

...the Iranian revolution's victory. Some of these questions are answered by the following letter.

Our meeting in Beirut with a group of youths from the Gulf, mostly from Kuwait, gave us a suitable opportunity to examine a group of issues and problems discussed by some Arabic newspapers and magazines, especially concerning the nature of Gulf-Iranian relations with the Islamic revolution.

Discussion of the subject branched out so much that it sometimes reached back in history to the year 1776, "when the Persians took over Basrah,"

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INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

KUWAIT TO RECEIVE DRINKING, IRRIGATION WATER FROM IRAQ

Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 13 Sep 79 p 3

[Article by Muhammad al-Hakim: "Agreement To Supply Kuwait With 300 Million Gallons of Water and To Resume Study To Complete Electrical Link Project"]

[Text] Kuwait and Iraq have agreed that Kuwait will obtain 200 million gallons of drinking water and 100 million gallons of water for agriculture. The necessary documents will be signed next week stipulating that the project to transfer water from Iraq to Kuwait be submitted to bidding and calling on the international advisory offices to study it and draw up the necessary plans.

This was revealed at a press conference held yesterday morning by the under secretary of the Ministry of Electricity and Water and head of the Kuwaiti delegation to the negotiations which took place 3 days ago in Kuwait, Zayd al-Fahd, after he had signed the protocol pertaining to cooperation between Kuwait and Iraq in the field of electrical power and water.

At 11:30 the Kuwaitis and Iraqis held the final session of the talks for the signing of the protocol between the two sister states. Under Secretary of the Ministry of Electricity and Water Zayd al-Fahd signed for the Kuwaitis, and Under Secretary of the Ministry of Industry and Minerals Subhi Yasin signed for the Iraqis. After the heads of the two delegations exchanged protocol documents, Zayd al-Fahd delivered the following speech:

"With the help of God, the signing took place at the third session of the meetings of the Iraqi-Kuwaiti Committee for Water and Electricity.

"As you know, these meetings came as a supplement to the two previous meetings held during the past year in Kuwait and Baghdad, during which it was agreed that Iraq would supply Kuwait with drinking water in stages: the first stage, 200 million gallons, to increase in the future according to studies conducted by the two parties during the period from 1985 to 1990.

"In the discussion by the two sides during this visit, the following points were agreed upon:

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The problem goes beyond what happened or may happen in Bahrain and Kuwait, Bahrain or Kuwait or other countries in the Gulf may become mere symbols of a changing relationship. In the light of this change, it is said that Iranian strategy balances two major matters in the Gulf.

The first matter is the replacement of the scattered Gulf situation with enough power to allow Iranian connections with the Arab-Israeli conflict. The repeated American threats after the Iranian revolution to take over the oil wells, U.S. moves in Gulf waters and U.S. hints at regional projects show that the Gulf is one of the weakest links in the Iranian chain. If we assumed that Khomeyni's leadership were to attempt more of

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"With regard to the first stage for drinking water, the Kuwaitis have completed a draft of an invitation to the consulting houses to study and design the project, and it will be sent to the Iraqis next week for study and approval.

"As for irrigation water, it was agreed that Kuwait would receive water for agricultural purposes, with the provision that the first stage would be 100 million gallons a day, to increase in the future subject to approval by both parties."

"As for electricity, I want to clear up some confusion on the part of some members of the press. Some have explained that the object of the talks between Kuwait and Iraq on water and electricity is an exchange operation to supply Kuwait with water in return for supplying Iraq with electricity. This is a mistaken description or impression. The main purpose of the electrical linkage project between the two countries is to increase the operating flexibility of both networks and to make it possible to exchange electricity power when necessary, according to the circumstances of each country.

"Consequently, I would like to assure you that the subject of supplying water from Iraq has no connection with the subject of the electrical link. As an indication of that, agreement was reached on all of the first steps to implement the water project when the subject of the electrical link was still in the stage of technical studies. Finally, I would like to thank Prof Subhi Yasin, head of the delegation, and the members of the delegation for the positive spirit which prevailed during the talks of the last 2 days."

Subhi Yasin then replied with a speech in which he said: "This is indeed a happy occasion as we conclude the meetings of the subcommittee of the Supreme Ministerial Committee for Iraqi-Kuwaiti Cooperation in the Fields of Electricity and Water here in Kuwait. I want to praise the atmosphere of true brotherhood and fruitful, constructive cooperation which prevailed during the talks to complete all of the steps necessary to reach the protocol which we signed a short time ago. In my opinion, this indicates the existence of a true desire for joint cooperation in the constructive steps we are trying to achieve. It is my hope that in the near future we will proceed in earnest with activities to put the agreement into effect, so that the citizens in Kuwait will feel the fruits of efforts exerted to achieve Iraqi-Kuwaiti cooperation."

Yasin added: "I would like to thank the Kuwaiti Government and the officials of the Ministry of Electricity and Water for their kind reception and the welcome they extended us throughout our visit, which had made us feel that we are at home with our families.

"I would like to pursue what Zayd al-Fahd said about the electrical tie between the two countries. It is a separate subject and has no direct connection with the other subject, that is, supplying Kuwait with the necessary water. The main purpose of cooperation in the field of electrical

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people focus on the following three tactical errors:

That the revolution presents a reason to depict the new Iranian situation as if it were a natural continuation of what it was during the Shah's regime (which, until recently, considered Bahrain as the 14th state in Iran, and treats the Gulf as its vital extension).

That it offers arguments acceptable to many Emirates and shaykhdoms to improve their relations with the other central Gulf countries (Saudi Arabia and Iraq), thus forming a Gulf core of cores.

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power is to increase cooperation and coordination between the two countries so that power can be exchanged between the two. The tie between Kuwait and Iraq will lead to fewer of the customary difficulties and to the possibility of economic savings for both sides, and it will facilitate programs to establish generating stations to take advantage of seasonal disparities and electrical loads. I will state that the proposed project to link Kuwait and Iraq is part of a complete, ambitious program linking all of the Arab countries.

Zayd al-Fahd later held a press conference at which he discussed the protocol. He said:

"At our last meeting we agreed on 200 million gallons of drinking water as a first stage, and at our present meeting we agreed on 100 million gallons of water for irrigation, for a total of 300 million gallons. From the cost standpoint, Kuwait will benefit from the water drawn from Iraq, and consequently we will bear the expense of this project. As for electricity, both countries will benefit, and Kuwait and Iraq will share expenses. Next week we will ask the consultants to conduct studies and prepare plans, after sending them to Iraq for study and approval by the officials there. They will participate with us in selecting the necessary consultants, who will choose the source and method for drawing the water from Iraq to insure the quality and continuity of the flow of water to Kuwait. The invitation will be extended to the consultants by the Ministry of Planning, after we have obtained Iraq's approval of the draft of the invitation.

"Actually, we feel that we are all set on the subject of water, and everything is almost completed. As for the exchange of electrical power, we are still at the stage of preliminary technical talks, and the committee responsible for that sector will meet in the first quarter of 1980. On water, we will maintain constant contact between officials in the two countries to complete the steps necessary and contact the consultants and agree on the studies to be undertaken by the consulting companies. Note that in our new talks in the past year and this year we have relied on the previous agreement concluded between the two countries, in 1974, which gave us 120 million gallons. In view of the development of consumption since that time, we increased the quantity to 300 million gallons of water as a first stage.

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