



AMERICAN LEGATION, BEIRUT

25X1

September 26, 1948

Review of the Local Arabic Press  
Appearing on September 27 & 28, 1948

BEIRUT

reports that Muhammad Ali Hamada, the Acting Director of the Lebanese Foreign Office returned the day before from Damascus accompanied by army, surene and police representatives, after they had met with their Syrian colleagues and discussed with them questions connected with combating spies and with watching foreigners and suspects. The paper understands that the conferees agreed on the formulation of a common program which Syria and Lebanon would follow in this respect.

This paper understands that Beirut ship owners have decided to go on strike today in protest against the Government's refusal to supply them with mazout. They have notified their intention to the appropriate authorities.

AL-'AMAL

again discusses the question of Lebanese emigres and insists that Lebanon grant them citizenship rights and privileges. In stressing the benefits Lebanon could derive from its emigres, the editorial declares in part:

25X1

"They hold an international position. It is a pity not to take advantage of this position. Their potentialities are beyond imagination. Let us remember that the Jews support their falsehoods with such weapons. How could we fail to use them in support of our special and joint rights which are quite substantial? The emigres are in a position to back any Arab international issue successfully. Have we hastened to recognize them and their rights in order to support these issues with love and with sincere determination? We must realize that the Lebanese emigres will not be moved, as we wish, to support and help us in our joint Arab issues, if we do not assure them of our justice and of the Arab justice toward them."

This paper appeals to the Government to release the three youths who were arrested more than a month ago on the charge of carrying explosives in an automobile. The paper declares that the "cries of resentment are rising on every side demanding either the trial of the young men, or their release if they are found not guilty. Haven't these cries reached the ears of the responsible authorities? Is their conscience as hard as stone in an era when justice and equality are no longer respected?"

25X1

In reporting the current negotiations relating to Syro-Lebanese economic and financial issues, this paper is anxious to know whether Lebanon's interests will be safeguarded in the new agreements or they will, as usual, be neglected and sacrificed for the sake of Syria. In this connection, the paper quotes the observations of a Lebanese economic expert on the extent of the harm Syria's attitude has caused Lebanon:

- "1 - In the past, Syria facilitated the import of Palestinian citrus fruits, some of which might have been Zionist, and permitted their infiltration into Lebanon to compete with our local produce. The duty of co-operation, bon voisinage and brotherhood should have urged Syria to obtain its requirements from Lebanese citrus fruits that are surplus to local needs.
- "2 - Syria has recently facilitated the import of infected Australian and Turkish apples, and let them enter Lebanon to compete with Lebanese apples and to impair their reputation in neighboring countries.
- "3 - Syria closed its frontiers to products essential to Lebanon including wheat, in contravention of the common interests agreement. But it sent out its merchants to the Bekk' and to the Lebanese markets to buy our wheat and to smuggle it into Syria because the Lebanon has not taken any measures to prevent the export of wheat."

The paper then asks "Is Syria's policy compatible with the principles of bon voisinage and with the relations that are founded on the basis of common interests?"

#### AL-HAYAT

writes "now that the Palestine question has reached this stage, we must review the facts of the fait accompli which has become the axis of the entire question. Count bernadotte demand that partition be implemented on the basis of fait accompli. The Arabs ceased fire because of the fait accompli. Disunity among the Arab countries has become part of the fait accompli. Even the new Palestinian Government is a fait accompli." The editorial then declares that the only fait accompli in the whole matter is the "undoubted" existence of the Jewish state and adds:

"The Arab states reached during the last two weeks, a new stage of transition: from threats to weak rejection which indicates acceptance of the fait accompli. We have frequently discussed this subject in recent days but we do not know whether the Arab peoples have finally realized the meaning of fait accompli. Regardless of the dangers which threaten the Arab states as a group, because of the stabilization of the Jewish State, the mere existence of this state alone will impose on each country many unfamiliar considerations and restrictions."

Communist Bassil Daqqaq believes that the international situation has reached an obviously dangerous stage, that the Security Council will not be able to remove the siege from Berlin, and that all signs indicate that the world is heading toward war. This being the case, Daqqaq advises the Arab countries to side with certain powers with a view to settling their problems. These powers, he points out, need Middle Eastern petroleum and bases as well as allies and regional blocs.

SAWT AL-AHRAR

reports the following news item:

"Our representative understands that Mr. Bertel Eric Kunniholm, First Secretary and Charge d'Affaires of the American Legation in Beirut in the absence of Mr. Pinkerton, the Minister Plenipotentiary, will leave Lebanon for America today, following his transfer to another post. Is the First Secretary's transfer in this haste before the return of the Minister, connected with American policy in the East? This question occurs to us at a time when every measure, particularly speedy measures, must be subjected to various interpretations and predictions which might be correct."

AN-NAHAR

deals with the subject of the creation of a second Arab League Secretary General charged with handling non-Arab international affairs to help Azzam Pasha. The paper writes that this question was proposed by Riadh as-Solh during the Political Committee's session and that Azzam Pasha has welcomed it. A message from Cairo states however, that the selection of a candidate for this post has been left to Riadh as-Solh and that the name of Camille Shamun has been mentioned in an informal meeting. The paper adds that both Arab and Lebanese circles welcome this nomination in view of Shamun's sincere efforts for Palestine. In conclusion, the paper says that a source closely related to Shamun has stated that he has no knowledge that such a proposal has been made to Shamun.

AL-DIYAR

in an editorial censored in six different places, this paper reviews Arab relations with the great powers, says that they have failed to take advantage of such relations, and bets that the Arabs will lose the "battle of Paris" just as they lost the battle of "November 29" in New York when the General Assembly recommended the partition of Palestine. The paper argues that unless the Arabs sacrifice everything and unless they change their entire outlook, they will not be able to score any success in regard to their cause. It concludes: "We are not an unknown quantity in the world. But our statesmen have failed to stress our importance and to persuade the authorities concerned that our weight could tip the international scale."

AL-BAYRAQ

headlines its editorial as follows:

"Lebanon sticks to its economic independence and will not accept any treaty with Syria, except on basis of respect of sovereignty of the countries. No treaties, unions, or agreements with the East or the West."

AL-'ALAM (weekly)

is absolutely against the introduction of compulsory military training because, it argues, Lebanon is a poor country and its economy can not provide for any army, at a time when it is about to conclude loans to meet its essential requirements. The journal then adds that most of the Lebanese people are against this measure and takes this opportunity to criticize the government for the "criminal" press law, for the "scandalous" wheat agreement with Syria, and for the various taxes with which it is "burdening" the nation. It concludes: "And now the Government is dealing the people a fatal blow with the conscription law to render the residents poor and to prevent the emigres from returning to their motherland."

AMERICAN LEGATION, BEIRUT

September 29, 1948

Review of the Local Arabic Press  
Appearing on September 29, 1948

BEIRUT

publishes the following telegram received from Muhyidin an-Nasuli, dated Paris, September 28, 1948:

"I learned today that Hasan Jabbara is still in Paris; that negotiations are under way between him and H. Bousson, the Director General of the Bank of Syria and Lebanon and that agreement is about to be reached between Syria and France on the ratification of the Franco-Lebanese Monetary Agreement, despite the reticence of the Syrian and the French governments. I do not know how our Syrian brethren could justify this change of attitude toward the monetary agreement. But it is certainly due to our improvised policy in everything, even in such an important matter as the currency. BEIRUT has fought and will always fight this agreement...."

This paper writes the following in connection with Ahmad Pasha al-Rawi's visit to Beirut:

"We referred yesterday to the arrival in Beirut of Ahmad Pasha al-Rawi, the Director General of the Iraqi Foreign Office, and to his visit to the Lebanese Foreign Minister. We said that their talks dealt with Iraq's attitude toward the Palestine Government. However, we learned today that Ahmad Pasha will leave Beirut for Damascus to meet Jamil Mardam and to discuss with him the same subject prior to his return to Baghdad. Hamid Franjiah yesterday received in audience Farhan Shballat, the Transjordan Minister, who also discussed with the Foreign Minister the subject of the Palestine Government. In this connection, our correspondent reports that the Foreign Minister expressed to Ahmad Pasha al-Rawi and to Farhan Shballat Lebanon's adherence to the Political Committee's decision and hoped that Iraq and Transjordan will follow suit."

AL-'ANAL

again harps on the subject of the Lebanese emigres and declares in part:

"We insist that the solution of the emigres problem is a matter of justice only. By recognizing their rights, by regarding them as residents, and by removing all the obstacles preventing them from contacting the motherland, we would not be giving them any charity or introducing new legislation. But we would respect the the laws in force and we would comply with the provisions of the international treaty which created their problem."

- 2 -

AL-HAYAT

The following is a full translation of this paper's editorial:

"We spoke yesterday about the story called 'fait accompli'. We are today discussing its effects in relation to each country, beginning with Lebanon. Until the very recent past, Lebanon's southern frontiers were a world far removed from the imagination of the Lebanese people, and known only to those visited them. Moreover, the Lebanese people were not aware of their existence. Today, a Jewish state, with armies and ambitions and which surpasses us in wealth and efficiency exists along our southern frontiers. Therefore, we must either place the entrances to our borders under its mercy, or mobilize a large army to protect them. This will mean yearly expenditure of tens of millions on the army. Moreover, Lebanon is a commercial center which derives the major portion of its revenues from imports. If the Jewish state is stabilized, it will directly or indirectly be able to exploit these import revenues from America and Europe and it will thus dominate our trade, and we will be left at its mercy. You should not inquire about the fate of the port of Beirut, if the Jews would succeed in carrying out their constructional project in the port of Haifa, and if they construct a world airport as they intend to do. They have so far built the nucleus for a merchant-naval fleet while we are still in the ABC of seafaring. If you examine the internal situation in Lebanon, you will find that the Jews will be able to thrust their fingers wherever they want. It will be sufficient for them to fill hands with money and hate to turn our new internal stability into a storm. This is only a small part of the trouble awaiting Lebanon in the event the Jewish state is stabilized."

Columnist Basal Daqqaq writes that it is hard to talk about the impartiality of the UNO mediators regarding Palestine, following the "unique" report in which Count Bernadotte recognized the fait accompli in Palestine. For this reason, he says, "we have not been taken unawares by Bunche's support to his 'teachers' recommendations and by his demand that UNO speedily and resolutely decide the Palestine issue." Daqqaq then declares that Bunche has played his part in the great conspiracy for the partition of Palestine "because he is an American and because he belongs to the Washington Government as much as he belongs to UNO." In this connection, Daqqaq states in part:

"We do not believe in speeches and legal arguments nor in their effect on the destinies of nations. Speeches and arguments have been and still are our sole weapon against the mighty bloc which is growing and expanding. There is even an uglier

- 3 -

aspect: The disunity prevailing in the Arab ranks owing to the creation of the Palestine Government.... This being the case, we do not think that there is any use in the presence of our delegates in Paris."

AL HAYAT'S Political Correspondent reports:

"The Lebanese Foreign Office has received a note from the Mexican Legation in Beirut suggesting the establishment of diplomatic relations between Lebanon and Guatemala. The note states that Guatemala has approached the Mexican Government to mediate with the Lebanese Government for the establishment of such relations in order to consolidate the friendship already existing between the two countries. We do not, in fact, know the nature of these ties of friendship. But we do know the attitude of the Guatemala Government and of its representative, the famous Granados, toward the Palestine question: Is it possible that these relations are intended to help the Zionists realize their dream and to expand their ambitions to include Lebanon? Will these relations be inspired by Tel Aviv? At any rate, the note has been referred to the appropriate authorities for consideration."

This paper's Moving Correspondent writes:

"Mr. Kuntholm, the Charge d'Affaires of the American Legation in Beirut, yesterday left Beirut on board S.S. Cyreneia. Among those who bid him farewell was Izzet Khorshid, the Protocol Chief at the Foreign Office. It is rumored that the Lebanese Government has demanded that he be recalled, but official circles have not confirmed this rumor."

#### AL-DIYAR

publishes the following telegram in large type and under a banner headline from Hanna Ghosn, its Chief Editor who is now in Paris. The telegram is dated September 28:

"King Abdullah's stand on the Palestinian Government is embarrassing the position of the Arab delegates in Paris. UNO circles interpret the King's stand as co-operation with Anglo-American policy. The Arab delegates have met to study this subject and have decided to contact their respective governments with a view to asking Abdul Rahman Azzam Pasha to get in touch with King Abdullah to request him to change his stand and to warn him of the consequences. If this attempt will fail, the delegates suggest that the Arab League be summoned to discuss the necessary decisive measures for remedying this situation."

AR-RUWWAD publishes a similar despatch from its Paris correspondent.



TELAGRAPH

publishes a despatch from Tawfiq al-Matni in Paris in which he states that UNO's decision on Palestine is pre-determined; that the small nations behave like some of the Lebanese Deputies who vote with their bosses; that Trygve Lie is pro-Jewish; and that the UNO is like the tower of babel which is dominated by the Anglo-Saxon and the Soviet groups. With regard to the Palestine question, Al-Matni reports in part:

"I can from now declare that the Arabs, following my contacts with the delegates and my attendance at UNO meetings, must not expect anything good from the majority of the members forming UNO. If there is any hope for the success of the Palestine question, such success will be achieved by force and force only, or by a miracle which will inspire the delegates after the wonderful energy Riadh as-Solh and Charles Malik are making to persuade the delegates of the justice of the Palestine cause."

This paper is again publishing letters and telegrams protesting against the detainment of Lebanese citizens in concentration camps and demanding their release.

TELAGRAPH writes that it received yesterday 20 telegrams from Beirut and 7 from Mount Lebanon and the Bekaa, signed by numerous persons, protesting against the detainment of the three youths who have been accused of carrying dynamite. The paper adds that a number of Mount Lebanon deputies have decided to intervene with the appropriate authorities to release the three young men.

AL-BAYRAQ

demand in its editorial that the Government publish the actual number of those who voted on September 19 in the partial parliamentary elections, and that the clerks who falsified the elections must be dismissed from government service.

This paper publishes a despatch from Mustafa al-Kharsa in Amman, in which he describes an interview he has recently had with King Abdullah, during which the King said in part:

"I do not approve of the Government which has been formed in Palestine because its creation in these circumstances would mean recognition of the partition plan and would prove that the Arabs have failed to fulfil their promises."

AMERICAN LEGATION, BEIRUT

September 31, 1946

Review of the Local Arabic Press  
Appearance on September 30, 1946BEIRUT

In a despatch from Paris dated September 24, Mahyiddin an-Nasuli, this paper's Chief Editor, describes the workers' strike in Paris, the speeches made by the UN South African, Turkish and Chinese delegates, the predominance of the Anglo-Saxon group in that Organization, and the resignation from the Lebanese delegation of Abu Shabib "for many reasons including the accumulated business awaiting him in Beirut." an-Nasuli<sup>only</sup> the following reference to the Palestine question:

"The Palestine question is, before everything else, in the hands of the Arabs. Let the Arabs therefore realize this fact. They must be ready for the struggle if they want to survive."

In reporting the Lebano-Syrian economic talks which were continued at the Ambassador Hotel in Bhandun last evening, this paper declares that after the Lebanese and Syrian sides agreed on the broad outlines of the agreement, they proceeded to draw up the necessary details. When these details were submitted to the two Governments for approval, the Lebanese side asked that this should be postponed until Thursday on account of certain points which they felt should be studied by the other members of the Lebanese Government. This attitude, the paper adds, came as a great surprise to the Syrians who gave their Lebanese colleagues the freedom of accepting the agreement either immediately or at the end of this month. The paper understands however that the reason for the refusal of the Lebanese delegation to sign the agreement was due to provisions regarding import restrictions on certain commodities which restrictions might be injurious to the Lebanese markets. Syria's answer to this refusal, the paper explains, was that continued unrestricted imports would bring about bankruptcy, that Syrian businessmen are also suffering much harm but that the high national interests must be placed above all other considerations. The paper then concludes:

"It may be said that the Lebano-Syrian economic talks are passing through a critical stage and that the meeting which will be held tonight will be decisive. The two sides will either sign the new economic agreement, or will extend the common interests agreement for a new period during which both sides will discuss their economic relations on new bases."

AL-AMAL

complains of the low morale ~~and~~ from which the Lebanese people are now suffering and declares that however optimistic the people might be, they will not reach that stage of confidence whereby they would feel that reform was possible of realization, so long as the

lagned' mentality was still dominant. The editorial then goes on to say that this "sick" mentality is prevalent in a fearful manner "because the twenty five years of mandate and the five years of rule which followed the mandate have killed the people's unanimity and morals." After continuing in the same manner, the editorial asks "how shall we change this putrid mentality? When a sick man's blood becomes anemic and when his blood is poisoned, the doctor uses, among other treatments, the operation of transfusing new blood. We are in need of transfusing the country with new blood. This new blood is available with our emigres. These emigres have preserved the qualities in our characteristics, have benefitted from the advanced nations with which they are living, and have been inspired by their good merits. They have gained tolerance as well as zeal for the common good. They have developed their appreciation for freedom, respect for the dignity of man, and understanding of the meaning of sacrifice for the community."

This paper reports that the Supreme Council of the Common Interests has decided that the statistical compilations published by its departments will in future be written in Arabic as well as in one of the living foreign languages, so that the foreign diplomatic representatives may be able to read them.

Negotiations were conducted a few months ago between the Lebanese Foreign Office and the Charge d'Affaires of the Spanish Legation in Beirut concerning the conclusion of a Lebano-Spanish trade agreement. AL-'ANAL'S special correspondent yesterday learned that the Foreign Office has consulted the Ministry of National Economy in the matter and that the latter Ministry has advised the Foreign Office that the conclusion of trade agreements is still entrusted to the Supreme Council of the Common Interests in view of the Customs Union existing between Lebanon and Syria. Therefore, the Lebanese Government will not be able to discuss the subject independently of Syria before the current negotiations with the Syrian side regarding the common interests and other economic matters have been finally decided.

#### AL HAYAT

continues its series of editorials on the "fait accompli" by discussing Syria's position vis-a-vis the Israeli State. The paper writes:

"Syria's fate, in the shadow of this 'fait accompli' will not be better than that of Lebanon. Fundamentally, Palestine constitutes an essential part of Syria. The establishment of a Jewish state would tear natural Syria apart and would render it a dismembered body. Is there a worse calamity than this? Furthermore, Syria is a young country, with a national mission without which it could not survive. It was unable, for

- 3 -

for many centuries, to resume its work in the fields of progress and industry so that its resources might equal its position, until it obtained its independence a few years ago. Instead of devoting its efforts toward consolidating its new renaissance, it is being compelled to use all its resources for self-defense against the rising Jewish state, particularly as the borders between Syria and the 'fait accompli' are very long. If the Jews are established in al-Hula and Galilee, as recommended by Count Bernadotte, Syria's security will be permanently placed at the mercy of the Jews. Moreover, Syria is endeavoring to base its new economic existence on industry. It is now more interested in building various factories than any other Arab country. Thus, the establishment of a Jewish state along its frontiers will nip Syria's industry in the bud. It might close the channels for importing raw materials and for distributing its products to world markets. Just as the Jewish naval fleet will threaten the Lebanese coast, so it will endanger the Syrian coast. Moreover, ports occupied by the Jews will be turned, at any time, into foreign bases from which the enemy conspiring with the Jews would penetrate into Syrian territory. In short, Syria will not be able to know the taste of peace in the shadow of this fait accompli. It is inevitable for it to organize its life in the light of the development of the Jewish danger instead of in the light of the requirements of its national awakening."

This paper's Roving Reporter writes that the Government has decided to delegate Aris Salih, Justice Director, to London and Paris for the purpose of studying the British Social Security Law which was issued two months ago preliminary to the introduction of social security legislation in Lebanon.

#### TELAGRAPH

headlines a number of despatches received from its special correspondent in Paris as follows:

"Riadh as-Salh organizes action and committees. UNO will handle Palestine question next week. Syria's Hasan Jabbara negotiates with French for financial agreement similar to Lebanon's. French Surete protects Riadh as-Salh and Arab delegates. Lebanese Premier declares: In the past the French tried to expel me. Today they are protecting me. Vishinsky tells TELAGRAPH'S correspondent "we shall not withdraw from UN."

#### AL-BAYRAQ

states that it appears from the present activities in the Arab capitals and from the statements made by the Iraqi Premier and by the Arab delegates in Paris that the Arabs are determined to reject the partition of Palestine, even though this action will oblige them to withdraw from the United Nations and to resume the fighting. But, the paper says, Britain's recent stand on the Mediator's report has frustrated their hopes. The paper then refers to inter Arab talks in connection with the creation of

- 4 -

the Palestinian Government, and to the postponement of the election of a President for the new state. It says, "It is possible that this postponement has been effected in order to please King Abdullah under whose crown Count Bernadotte suggested that Palestine be placed." The paper then goes on to say:

"The Arab world has received with surprise and indignation Mr. Bevin's statement re his Government's approval of Count Bernadotte's recommendations. Will this be the end of Anglo-Arab friendship? Is Britain's new stand the direct cause for General Clayton's resignation from his high office in Cairo?"

#### AL-HADITH

deploras the difficult crisis through which the Arab countries are now passing on account of international developments and writes in part:

"The first experiences of the Arab League indicated the best ~~making~~ results. It depended, during its early life, on sincere friends like General Clayton who inherited Lawrence's friendship for the Arabs. But as soon as the Palestine question came to the fore, the League found itself faced with a severe test. Its traditional friends were supporting it, despite the fact that the great powers backed the Zionists. But the atmosphere changed suddenly when the British recalled General Clayton from the East. The atmosphere became even darker following Mr. Bevin's speech at UN, when he abandoned his customary reservation and accepted the partition recommended by Count Bernadotte. This is a severe blow to the Arabs which has left their ranks in some confusion. This should not last long because it will destroy their entities and independence. This is not the time for wranglings over the new Palestinian Government, for weakness toward the Palestine question, or for selfishness. In the distant horizon are looming international schemes said to be aimed at creating an Eastern bloc to include Turkey, Iran and others and to replace the Arab League. Thus, the Arab League has the sacred task of overcoming the situation at the proper time and before it is confronted with a bitter fait accompli. This might cost it dearly. It must therefore forget all regional disputes and must continue to be united lest it ~~may~~ might be blown away in the wind."

#### AR-RUYYAD

carries the following explanatory headline on the formation of the new Palestine Government:

"Is it not better for us, before differing on the Palestine Government, to unite in pulling away the Jewish thorn from the Arab side? Lebanon must maintain its neutrality in the Amman-Ghaza dispute in order to play the role of mediator, as is its custom, on such important occasions."

AMERICAN LEGATION, BEIRUT

October 1, 1948

Review of the Local Arabic Press  
Announcing on October 1, 1948.BEIRUT

Nasriddin an-Nasuli sent the following editorial to his paper from Paris on September 25:

"Is this the end with Britain, our ally and traditional friend? It has openly recognized the partition plan and suddenly revealed its intentions. It is Britain which used to say that it will not recognize anything unacceptable to the Arabs and the Jews. Why has it changed its attitude... We have maintained, and still maintain, that the solution of the Palestine problem is in the hands of the Arabs. Particularly as the two contesting blocs are differing on every issue and agreeing on abusing Arab rights. We do not want to mislead the Arabs as they have so far been misled by others. We want to tell them that the situation is bad in Paris. Indeed, it is worse than it was at Lake Success, especially as Britain, our ally, has unveiled its face. We wish all the heads of the Arab Governments were now in Paris instead of remaining where they are. They would have borne their responsibilities as they should. Premier Riadh as-Solh, whose diplomatic ability and acumen we do not doubt, can not bear this heavy burden alone. It must be shared by his colleagues, the heads of the Arab Governments who, we fancy, are now busy with matters more important than the Palestine question! We wonder whether the heads of the Arab Governments will leave their capitals for Paris before they lose their case in UN which wants to settle this problem in haste to safeguard Arab petroleum and Arab resources in the event of the outbreak of war between the two blocs. Although the war may be distant, its occurrence is possible, after the break of the Berlin negotiations, after the Berlin problem has been referred to UN, and after the Arab-Soviet and Soviet relations have been further aggravated."

AL-HAYAT

continues its series of editorials on the "fait accompli" and reviews today Iraq's position vis-a-vis the Jewish state.

"Undoubtedly, Iraq's calamity because of the Jewish state is very severe. From the geographical standpoint, the Palestinian coast constitutes a complementary part of Iraq's vital scope. Until the recent past, Iraq's economy was based on permanent contact with Palestinian ports. When these were suddenly closed to Iraq several months ago, Iraq's trade balance was thrown out of gear and it has been dislocated ever since. Moreover,

- 2 -

Moreover, Iraq's oil has stopped to flow into Haifa with the result that the Iraqi treasury has suffered terrible financial losses which could be made good only by other long-range projects. Like Syria, Iraq has a national mission. It must one day realize this mission. Thus, the establishment of a Jewish state will oblige Iraq to change its entire programs and to base its future plans on the development of the Jewish threat. The Jewish 'fait accompli' in Palestine has created a new desert separating Iraq from the Mediterranean, at a time when Iraq exerted mighty efforts to overcome the desert in order to reach the sea. In point of fact, Iraq will not be able to make itself strong unless it maintains its connections with the Indian Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea. While Syria still offers Iraq an outlet on the Mediterranean, this outlet is small and is not adequate for Iraq's needs and high interests."

#### AL-NANAL

devotes its editorial to the current Lebano-Syrian economic negotiations, says that it knows nothing definite about these negotiations to permit it to pass its judgment on them, and complains, as it has always been doing, that Lebanon suffers from great disadvantages as a result of its present economic and financial relations with Syria.

#### TELEGRAPH

is full of despatches sent to it by Tawfiq al-Matni its co-editor who is reporting the proceedings of the UN session in Paris. The despatches deal particularly with the activities of the members of the Lebanese delegations.

This paper understands that the Government has received an important report from Riadh as-Solh concerning the activities of the Lebanese delegation to UN. This report contains information on the Arab attitude toward international politics and on the talks Riadh as-Solh has had with prominent statesmen. Moreover, the report reviews in detail the progress of the current financial negotiations between Syria and France, negotiations which, according to the paper, are no longer a secret despite their denial by the Syrian official authorities.

TELEGRAPH publishes five articles, all of which demand the release of the three youths who were arrested because they were found carrying dynamite sticks more than a month ago; and protest against the continued detainment of Lebanese citizens in concentration camps.

#### AR-RUFWAD

declares in connection with the current Lebano-Syrian economic negotiations, that it will be better for Lebanon to postpone the negotiations than to conclude an improvised agreement full of defects. The editorial

- 3 -

then urges the responsible authorities in Syria and Lebanon to seek the advice of international experts "because we want the union between the two countries to be based on science and technique and on a fair and equitable distribution of rights."

AL-YAHM

writes that it is reluctant to discuss the formation of the New Palestinian Government "because such discussion is thorny and delicate and any views expressed thereon would further aggravate and complicate the issue." Thus, the editorial feels that the question of the Palestinian Government is only part of the Palestine problem itself. It continues:

"Interest is now being centered around the subject of this Government....but the main issue is being buried away. It is therefore our right to shout our warning again, saying: We want the solution of the Palestine problem first. Anything short of this solution will, in our view, be of no use, and will shift the fighting to a new field which will save the Jews and will create quarrels among the Arabs."

SAWT AL-AHRAR

"Mr. Pinkerton, the American Minister Plenipotentiary, visited the Foreign Office at 11:00 a.m. yesterday. Mr. Pinkerton declared after he alighted from the plane the day before yesterday that he was obliged to break his leave in the United States in compliance with President Truman's demand, as the President urged him to return to his post immediately in view of the events which might develop in connection with the Palestine question. The American Minister was accompanied, on his visit to the Foreign Office, by his First Secretary. They remained with Foreign Minister Franja about one and a half hours. Foreign Office circles said that Mr. Pinkerton carried with him important notes bearing on the Palestine question and on the United States Government's attitude thereto. Mr. Pinkerton discussed these issues during his long interview with the Foreign Minister. It is natural that no one of the three wanted to make any statement on their talks but the American Minister only said that his visit to the Foreign Office was a routine call. With regard to the recall of Mr. Kunnihola, former American First Secretary, Mr. Pinkerton said that the expression "recalled" was not relevant at all because Mr. Kunnihola has merely been transferred to the American Legation in Korea in the Far East and that his successor will arrive in Beirut shortly."



AMERICAN LEGATION, BEIRUT

October 2, 1948

Review of the Local Arabic Press  
Appearing on October 2, 1948.AL-HAYAT

continues its series of editorials on the "fait accompli" in Palestine by discussing Egypt's position as follows:

"Egypt has, for three quarters of a century, been demanding the evacuation of British troops from its territory and clamoring for complete independence. It has, so far, realized a great portion of its national demands. The only vestiges of imperialism remaining are the British units garrisoned in the Suez Canal area. But what is the use of British withdrawal from the Canal so long as the Jews have turned their state into a military base able to threaten Egypt at every moment? The mere stabilization of the 'fait accompli' in Palestine means - in relation to Egypt also - the collapse of its efforts for independence of the last three quarters of a century. The Jews will be able to make Palestine a bridgehead for attacking Egypt or for placing it at the disposal of conquerors coming either from the East or from the West. This is part of the price Egypt will have to pay for its indifference on May 15. It is a high price which is not less than that to be borne by Iraq, Transjordan and Syria. The Jews intended, by their air raids on Egypt, to demonstrate their threat in its full significance. Thus, Egypt is no longer immune to direct bombing and the zone of external security surrounding Egyptian territory has been thrown into confusion. There are also many economic and political dangers threatening Egypt. But the military peril, which we have explained, is undoubtedly the gravest peril in the face of which all other dangers pale into insignificance. Moreover, the Jewish state has cut the natural coastal communications between Egypt and Syria and has isolated Egypt from the East. It has also isolated Egypt by land from the Fertile Crescent. Thus, the geographical co-ordination has been affected and has been replaced by an exceptional situation which will impose upon Egypt - and upon the other Arab countries - many sacrifices which, with the passage of time, will be many fold those which would have been required to destroy Zionism if goodwill and good faith were forthcoming."

This paper describes Dr. Penrose's inauguration as AUE President as "a brilliant ceremony seldom witnessed by the University since the inauguration of President Dodge." The paper also "welcomes President Penrose and wishes him all success in his duties as the best successor to the best predecessor."

BEIRUT

also describes the AUB ceremony and declares in part:

"Friday, October 1, 1948, will be a historic day in the life of the American University of Beirut. On that day the University welcomed its fourth President in a glorious ceremony attended by several thousand people including delegates who specially came from the far corners of the globe to represent Eastern and Western colleges and universities at the ceremony for the inauguration of the new President."

The paper then concludes its article as follows:

"We offer our sincere congratulations to our new President on his high cultural position hoping that he will be the best successor to Dr. Bayard Dodge, the great President."

AL-BAYRAQ'S

editorial on the new Palestinian Government is so badly mutilated by the Censor that it hardly makes any sense. Anyhow, the editorial appears to favor the inclusion of the Arab part of Palestine in Transjordan. It declares: "It is clearly evident that the approval of England, America and France of Bernadotte's report means their repeated approval of the partition of Palestine into an Arab and a Jewish state on the one hand, and of annexing the Arab part to the Hashimite Crown on the other."

This paper publishes an appeal signed by 205 persons in Tyre requesting the Government to release the internees from concentration camps.

AL-RUWWAD

refers to rumors concerning current economic and financial negotiations between France and Syria and to their denial by the Syrian authorities. The editorial comments: "We realize that the separation of the Lebanese and Syrian currencies from one another would greatly hamper economic co-ordination between the two countries. We therefore hope that Syria will return to the fold of the Agreement and that Franco-Syrian relations will be resumed."

In a second editorial, this paper calls upon all the Arab Governments to come to an understanding regarding the new Government in Palestine because it feels that the present differences of opinion are embarrassing the Arab delegates in Paris. The editorial praises Riadh as-Solh's efforts in Paris but argues that he will not be able to accomplish anything if the Arab countries continue to be divided among themselves. Moreover, the editorial declares:

"The

- 3 -

"The differences on the new Palestinian Government are developing in the Arab countries to such an extent that they are threatening to divide the Arabs into two camps, if reason and logic will not prevail. Indeed, they will divide the Palestinian people themselves...as if these miserable people are not satisfied with the horrors and persecution they have already suffered."

AMERICAN LEGATION, BEIRUT

October 4, 1948

Review of the Local Arabic Press  
Appearing on October 3, 1948.

BEIRUT

In an editorial dated Paris September 30, Muhyiddin an-Nasuli writes the following:

"We are neither in a state of war nor in a state of peace but we are passing through a phase of fear and anxiety. We hope to emerge successfully from this phase. I am glad to see the six Arab states participating in the United Nations Organization. Although this participation is neither organized nor co-ordinated, it is nonetheless valuable. Time will surely bring these states close to one another, will infuse them into the UN crucible, and will render them worthy of the sublime human role the comity of nations is called upon to play."

An-Nasuli then highly praises the works and achievements of Charles Malik, Fawzi al-Khuri, Victor al-Khuri and Joseph Harfush in Paris and continues:

"I am not hopeless of my country and of its representatives, despite the improvised policy they are still following, and despite the fact that some of my country's representatives and some of the representatives of all the other Arab countries are not duly aware of their responsibilities. We were, for a long time, like a dead member and it is only fair on our part to allow the Arabs to reawake and to march anew in the procession of the living, energetic and progressive world."

KUL SHAY' (weekly)

published on October 1 a report from its correspondent in Paris to the effect that the most important topic now being discussed by Arab circles in Paris is the submission by the British Government to the Syrian and Lebanese Governments of a proposal for the conclusion of a defense treaty similar to those concluded with Egypt, Trans Jordan and Iraq. The correspondent appears to favor this move.

AL BAYRAQ

discusses KUL SHAYH report and declares emphatically that "we reject all treaties with Britain, Russia, France, America and China". It demands that the Lebanese Government enlighten the people on "this important point because the responsibilities are immense."