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17 September 1979

# Near East/North Africa Report

(FOUO 34/79)



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NEAR EAST/NORTH AFRICA REPORT

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INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

IRAQ RESTATES OBLIGATION TO NEIGHBORS, RELEASES AID FIGURES

Paris AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI in Arabic 17-23 Aug 79 p 13

Text Baghdad--Responsible Iraqi sources in Baghdad affirmed that what has been said about the plotters' relations with a certain Arab front will not at all affect Iraq's attitude toward the resolutions of the last Arab summit conference held in Baghdad. These sources stated that Iraq considers itself completely obligated to abide by the conference's resolutions and that it is most eager to carry out all its commitments which were determined at this conference.

It has been learned that within the scope of its commitments, Iraq as of now has paid out 346,666,664 US dollars from a total of 520 million dollars which the last Baghdad summit conference agreed upon. As of now, Syria has received 183,237,000 dollars, Jordan 123,808,532 dollars, the Palestine Liberation Organization 14,857,555 dollars and the special fund to support the Arab people in the occupied territory--which fund is maintained at Jordanian Central Bank--9,905,432 dollars.

These sources affirm that Iraq will pay the last installment of its patriotic commitment on time. These Iraqi circles have noted that great efforts are being made in a number of capitals to cause peripheral fights between Iraq and some of its Arab sister countries. They comment that Iraq has chosen to lick its wounds at this time and not to allow provocations to drag it into marginal contradictions unless these capitals themselves want to concoct some open battles.

Observers here fear that the attempted attack upon Iraqi ambassador 'Abdallah al-Hasan in London falls within the realm of provocative attempts to cause contradictions among the Arabs.

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NORTH AFRICAN AFFAIRS

EXACERBATION OF NATIONAL ANTAGONISMS IN MAGHREB DECRIED

Paris JEUNE AFRIQUE in French 18 Jul 79 pp 44-46

[Article by Mehdi Malek: "The Maghreb Ill-used"; passage enclosed in slantlines published in italics]

[Text] Between June 7 and 10, the Europeans voted for the election by universal suffrage of a European Assembly. This election saw the participation in the balloting, the same week, of electors of nine different nationalities. There was already a Consultative Assembly, but it was only the emanation of the various national parliaments which nominated its members. The assembly that will meet at Strasbourg will be one directly elected by the peoples of Europe and will have powers of a different nature from those of the preceding one.

There was already a European administration of 15,000 officials at Brussels, instances of concerted executive action at all levels; periodic meetings of heads of governments, of ministers of foreign affairs, industry, finance, etc. The Europe which is a reality today, in a way, finished its construction on June 10.

For us citizens of the Maghreb, Europe has been a reality for a long time, since the major economic questions which we were still negotiating separately 10 years ago with France, Italy or the Federal Republic of Germany are today the object of common policies worked out in Brussels, which has become the place where our economic relations with the various countries of the Community are being negotiated. We should recall at this juncture that 1979 is the 21st year since the qualified representatives of the three north African countries met at Tangiers to proclaim the principles which were to lead these countries where the Treaty of Rome led the countries of Europe. Where are we 21 years later?

At the same point, the optimists will say. Maghreb, the realists will say, instead of going forward, has only gone backward. As to the pessimists, they will answer you that the Maghreb will never see the light of day. Who is right? Probably all three at the same time.

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At Tangiers

But how did we get there? It is Algeria's fault, stated Ali Yata, an officer of the Moroccan Communist Party, at the end of April during a meeting at Casablanca on Arab unity. In a Maghrebian profession of faith, such as was heard several times per year 25 years ago, he pointed, with his habitual ardor, to those responsible for the failure of the Maghreb: the Algerians, whose desires for hegemony plead in favor of the Maghreb only if it is entirely under their influence. This thesis, which is legal tender in Morocco, not only among the communists, but also outside of Morocco, contains, for many, a large portion of truth.

In my opinion, despite everything, the responsibilities for this enormous failure are rather to be sought elsewhere. But before this, it might perhaps be useful to recall the contents of the Tangiers declaration.

The congress for the unification of the Maghreb was held at Tangiers from April 27 to 30, 1958. It brought together representatives of Morocco, Tunisia and Algeria (which had not yet regained its independence). The Tunisian delegation was presided over by Bahi Ladgham, then President Bourguiba's right arm. It included Abdelmuajid Chaker, leader of the party, Abdallah Farhat, director of the presidential cabinet, Taleb Mehiri, Minister of the Interior, Ali Belhaouane, Mayor of Tunis, and Ahmed Tlili for the UGTT (Tunisian General Federation of Labor). The Algerian delegation consisted of Ferhat Abbas, Ahmed Boumendjel, Abdelhamid Boussouf, Abdelhamid Mehri, Ahmed Francis and Rachid Kaid. The Moroccans were represented by Allal el-Fassi, Ahmed Balafrej, Mehdi Ben Barka, Mahjoub Ben Seddik, Fekih Basri and Abderrahim Bouabid.

A reading of these names shows how representative these delegations were of the political forces dominating the Maghrebian scene in 1958.

As a result of their efforts, several resolutions were passed on the Algerian war of independence, Western aid to France for continuation of the Algerian war, the liquidation of the after-effects of colonialism in the Arab Maghreb...and two resolutions of interest to our subject: one on Maghrebian unity and the other on the permanent secretariat of the congress for the unity of the Maghreb.

Two Resolutions

It is useful to reread them 21 years afterward: /"The congress...decides...

"That the time has come to translate the unanimous will for unity of the peoples of the Maghreb into common institutions which will enable these peoples to play their part on the international scene;

"To work toward the achievement of this union which will take the form of a federation, which is most suited to the realities in the countries participating in this congress. And in view of this objective, the congress recommends: "That, on a temporary basis, an Arab Maghreb advisory council

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be set up which would be the emanation of the national parliaments of Tunisia and Morocco, and for Algeria, of the National Council of the Algerian Revolution, which will be commissioned to study questions of common interest and to present recommendations to the national executive;

"Stresses the need for periodic contacts on a regular basis and whenever the need arises between the national authorities in the three countries in order for them to work together on the problems of the Arab Maghreb and on the study of ways of executing the recommendations issued by the Arab Maghreb advisory council; "Establishes a permanent secretariat of six persons (two per country) who will oversee the execution of the recommendations of the congress."/

The Role of 'Abd-al-Nasir

Such were the Tangiers recommendations. Simple but universal.

Why have they remained a dead letter? External factors have worked strongly against the idea of the Maghreb. Nevertheless, and this is the essential reason, many internal factors have not been able to work in favor of this unity.

Many outside of the Maghreb did not view favorably the setting up, south of the Mediterranean, of a Maghrebian bloc of 40 million inhabitants (50 million today). But the man who worked most powerfully to set the Maghrebians against one another was Nasir. All Nasir's propaganda presented Maghrebian unity as an imperialist maneuver to put a stop to universal Arab unity, whose herald he made himself. The Voice of the Arabs, Hasanayn Haykal, Nasir himself, were never able to admit that the Maghrebians were united and pleaded without respite against Maghrebian unity - presented as contrary to the dream of Arab unity.

Against Bourguiba, Nasir carried on an implacable struggle, which never truly abated. Against Ferhat Abbas, he chose Ahmed Ben Bella who, through his central position in the Maghreb, was to be his intermediary and the main-spring of that Arab unity which Ben Bella prayed for in preference to a Maghrebian policy deemed as limiting his field of action. You may recall his single speech at Tunis, limited to one sentence repeated three times: "We are Arabs."

Crisis and War

On Egypt's frontier, Libya, then governed by the Sanusis, increasingly looked toward the Maghreb, but did not advance a step except in preparation for the following step backward. The replacement of the Tangiers Algerians by others who allied themselves with the opponents of the Tunisian and Moroccan regimes, direct intervention in the internal affairs of brother states in the name of Arab unity were to exacerbate nationalisms and lead to the Algerian-Moroccan war regarding Tindouf and to the interminable discussions between Tunisia and Algeria on the marking out of the frontier north of the small El-Borma oilfield.

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As a result of all this, instead of the concerted action called for at Tangiers, there was an exacerbation of antagonisms which was not displeasing to Cairo and especially not to Paris. Let us point out, to be complete, the crisis between Tunis and Rabat on the occasion of Mauritanian independence, the birth at Tripoli of a regime which, after having adopted Nasser's arguments on the Maghreb, occasionally moderated its pretensions, but like Nasser still considers that political assassination is the shortest route to achieving Arab unity, and lastly the lamentable war between Algeria and the POLISARIO Front on the one hand and between Morocco and Mauritania on the other, to top off this immense failure.

#### Lack of Freedoms

But having reached this point, the fact is that in all these events, the peoples have rarely had anything to say--these peoples who, today independent, have many fewer opportunities to meet than at the time they were colonized by France. They do not have anything to say because the political parties are strictly regulated. If Europe has made itself, it is in spite of the states, whose natural and normal function is to be opposed to any attack on national sovereignty. Nor is it popular pressure that has imposed Europe on the European governments, but the presence of different political parties who discussed it in their congresses, the freedom of association which authorized the setting up of meeting points between different men, the freedom of the press which made it possible to discuss it in books and newspapers, on radio and television.

One state will never be able to impose the Maghreb on the others. And if that were so one day, such a Maghreb would be stillborn, because it would be fought against by all free men. The peoples of the Maghreb, who desire the Maghreb of Tangiers, will they be able to impose it on their leaders! Yes, the day they will be able to meet to discuss it, to write on the subject without risk, to oppose their governors without being treated as traitors. No, Mr Ali Yata, despite appearances, the failure of the Maghreb is not the fault of Algeria alone. It is the result of the lack of democratic freedoms that would have prevented the governments from setting out on the slope of exacerbated nationalisms.

Whatever Europe has done, it is not Jean Monnet nor Robert Schuman, but the democratic regimes in power in the countries of Europe that have made it possible to achieve in less than 20 years the election of a European Assembly by universal suffrage. It is the lack of democracy that has prevented the construction of the Maghreb.

Now, the developments that have been taking place for the last 4 years in the Maghreb seem to be favorable to a resumption of the discussion outside governmental spheres. The press is becoming less and less monolithic; new newspapers are seeing the light of day, not all of which are official spokesmen of the governments. A modus vivendi has been established with opposition politicians, who can today publicly express their points of view within limits that they can certainly find narrow, but which did not exist 4 years ago.

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Concerted Action

On the other hand, the increasingly insidious protectionism of Europe with regard to the Maghreb, the increasingly narrow margin that will be left for Maghrebian exports by the adhesion of Spain, Portugal and Greece to the European Economic Community, the reopening to question by France of the labor agreements, all the incitements to departure at which the police are not the least effective, all this calls for concerted action. But if the political parties, the trade unions, the press, the university become involved, this collaboration can go beyond its defensive character and lead to constructive actions. Moreover, there must be an end to the absurd, fratricidal war in the Sahara, which profits only the armaments prurveyors. Libya, too, must stop behaving, with regard to the Maghreb, the way that, for a long time, Great Britain did with regard to the CEF [expansion unknown].

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ALGERIA

POLITICAL BEARINGS OF KIDNAPPING DALILA MASCHINO DISCUSSED

Paris AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI in Arabic 3-9 Aug 79 pp 32, 33

[Article: "The Political Bearings of the Story of Dalila Zeghar Preoccupies Chadli Bendjedid's Algeria; Romance and Revenge; the French Husband Asks That His Wife Be Returned to Him; the New Regime Asks for the Return of the People's Funds"]

[Text] AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI returns to the story of Dalila Zeghar to relate the political bearings of a passionate, political question. Its purpose in doing so is not to undermine the prestige of the late President Houari Boumediene whom it loves and respects and whose battles and positions on behalf of his country it appreciates. Its purpose is not to antagonize a powerful man like Messaoud Zeghar who derives his power from his influence and his fortune which is in the millions. Nor is its purpose of AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI in returning to this story is to serve the truth; to serve the question of truth in the homeland; and to demonstrate to the rulers as well as their subjects that in the absence of democracy, freedom, a [free] press and genuine popular constitutional organizations, abuses, exploitation and corruption may occur despite the track record men had established and despite the slogans they may proclaim.

If AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI chooses to pursue a rigorous course in the question of Dalila Zeghar, it does pledge to accept any corrections or comments made by any parties who may be closely or remotely involved in the matter. AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI will accept such comments with an open mind and will also provide space on its pages for these comments.

The time: Dawn, 25 April 1978

The place: Dorval Airport in Montreal, Canada.

The incident: A young woman, seated in a wheelchair and almost unconscious, is pushed past the police barricade without arousing anybody's attention and is taken into a private DC-8 airplane.

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This was how the famous case began which later became known as the case of Dalila Maschino and her brother, Algerian businessman Messaoud Zeghar, known as Rachid Casa. On that day more than a year ago Messaoud kidnapped his sister Dalila from the home of her French husband Denis. He used cunning to bring her back to the remote Algerian village of El Evlma which is located in the province of Setif [about] 250 kilometers from the capital.

At that time this incident created a far-reaching uproar in the Western media. Today, it has become the common subject of conversation in Algeria especially after the [return of a] climate of freedom and openness that the new regime is trying to establish. Dalila's story became the subject of conversation after the first signs of change appeared with the release of former Algerian President Ahmed Ben Bella.

Contrary to what was written in the western press at that time, this case is not only that of a family, a tribe or of passion, but it is also a political case.

What is the true story? Who is Messaoud Zeghar? What were the political bearings of this case?

The Story From the Beginning

The story began in 1974 when Dalila Zeghar met her colleague at the university, Denis Maschino. The relationship between the two developed into a romance, and they wanted to get married. But Messaoud, Dalila's older brother, refused this matter and objected strongly to it because he was considered the final authority on everything that pertained to family affairs. He had chosen the bridegrooms for all his sisters.

In September of the same year Dalila feigned ill health and claimed that it was necessary to travel to Switzerland to consult with a specialist. From there she moved to Paris where she met her betrothed, and they were married in the French capital in the spring of 1975.

Naturally, Messaoud did not brook what he considered an insult to him and to his family, but the marriage did continue for 3 years with no disturbances. But then the couple decided to settle in Canada so they can stay away from problems, continue their studies and establish a new life.

But it turned out afterwards that the watchful eyes of Brother Messaoud had never stopped following them and that he was even able to obtain a photograph of them as they were leaving Orly Airport in France on their way to Canada.

Ever since that time Messaoud's principal concern became how to kidnap his sister and make her submit to his authority. He caught up with her several times in Montreal and tried to coax her to return to Algeria. But on the first of September 1976 Dalila decided not to see him again.

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A year later, that is, in September of 1977 Messaoud sent one of his recently married daughters to settle in Canada. She settled in a community near the one in which Messaoud's sister lived with her husband. In April 1978 Messaoud sent the rest of his sisters and their children. The relatives used to visit Dalila's house, and they used to invite her for dinner in the restaurants of Montreal.

But when Dalila went out with them on the evening of 24 April without her husband who was preoccupied with preparations for his examinations, she did not return. It turned out later that her sisters had drugged her food and had carried out the careful plan that Messaoud had devised to bring his sister back [to Algeria]. He had prepared a passport for her and [had made arrangements for] a private airplane and special escorts [for the trip].

Dalila regained consciousness in the airplane 3 hours [after the plane took off]. It was a private plane owned by her brother and piloted by a 65-year old American pilot, Louis Furlong. The shocking realization of what had happened and the looks of family members who surrounded her sent Dalila back to unconsciousness awaiting the unknown.

#### A New Husband

The story goes on that as soon as his sister returned, he married her off to a member of the tribe who had been prepared [for this role] in advance and who had been promised this marriage years ago.

Denis quickly notified the authorities that his wife had disappeared, and they began searching for her.

Naturally, the press in Canada, and especially the press in France, clamored for news about the incident. A stream of official protests poured onto the Algerian government, and Algerian women demonstrated in Paris and formed a committee to defend Dalila and to defend women's rights.

But news of Dalila broke off ever since that time. Only one letter that was extremely moving was leaked. She had been able to smuggle that letter from her prison to her husband. Dalila revealed in her letter, which was written in English, the circumstances of her kidnapping; the role that every one of his sisters played in carrying out the plan of the older brother; and the miserable circumstances under which she was living. According to her letter she was being guarded by armed men and vicious dogs.

At this end in this letter Dalila clearly indicated that if she would not be able to escape soon from the gang that was detaining her, her only recourse was to commit suicide.

#### Who Is Denis Maschino?

This is the emotional and tribal framework of the story on which the press focused at that time.

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But the problem has another aspect of a political nature. It is this aspect which is returning to the news. The political nature of the story is perhaps best explained by explaining the identity of her first husband and that of her brother Messaoud Zeghar.

Denis Maschino is the son of Maurice Maschino whose story is well-known. He was one of the first Frenchmen to rebel against the [French] army during the Algerian War and to refuse to fight against the Algerians. Maurice became the leader of the French who allied themselves with the Liberation Front and with those within its ranks who were fighting for the Algerian cause.

After Algeria won its independence Maurice adopted Islam and called himself Tariq. He married the well-known Algerian writer Fadilah Murabit. In 1965, however, after Boumediene assumed the reins of power in Algeria, the couple preferred to move to France. Afterwards, they published several books criticizing the new conditions in Algeria. They co-authored a book entitled "Jaza'ir al-Awham" [The Illusory Algeria] in which they criticized existing political and social conditions. Fadilah also became well-known because of two books she wrote about the status of women in Algeria. Fadilah and Maurice thus came to be considered enemies of the regime of the late President Houari Boumediene, and this had a negative effect on Denis Maschino, the son of Maurice from his first French wife.

Messaoud Zeghar, the Algerian Khashoggi

The story of Messaoud Zeghar is good material for a thrilling detective movie. Messaoud, who is known as the Algerian 'Adnan Khashoggi, is considered today one of the wealthiest people in the world. A few months before he kidnapped his sister, he staged a celebration in Geneva that was fit for a king to mark the fact that his fortune had amounted to--are you ready for this?--one billion dollars!

How did Messaoud amass his fortune? How did he get all his power and his influence? How can a person become a millionaire in a socialist country?

Zeghar began his career as a vegetable merchant at the Casablanca market in Morocco. His maternal uncle, Embarek Djilani, was the treasurer of a political movement. But Messaoud, who at that time adopted the name Rachid Casa, was very close to Abdelhafid Boussouf, minister of public communications and transportation in the provisional Algerian government. He had been charged with carrying out "special missions."

Zeghar joined the Oujda Group which rallied around Boumediene; the group also included Bouteflika. It was from that time that Zeghar began making his contacts with arms suppliers and especially with those in West Germany. Zeghar was responsible for the arms deals that were made [to procure weapons] for the "frontier army."

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After independence, throughout the administration of President Ben Bella, Zeghar became preoccupied with some of his private affairs. But as soon as President Boumediene assumed power, Messaoud began to appear prominently in events [of the day]. It was learned afterwards that had the coup failed, he would have been responsible for Boumediene's escape to Switzerland or to Spain. He was also the real founder of the military intelligence organization in Algeria which until recently was considered the only real authority in the country.

Zeghar achieved the pinnacle of his glory during the administration of Boumediene. He was considered a minister extraordinary. In spite of the fact that he stayed away from all official functions, he did undertake special and sensitive missions. He had an important position in the military intelligence organization, but he was not subject to the superintendent general of this agency Mr Kasdi Merbah (his real name is Abdallah Khalef). Mr Merbah's name rose to prominence during President Boumediene's illness, and today he has a leadership position in the national army. Zeghar maintained constant, direct contact with President Boumediene.

A Middleman and Commissions

With regard to how Zeghar amassed his fortune, it is known that he was a middleman in all the oil and gas deals that were concluded between the United States and Algeria during the past years. He was also the middleman in other huge deals such as those that were concluded with the Spain branch of the ITT Corporation or with the Boeing Aircraft Corporation.

Naturally, he received tremendous commissions. He was also responsible for funds deposited abroad and belonging to some senior officials. These were funds that were transferred through him to U.S. banks on a special basis. It is known that Zeghar is a close friend of Mr David Rockefeller, the president of the well-known Chase Manhattan Bank. Zeghar invested millions of dollars in the United States, in Switzerland, in France and in Canada where he purchased a ski resort in its entirety.

What is even more curious is that the ambassador of Canada to Algeria lives in an apartment owned by Zeghar and that the ambassador of Algeria to Canada is also one of Zeghar's relatives and a member of his family.

Up to this point the episodes in this series [of events] appear to be related, and we are able to understand how Messaoud acquired his fortune and his power.

The Political Aspect of the Romance

A final question remains concerning the political role of Zeghar, the businessman.

People who are informed about the secrets and the circumstances of Dalila's kidnapping say that the incident is considerably more than an act of tribal, family or religious revenge, as the Western media depicted it. To demonstrate



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the political dimension of the case those people are saying that it would be inconceivable for a man who is a friend of Rockefeller, a tycoon and a major world figure in economics and politics who owns palaces, ski resorts and investments in various Western countries and who acts as a middleman in arms, oil and gas deals to jeopardize his reputation merely to have his sister submit to his authority.

There are those who are wondering that if this were in fact the objective, would it not have been easier for Zeghar to kidnap his sister when she was living in Paris instead of setting up a complicated police operation to kidnap her from Canada?

Some friends who are close to businessman Zeghar are saying that Zeghar was in fact told that his sister intended to write a book about conditions in her country. He knew that she had disturbing information and important secrets because she was a member of the Zeghar family.

This disturbing information began to worry and to trouble him. He feared that his sister may destroy his position as a middleman in oil, gas and defense deals and as a man who had the confidence of senior officials. This would have had a considerable impact on his interests, on his business and on his broad and intricate relationships.

And so it came about that the business tycoon drew up a plan to kidnap his sister and to bring her back to Algeria. He prepared all the details that would ensure the success of his plan.

Zeghar, Boumediene and Bouteflika

Mr Zeghar is described here as one of the closest associates of the late President Boumediene. He managed Boumediene's business, his estate and his private affairs. When Zeghar expressed a preference for remaining away from the limelight of government after independence, Mr Abdelaziz Bouteflika was set up as his political front. Herein lies the real power that kept Bouteflika minister of foreign affairs for 15 years and made him one of the centers of power during that period. Bouteflika's power lay in Zeghar's support for him. Now that Mr Bouteflika has receded from public life, it would appear that Zeghar's positions have become subject to question.

It is one of the ironies of destiny that the various official and popular committees that had been formed to defend Dalila were submitting their grievances primarily to Bouteflika in his capacity as minister of foreign affairs.

Some circles here attribute the virulent campaign that was launched against former Minister of Energy Mr Belaid Abdesselam to the fact that it was produced by Mr. Zeghar. This campaign led to the removal of Belaid Abdesselam from the cabinet during the cabinet shuffle that took place in April 1977. He was placed in charge of the light industries sector.

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Belaid tried to avenge himself after the death of President Boumediene when he openly accused Bouteflika of smuggling 50 million francs to Switzerland. He asked that Bouteflika be tried by members of the Party's Central Bureau.

The Revenge of Belaid Abdesselam

The fact of the matter is that the conflict between the group of Belaid Abdesselam and those of Messaoud Zeghar goes back to the gas deals with the U.S. El Paso Corporation. Messaoud had tried to completely exclude Belaid from the conclusion of these deals. He was the one who was behind the contract with the American corporation that was to be in effect for more than 20 years. According to this contract Algeria was to sell its natural gas for the same prices throughout this long period of time.

Naturally, the commissions were large enough to win approval for all kinds of deals. It is known that the late President Boumediene had at that time ordered Belaid Abdesselam to stay out of this question completely and to let Zeghar take action at his discretion.

On the other hand commissions were being transferred to Swiss and U.S. banks by means of some aides, and they were being distributed among middlemen and influential figures. The commissions were also being invested immediately in huge projects in various Western countries.

Belaid Abdesselam resented the fact that he and his group had been excluded from these deals, but he preferred to maintain his silence because of the conditions that were existing at that time.

AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI has learned that there was a heated debate about these deals and about the role of Mr Zeghar and his group during the recent meetings of the committees of the National Assembly. The attack on Mr Zeghar was led by the current Minister of Energy Mr Nabi who has the confidence of President Bandjedid. These committees decided to overlook the commissions that were paid in Algeria to some figures in Algerian dinars. But they decided to ask Zeghar and his group to pay back the millions of dollars that were transferred to foreign banks in hard currencies, [arguing that] the average citizen had not been allowed to take more than 300 French francs when leaving his country.

These are some of the secrets of the case of Messaoud Zeghar and his sister Dalila. Reopening this case foretells that a solution will soon be found in the course of purging the state machinery. After the release of the last political prisoner in the prisons of Algeria, Algerian public opinion began to become aware of the existence of a political prisoner of another kind. She did not have a political past, but she symbolized some of the excesses that may occur in the name of sic ans which have nothing to do with these excesses.

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ALGERIA

SECOND GAS PIPELINE TO ITALY PLANNED

Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 20 Jul 79  
p 2034

Text The Algerian government is considering building a second gas pipeline linking the Algerian gasfields to Italy, official Algerian sources have reported. This line could largely double the capacity of the gas pipeline now being built, which will be used to send gas from Hassi R'Mel to the Italian coast, crossing Tunisia and the Mediterranean seabed.

This project would be of interest to a number of European countries, including France, the Federal Republic of Germany, and Austria, which are not to be served by the first pipeline but which, along with Italy, could later be supplied more easily and more cheaply by this second pipeline.

Algeria's natural gas is now shipped to Europe by means of an expensive method. The gas is liquefied before being loaded in specially designed tankers and is then regasified upon arrival. The recipient countries report that the use of the gas pipeline could reduce shipping costs significantly, and for Algeria it would mean a 250 to 300 percent reduction in the investments needed for exporting natural gas.

This second gas pipeline could be supplied from the Rhourde Souss and Adrar deposits, which are closer to the Tunisian border.

Although the national petroleum company, SONATRACH National Company for the Transport and Marketing of Hydrocarbons, says

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it has not yet made a study of this matter, the minister of energy, Mr Belkacem Nabi, publicly expressed his interest in this project. If it were done, it would almost certainly mean a substantial reduction in the gas liquefaction plants construction program, especially at Skikda and Arzew, near the Mediterranean coast.

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ALGERIA

REPORT ON BEA AND ITS ACTIVITIES

Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 13 Jul 79  
p 1972

Text On the occasion of the BEA's Algerian Foreign Bank recent publication of its 1977 annual report, we thought it would be of interest to remind our readers of the main features of this institution, which is not so well known as some others.

The BEA and Its Activities

According to its bylaws, the BEA, a public establishment set up by the ordinance of 1 October 1967, is designed to aid in Algeria's development by increasing export and import financing, by financing expansion programs for some state companies, and by promoting foreign trade. The budget laws of 1970 and 1972 stressed the BEA's medium and long-term financing, although short-term financing is still of some significance.

In 1967 and 1968, the BEA purchased the Algerian subsidiaries of five French banks. Its main office is located in Algiers at 11, Boulevard Colonel-Amirouche. It has 26 branches in 18 cities in Algeria, and since 1976, it has had two branches abroad: the Arab Intercontinental Bank in Paris (50 percent owned by the BEA) and the Arab Bank for Investment and Foreign Trade in Abu Dhabi (33 percent of its stock). It also holds shares in the capital stock of a number of international banks, such as the UBAF Union of Arab and French Banks (6.3 percent). Its capital stock, originally 20 million DA Algerian Dinars supplied by the state, has been increased several times, and on 20 May 1978 amounted to 500 million DA.

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In order to promote Algerian development, the BEA tries to channel both Algerian and foreign capital toward investment (especially industrial investment). In this way it handles most of Algeria's foreign transactions, especially those involving petroleum and the hydrocarbon processing industries. The finance law of 1970 required state enterprises to use only a single financial institution to handle all of their banking operations. Therefore, many of them are clients of the BEA. Some of these clients are the SONATRACH /National Company for the Transport and Marketing of Hydrocarbons/, the SNS /National Steel Company/, the SONELEC /Algerian National Company for the Manufacture and Installation of Electrical and Electronic Equipment/, and the CNAN (maritime navigation). In addition to these major areas of activity, the BEA, in accordance with Algeria's development plans, has been involved in sectors as varied as construction materials, wood pulp and paper, glass and chemicals, textiles, and wood and leather items.

In the area of foreign trade, the BEA advises its clients, helps them to promote their products, and with their financing. The private sector, which also benefits from its advice and facilities, accounts for approximately 5 percent of its work.

The board of directors includes a chairman of the board and president (at this time Mr Bouasria Belghoula), a vice president, and three representatives of government ministries involved with running the bank: foreign affairs, commerce, and light industry. The board also includes three directors of credit, foreign affairs, and administration.

#### The 1977 Fiscal Year

In its introduction, the annual report gives a brief description of the economic situation in 1977, "a sluggish year": average growth in the United States and Japan, weak growth in the other western countries; a slowdown in countries with a planned economy; crises in steel, textiles, and chemicals, with a rise in protectionism in the OECD /Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development/ countries; a disturbed monetary situation and decline of the dollar, unfavorable to the petroleum countries because their receipts are based on the dollar; loans available for the rest of the underdeveloped world, but of course at the cost of a growing debt; and stagnation of negotiations towards a new international economic order.

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In such a gloomy environment, Algeria considerably increased its investments in 1977, the final year of its second 4-year plan: 43 billion DA in 1977 (up from 33 billion in 1976) financed primarily by national savings (79 percent). Income and consumption also grew at high rates. While not attaining the rates of preceding years, growth was sustained, with the nation's GNP Gross Domestic Product growing by 17.3 percent and the per capita PIB coming to 4,803 DA (4,235 DA in 1976). For the socialist enterprises alone, 30 billion DA of investments authorized by the 1977 finance law were used; 37 percent of this was for hydrocarbons and 8 to 9 percent for each of the following three sectors: steel, chemicals, and mechanical and electrical construction.

This situation gave the BEA one fiscal year showing a clear growth over the preceding year. Its total resources increased by 55.3 percent, from 4,162 to 6,464 million dinars; its aid to business, in which long-term loans outpaced medium-term financing, increased by 7.8 percent in relative value. The balance sheet grew by 21 percent, a very significant figure although less than the previous year.

Among the bank's assets is the striking fact of the significant decline (16.9 percent) in current accounts, the regularization of prefinancing in 1976 rather than a reversal of this trend. Bills, however, more than doubled, a result both of the improvement of business finances and the growth of the BEA's own resources. Medium and long-term loans, designed mainly to cover the needs for foreign currency for payment of specific projects, increased 20 percent. The SCNATRACH, the SONELEC, and the SNMC National Construction Materials Company were the main recipients.

Among the liabilities, the trend is continuing toward a more harmonious equilibrium among the various items. From 63 percent in 1975, the items most important in the past (banks and correspondents, miscellaneous creditors, medium and long-term loans) declined to 58 percent in 1976 and to 45.6 percent in 1977. Term and sight resources, however, were at 31 percent compared with 24.4 percent in 1976.

As total receipts grew by 17.9 percent and charges only by 0.4 percent (because of a decrease in the business volume tax), the before tax results showed a growth rate of 21 percent, down from 44 percent in 1976. Because of these 2 favorable

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years the ministers decided, as mentioned earlier, to raise the bank's capital stock from 360 to 500 million dinars in May 1978.

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ALGERIA

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH MEETINGS HELD

Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 20 Jul 79  
p 2034

Text The fifth session of the CNRS National Scientific Research Council was held in Algiers from 2 to 4 July. Its main objective was to define, working in collaboration with the production sectors, new objectives for research and the structures that should be set up. Four working committees formulated recommendations in their respective areas: raw materials, energy, and technology; agriculture, biology, and medicine; territorial development; and social sciences.

What is being asked of research -- self-sufficiency in food production and technological mastery -- are conditions essential for national independence, and do call for a solution of the problems of the Algerianization of research, the democratic content of its development, its integration in development plans, and the planning of research. The scientists favored "an integrated research associating basic research with applied research, including training in research and favoring the concept of multi-disciplinary research teams."

The minister of higher education and scientific research, Mr Brerhi, said during the closing ceremony: "Your recommendations will be ours, for the atmosphere in which your work was done is a sign of the unanimously shared intention to work to develop a research plan integrated with our national development plan."

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## ALGERIA

## BRIEFS

COOPERATION WITH TUNISIA--Continuing his official visit to Algeria (see MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS of 6 July), Mr Hassan Belkhodja, Tunisia's minister of agriculture, visited a number of facilities and establishments operated by Algeria's ministry of agriculture and agrarian reform. To improve their respective potential by means of closer cooperation, the two ministers of agriculture are going to propose to their governments a work program calling for the following steps: the use of the available technical cadres for both countries; the assignment of production equipment to meet the needs of the two countries, to the extent that capacities allow this; reciprocal participation in joint and complementary projects; and the use of existing organizations (research offices, research and training centers) to benefit both countries. Depending on the quantities available, and without allowing this to harm the consumption of the two populations, priority will be given to supplying food products, and to the exchange of technical and scientific information, the exchange of missions, and the comparison of management methods. All these provisions are the beginning of a coordination of the agricultural policies of the two nations. /Text/ /Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 13 Jul 79 p 1972/ 7679

CONTRACT FOR COMPRESSOR PLANT AT AIN SMARA--A contract to build a compressor plant costing 70 million £ was awarded to a consortium of two firms, one German (Heilmann and Littman) and the other Dutch (Bos Kalis Westminster Construction). The plant, located in Algeria at Ain Smara, will also have a training center and a housing complex. It is to be completed in 30 months. /Text/ /Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 20 Jul 79 p 2035/ 7679

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OIL EXPLORATION PERMIT--An association agreement for liquid hydrocarbon research and development was signed on 7 July in Algiers between the SONATRACH /National Company for the Transport and Marketing of Hydrocarbons/ and the Yugoslav firm, Naphtaga<sup>2</sup>. It covers the areas of Touggourt and Garet Tesselit, a 2,200 square kilometer area (see MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS of 8 June, p 1536). /Text/ /Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 20 Jul 79 p 2034/ 7679

NEW NOMENCLATURE FOR MEDICINES--In two general meetings held on 28 June and 12 July, the UMA /Algerian Medical Union/ gave medical practitioners information on the new nomenclature for medicines in use in Algeria since 1 July. The new list, adopted after consultation with 600 international suppliers, and after testing of all imported medicines, is the third Algeria has used. From 10,000 forms available in 1970, the second list had already been cut to 2,500; and the present list is even more restricted, although it still remains open and developmental. The supply sources have been diversified in order to avoid any problems in obtaining supplies. /Text/ /Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 20 Jul 79 p 2035/ 7679

PRIORITY TO AIRPORTS--An important coordination meeting was held in Algiers on 8 July between the ministers of public works, transport, and land development to examine the medium and long-term airport development plan. It was recognized that this issue deserves greater priority in order to accelerate the nation's development, especially the development of the interior. A working group composed of cadres from the three ministries was established; its mission is to present specific proposals very soon. /Text/ /Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 20 Jul 79 p 2035/ 7679

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IRAN

DISSIDENT LEADER EVALUATES KHOMEYNI'S POSITION

Milan L'EUROPEO in Italian 23 Aug 79 p 35 LD

[Interview with Ali Asghar Haj-Seyyed-Javadi, Iranian Constituent Assembly member by Pietro Petrucci: "Without a Military Coup the Clergy Will Be Defeated"--date and place not specified]

[Text] Under the shah he was called the Iranian Sakharov on account of the determination with which he challenged the dictatorship and refused exile. During the long months of the revolution he has always remained in the front line, writing and marching toward the machine guns. With the advent of the Islamic Republic he preferred to remain within the stronghold of dissidence, denouncing extremism and further violations of human rights.

He is writer Ali Asghar Haj-Seyyed-Javadi, 54, author of novels and pamphlets against tyranny, founder of the Iranian Human Rights Committee, organizer of the Jonbesh secular political group and newly selected member of the 73-man Constituent Assembly. He has a brother who is a minister, but he himself refused to climb on Khomeyni's bandwagon.

[Question] Do you still hope to defeat extremism?

[Answer] Of course. You must not get the wrong idea. Here, unlike in Nicaragua, the postrevolution period is characterized by the total absence of clear ideological alignments. On the other hand, there is a great mobilization of the masses which enables Khomeyni to exercise not a dictatorship but a form of paternalism without any program. Khomeyni is surrounded by men thirsty for power, but who are not equal to governing. They do not have the political or administrative cadres to do so. So much so that they have had to resort to a team of secular men held on a leash to give the country a semblance of government.

[Question] But now the clergy wants to govern directly.

[Answer] It is not in a position to do so. If they persist, the opposition will grow, they will have to resort to increasingly harsh authoritarianism and the country will rebel once more. They should ally with the army, as the shah did.

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[Question] Many secular forces rejected the elections for the Constituent Assembly, describing them as a fraud. Yours is one of the four parties which reached an agreement with the Mojahedin, who describe themselves as Islamic. Can you explain this to us?

[Answer] First, the secular and democratic forces which boycotted the elections committed an act of arrogance. This is known by the results which, at least in Tehran, constituted a success for the left and the secular forces. We approve of the Mojahedin's political program, which is not extremist. We are counting on associating other forces with this "front" of ours, which is now the major opposition force.

[Question] Some people are describing the elections as a farce.

[Answer] And maybe they recommend merely waiting for Iran to become Britain. We must fight with the weapons and on the battlefield chosen by the enemy. By defying the threats, the attacks and the attempts to stifle the progressives. The left is split and disoriented. It urgently needs to find new points of unity.

[Question] The entire left is under Ayatollah Taleqani's spell. Is he not also an extremist, albeit a revolutionary one?

[Answer] This will seem paradoxical to you, but Taleqani is anticlerical, despite his robes. The disputes among all the other clergy are power struggles, while Taleqani's is a political battle waged in full awareness.

[Question] Relations between Tudeh Party communists and the rest of the left are not good.

[Answer] Because the Tudeh Party is still Moscow's party, at the risk of sacrificing the interests of its grassroots. The extremists deride them but the Tudeh Party leaders are more pro-Khomeyni than Khomeyni. Theirs is an openly opportunist line whose only objective is to exist legally. The Tudeh Party cannot be trusted.

[Question] Do you believe there is a danger of civil war between the government and the national minorities?

[Answer] I believe in the danger of a coup. National demands are sacred and this is why they enjoy the backing of the progressive forces, even though in some cases--such as the Arabs of Khuzestan--provocations by neighboring countries as Iraq are possible. Unless the autonomist movements move carefully they risk giving the Imperial Army good reason for arising again from its decline to save "the endangered country" and to restore the dictatorship. This is one of the probable scenarios.

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MAURITANIA

BRIEFS

FINANCING OF GORGOL PROJECT--The Mauritanian Ministry of Fishing and Planning has indicated, in a communique, that the FED, the Saudian Fund, as well as the KFW (FRG) have approved their contributions to the Gorgol project. \$12 million, 33.5 million Arabian rials, and DM 16 million are involved. The World Bank, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, as well as the FAC, must soon contribute to the project, whose purpose is the vast renovation of 3,500 hectares at a cost of \$60 million in order to develop irrigated farming on a large scale. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 3 Aug 79 p 2157] 9475

USSR COOPERATION--On July 11, the 15th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Soviet Union and Mauritania, M. Vyacheslav Skolov, charge d'affaires of the Soviet embassy in Nouakchott pointed out to the press the cooperation between the two states, especially noting that such cooperation has reached a high level in the areas of fishing and the formation of a national managerial staff in Mauritania. In the area of fishing, the construction of the oceanographic center for scientific research is about to be completed in Nouakchott. Regarding the formation of staff, hundreds of young Mauritians have during these years completed their studies in the Soviet Union in the areas of agriculture, ideology, civil aeronautics, fishing, and health. This year the number of Mauritanian students in the USSR will reach 250. In addition, M. Skolov recalled that the Soviet Union has given humanitarian aid to Mauritania which had suffered the heavy consequences, of drought, and has, on many occasions, made gifts of grain, medicine, textiles, and, most recently, 700,000 doses of anti-cattle plague vaccine. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 3 Aug 79 p 2157] 9475

FRG LOAN--On July 13, the Mauritanian Council of Ministers approved a bill authorizing the ratification of a loan agreement signed on May 11, 1979 between the Islamic Republic of Mauritania and the Kreditanstalt fuer Wiederaufbau. Agreeing to favorable terms (interest rate of .75% per annum; ten years' deferred payment, amortization in 40 fixed and equal annual amounts), this loan, in the sum of DM 4 million, which is the equivalent of 100 million ougiyas, is designed for the purchase of

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equipment and contingent service fees, in particular, the purchase of a second ferry boat for Rosso, the reinforcement of Sonader's logistic resources, equipment for school workshops, and various types of equipment for the National Office of the Cinema and for youth and sports services. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 2 Aug 79 p 2157] 9475

SPANISH-MAURITANIAN FISHING TALKS--A work meeting between Major Moulaye O. Boukhreiss, member of the Military Committee for National Salvation, and Minister of Fishing and Planning of Mauritania, and M. Miguel Aldasoro, Spanish secretary of state for fishing and the merchant marine, was held on July 18 and 19 in Nouadhibou, for the purpose of examining the practical applications of the fishing agreement signed between the two countries on December 29, 1978. Mauritano-Spanish cooperation in the area of fishing, which dates back to 1964, was consolidated in 1969 with the creation of Imapec (Mauritanian Fishing Industries). Talks essentially involved the future transformation of Imapec into a company with a joint economy--Mauritania would retain 51% of the company's capital, and Spanish participation would then be 49%. For Mauritania, Imapec holds the key to the development of its industrial fishing--that, in consideration of its annual production of 70,000 tons. Regarding the problem of fishing as a trade, the Mauritanian minister of fishing and planning has announced that that aspect is not doing well and that it lacks means. Besides this, the government, aware of that aspect's importance to the development of the country, may have decided to invest 170 million ouguiyas to get it underway. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 3 Aug 79 p 2157] 9475

ROLE OF COMMISSARIAT FOR FOOD AID--Lieutenant Moulaye Hachem, the new director of the Mauritanian Food Aid Commissariat (see MTM July 20, p 2040) has indicated, in a published text in the daily CHAAB, the orientation which he intends for the organization, hereafter under his charge, to have. The Commissariat will assume the task of defining a national food policy and will look for ways of implementing it. This policy will be characterized by the elaboration of a national food policy conceived in accordance with national grain production objectives, the people's needs, and consumer tendencies. The course we will follow in this area will depend upon the recommendations formulated at the conference on grain policy which our country has just hosted from July 2 to 7, recommendations which include the following: 1) Suppression of the gratuitous distribution of food aid, except in the case of disaster and then to those groups of people who are hardest hit; 2) Financing of investments in products with the returns from food aid. Until the objectives are reached, and because of the significant deficit which our grain production continues to reveal, we will continue to make appeals for aid to the international community, so that it will continue and expand its assistance in the forms deemed suitable. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 3 Aug 79 p 2215] 9475

INTERNATIONAL DROUGHT RELIEF--Moulaye Hachem then pointed out the nature and importance of the international aid rendered to Mauritania during the drought. The aid varied. When the drought was at its worst stages, particularly in

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1973 and 1974, food aid ranged between 80 and 100 thousand tons. Since 1976, in the hope that rainfall conditions would improve, the tendency was for the aid to decrease, to the level of 20-30 thousand tons. In 1978-79, with the return to a situation similar to that of 1973-74, this aid has noticeably increased and has been as high as about 57 thousand tons. The Mauritanian commissioner pointed out that the OMC (Mauritanian Grain Office) is in charge of the receipt, stockage and preservation of food aid received in the form of an emergency operation. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 3 Aug 79 p 2215] 9475

ROK GIFT--Yang-Chan-ton, ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Mauritania with residence in Dakar, has handed over on behalf of his government a donation including 20 vehicles, 15 cultivators, a consignment of boxes containing spare parts valued at more than \$10 thousand as a contribution to the struggle against the drought. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 24 Aug 79 p 2328]

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PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

BRIEFS

ETHIOPIANS IN TRAINING--Seven thousand men, principally Ethiopians and Palestinians, are being trained in desert warfare at the base at Mukalla in case of an "oil war." Ethiopian President Mengistu is also holding in reserve a division for intervention in the name of "proletarian internationalism." [Text] [Paris VALEURS ACTUELLES in French 13 Aug 79 p 9]

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