

APPENDIX III - NOTES ON THE UNITED FRONTS OF 1954 AND 1956

With the return of overt political activity in 1953, the Left again became more active. The National Democratic Party (NDP), when it reappeared, was apparently more infiltrated by Communists and began to give open support to such front organizations as the Peace Partisans and the Democratic Youth Union. Earlier that year a group led by Jamal Haydari, calling itself the Banner of Toilers (Riyat al Shaghila) disassociated itself from the major group of Iraqi Communists and advocated closer relationship with nationalist groups. In 1954, Communists (which groups, is not stated) gave their blessing and support to the NDP-Istiqlal United National Front (UNF) and are reported to have even participated unofficially in the UNF's Executive Committee.* Again, however, the dissolution of Parliament and the banning of the National Democratic Party blocked the unity drive.

To a great extent as a result of the efforts of Aziz Sharif, the Iraqi Communists achieved a degree of unity in June 1956-- apparently more so than at any time since 1947 (see above). Sharif's Communist Unity Party (al-Haqiqah, al Nidhal) group joined the al-Shaghila group and the main-stream al-Qaidah faction in a rejuvenated *Alleged Communists and Peace Partisans Kulayban Salih el-Ubli and Khaluq Amin Zaki served as labor and student representatives, respectively, on the Committee.

Iraqi Communist Party (ICP). Later, the Istiqlal and NDP merged to form a National Congress Group (NCG). The Ba'th (Resurrection) Party, now a potent power in Iraq, thereupon joined the NCG and the ICP in a new illegal National front. The Ba'th apparently was urging the Front's High National Committee to adopt an activist policy, calling for demonstrations, and open agitation. Even when the decision was made to boycott the May 1958 elections, the Ba'th urged demonstrations in connection with the campaign. The CPI, NDP, and Istiqlal elements as of early June 1958 objected to the Ba'thi action campaign.