their Governments' determination to recognize the annexation of the Arab section of Palestine to Jordan.

TO THE ARAB LEAGUE

Al Fayha: An official reception was extended Sunday morning at Mezzeh Airport to the Iraqi delegation to the Arab League composed of the Iraqi Premier Tawfiq al-Suwaydi and the Minister of Interior. The Syrian Premier discussed with his Iraqi colleague for half

an hour.....

(Pr. Dig. 110/10)

an hour the political situation and Arab League affairs. After the departure of the Iraqi delegation, the Syrian Premier returned to the Foreign Office and received Camille Chamoun, King Abdullah's Bernadotte. At 1:30 p.m., the Syrian delegation composed of Premier Qudsi, Colonel Silaw, the Minister of Defense, Salah al-Tarazi, the Secretary General at the Foreign Office, and Secretaries Muwwafaq al-Qudsi and 'Adil Al-Siba'i, left Mezzeh. Siba'i did not leave on the same plane because of lack of seats in the plane.

Prior to the departure of the Syrian delegation, decrees were issued appointing Ziki al-Khatib as acting Premier, Shakir al-'Ass as acting Foreign Minister, and Hasan Jabbara as acting Defense Minister.

Government officials and Lt. Colonel Shishikli were at the airport to see the Syrian delegation off.

ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

GOVERNMENT'S NEW WHEAT POLICY

Al Balad, June 10 - By a decision passed by the Council of Ministers all restrictions imposed on the purchase, sale, and transportation of wheat within Syria have been lifted. Export of wheat is permitted provided regulations concerning rare currencies resulting from such sales are complied with.

THE REGIE TOBACCO COMPANY

Alif Ba', June 11 - Mr. 'Izzat Diyab, the Director of the Regie Tobacco Company, interviewed the Minister of Finance on Saturday and reported to him on the separation of Syrian-Lebanese tobacco interests.

Mr. Diyab stated that separation of these interests has been finally effected. Syria will produce its domestic consumption of cigarettes.

LATAKIA HARBOR

Al Insha': The Syrian Government has rejected all the resignations of the Board of Directors of the Latakia Port. As soon as the Prime Minister returns from Cairo, a special meeting will be held to decide on these resignations and the sale of stocks.

(Pr. Dig. 110/11)

MOVIES THIS WEEK

FERIAL

NOTORIOUS

Cary Grant
Ingrid Bergman
Claude Rains

DUNIA

NIGHT BEAT

Anne Crawford
Maxwell Reed
Ronald Howard

AIDA

THE KILLERS

Bert Lancaster
Ava Gardner
