

THE MIDDLE EAST JOURNAL

Volume XIV • 1960

Editor

WILLIAM SANDS

Editorial Assistant

JOHN A. LAZO

Administrative Assistant

KATHLEEN H. BROWN

Business Manager

CARMEN MANALO

Board of Advisory Editors

DOUGLAS D. CRARY
C. GROVE HAINES
HERBERT J. LIEBESNY
ROBERT F. OGDEN
AFIF I. TANNOUS
ROBERT D. SETHIAN
A. J. MEYER

RODERIC H. DAVISON
CHARLES A. FERGUSON
HAROLD W. GLIDDEN
J. C. HUREWITZ
WILFRED CANTWELL SMITH
T. CUYLER YOUNG
WILLIAM DIAMOND

CHARLES ISSAWI

THE MIDDLE EAST INSTITUTE

Board of Governors

JAMES TERRY DUCE, *Acting President*

GRAVES B. ERSKINE, *Vice President*

KERMIT ROOSEVELT, *Vice President*

GERALD F. P. DOOHER, *Secretary-Treasurer*

GEORGE BALLOU
WILLIAM B. DALE
MRS. EVERETT DEGOLYER
BAYARD DODGE
RUSSELL H. DORR
HAROLD W. FISHER
MRS. SHERMAN HAIGHT
WALTER JUDD

GEORGE KASEM
MRS. NANCY HULL KEISER
L. J. KILLIAN
RONALD I. METZ
WINTHROP ROCKEFELLER
DALIP S. SAUND
MRS. HARLEY C. STEVENS
JOHN L. TAPPIN

EDWIN M. WRIGHT

Managing Director

MARSCHAL D. ROTHE, JR.

Director of Publications

WILLIAM SANDS

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION
OF THE MIDDLE EAST INSTITUTE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Copyright 1960, The Middle East Institute.

Dec. 29: At Rawalpindi, Premier Eghbal said that Iran would fight back with "all her might" and seek assistance from her allies if she were attacked by Iraq.
The Iranian Government, confident of its legal position, held open the door to negotiation of the disputed border.

1960

Jan. 1: The Shah put before Parliament a bill to reduce the landholdings of absentee landlords and to create a class of peasants and small farmers who will own the soil they till. The bill carries the promise of a revolution in the way of life in 40,000 to 50,000 villages.

Jan. 2: Lawyers for a USAF major imprisoned in Iran for a traffic death a year ago are appealing against his sentence.

Jan. 3: Iran alleged that an attempted Iraqi aggression on the border had resulted in the killing of Iranian frontier settlers and the immigration of 9,000 Iranian nationals from Iraq.

Iran formally laid claim to half of the Shatt al-Arab, the Foreign Ministry statement asserted.

Jan. 8: Queen Farah made her first appearance at a women's movement meeting in Teheran and heard a resolution demanding equal rights for Iranian women.

Jan. 11: A clash between several hundred students and policemen in Teheran over high school grades resulted in the injury of 62 persons and the arrest of 100 "troublemakers."

Jan. 12: The Government declared that it would take strong measures against further disorders like the student riot yesterday.

Jan. 14: Premier Eghbal, in a speech to the Majlis, charged that the Communists had helped to incite the student riots.

Jan. 16: Ardeshir Zahedi, son-in-law of the Shah, has been proposed as new Iranian Ambassador to the US, it was reported in Teheran.

Jan. 17: It was reported that while most thoughtful Iranians agree with the vast public works program and a series of reform laws proposed by the Government, the pace of their execution and the lack of able administration hindered their progress.

Jan. 19: While the US was praised for the aid she is giving Iran in the reform program, she was also criticized for the slow pace of the reform.

Jan. 20: New regulations have been announced relating to four new categories of goods which may only be imported under ICA procurement procedure, as follows: a) tires and inner tubes, b) cotton and woolen thread, yarns and materials, c) lorries, jeeps, automobiles up to 1,700 kilos, buses, chassis, engines and spares, and d) iron, cast iron and steel, wires, nails, etc., tin plate, metal pipes, etc.

Jan. 27: The following depths have been reached by the exploration drilling operations: SIRIP offshore well, 7,160 ft. with last casing at 6,360 ft.; SIRIP well at Sequta in Zagros agreement area,

Iran

General, Iraq, Jordan and Pakistan)

Iranian frontier guards have been reinforced along the Iraqi border near the disputed Shatt al-Arab following a shooting incident. Special forces also have been taken to protect the oil refinery.

The Iranian Majlis accused General 'Abd al-Qasim of adopting an aggressive policy towards Iraq after the shooting incident in the Shatt al-Arab area.

The Shah Muhammad Riza Pahlavi declared that Iran would defend its "integrity and rights" in any dispute with Iraq.

Mechanized units of Iranian artillery, armor and tanks were sent to the Iraqi border.

The Shah took a 21-year-old commoner, Farah, as his third queen in a marriage ceremony in Teheran.

The Shah interrupted his honeymoon to meet with his War Minister and other officials to consider the border dispute worsens.

The Teheran radio attacked General 'Abd al-Qasim as a "Red servant of black imperialism."

One hundred Iraqis were reported to have been killed with Iraqi guards while trying to flee into Iraq. Four of them were killed along with one Iranian.

Officials appeared to be soft-pedaling the border aspects of the border disputes in spite of the demonstrations and troop movements from both border points. The army chief of information, General Gulbadi, declared that military activity in the area is a result of "routine maneuvers."

The US and Britain have advised Iran to use caution in dealing with Iraq over the disputed border territory, informed sources announced.

Premier Eghbal said at a news conference in Teheran that he did not believe the Soviet Union would support Iran's current border dispute with Iraq.

Security officials at Abadan said that Iran had converted a section of the border near there into a "military fortress" and while scarcely any military movement can be seen in Abadan and Basrah, high tension prevailed.

- 1,263 ft. with last casing at 298 ft.; IPAC offshore well, 10,206 ft. with last casing at 8,515 ft.
- Feb. 7:** The Iranian Supreme Court rejected the verdict of a branch of the Criminal Court which had sentenced USAF Major Donald Bourke to jail and granted him a new trial.
- Feb. 9:** Engineers have just completed pulling a submarine pipeline into place between Ganaweh on the Iranian mainland to Kharg Island. This is the key piece in a new 30-inch pipeline running 100 miles from new oil fields in Gach Saran to a new offshore loading terminal under construction on Kharg Island.
- Feb. 14:** It was announced in Teheran that the concession granted to the Canadian firm Sapphire Petroleum to explore for oil on the Iranian coast near the straits of Hormuz would be cancelled unless the company drilled its first well within 4 months. The company would also forfeit its deposit of \$350,000 in an Iranian bank.
- Feb. 19:** The IBRD approved a loan equivalent to US\$42 million to Iran for a multipurpose project on the Dez River for electric power generation, irrigation, and flood control in Khuzistan Province.
- Feb. 27:** Court authorities denied reports that Queen Farah was expecting a baby.
- Mar. 11:** General elections based on a two-party system were held. The two contesting parties are *Melljoun* (Nationalists), the majority party led by Dr. Eghbal, and *Mardom* (People) the opposition party, led by Asadallah Alam, a former Minister of the Interior and a wealthy landowner.

Iraq

(See also, General, Iran, Jordan, Persian Gulf, UAR)

1959

- Dec. 18:** A long procession of peasants, estimated at more than half a million, marched toward the Defense Ministry to pay homage to General 'Abd al-Karim Qasim on his recovery from an assassination attempt.
- For the first time, an Arab labor union federation, the Iraqi General Federation of Labor Unions, became affiliated to the Communist-sponsored World Federation of Trade Unions in Prague.
- Dec. 21:** General 'Abd al-Karim Qasim said that he would not resort to force to regain Iraq's rights unless all peaceful methods for solving international issues failed.
- Dec. 23:** General Qasim warned Iran against building up her forces on the Iraqi frontier and requested her government to "come back to its senses or be beaten by us."
- Baghdad Radio introduced a half-hour program called "Voice of United Arabs" directed against the UAR.
- The Second Conference of Iraqi Engineers recommended that: crude oil production should be increased; refinery throughput capacity should be expanded with a view to exporting oil products;

petrochemical industries should be established as rapidly as possible and natural gas should be used in these industries.

- Dec. 24:** Ian Colvin, *The Daily Telegraph* correspondent, reported from Iraq that the National Development plan is causing concern among ministerial officials because of the high cost of the plan in relation to estimated revenues.
- Dec. 25:** According to the *Etelaat*, Soviet oil workers began building an offshore drilling platform in the Persian Gulf following the Soviet-Iraqi agreement a week ago.
- Dec. 26:** Fifty-seven persons were brought before the People's Military Court in Baghdad on charges of complicity in an October 7 attempt to assassinate General 'Abd al-Karim Qasim. Majid Muhammad Amin, the prosecutor-general, accused the Shah of Iran, President Nasir and King Husayn, by name, of being "threatening the Government and the people of Iraq."
- Dec. 27:** Iraq and the Soviet Union signed a technical-training agreement whereby the latter would assist in setting up 10 big centers for training Iraqis in the fields of radio, telecommunications, oil, agriculture, machinery, river transport, electricity, metal sheet cutting, road-building, and air communication.
- Two students testified in the People's Military Court that the plot to assassinate General Qasim was to have been followed by a "liberation movement" from the UAR, and that the banned Arab Ba'ith party had arranged for the weapons to be used.
- Dec. 28:** General Qasim denied reports of Iraqi concentrations at Basrah.
- Dec. 29:** Four political parties were reported to apply for licenses after January 6. They were the People's Party, National Democratic Party, Communist and United Kurdish Democratic parties.
- In a statement issued by the Iraqi Foreign Minister, Iraq appealed to the world to indict Israel as endangering peace in the Middle East.
- Dec. 31:** The law on the interim four-year economic plan which provides for appropriations of 391.3 million to cover the cost of the program, to be carried out including I.D. 10 million from the Soviet loan of March 1959, was published in the *Official Gazette*.

1960

- Jan. 3:** At the trial of the persons involved in the assassination plot, a prosecution witness pointed to a British subject as the head of a spy ring in Iraq.
- Jan. 4:** Foreign Minister Hashim Jawad said that Iraq would not attend any Arab League meeting held in the UAR.
- Jan. 6:** Political party life was restored with the celebration of Army Day.
- Jan. 7:** General Qasim said that Iraq will remain