

in the long run we can not carry out our mandate properly if we are denied the necessary funds. It is indeed ironic, that those who support our peace-keeping efforts in word, often fail to do so in deed. Peace-making is an expensive proposition, but it is always cheaper than war—in material as well as in human terms.

Crown Prince Departs for Paris 26 Oct

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1200 GMT 26 Oct 88*

[Text] His royal highness the crown prince left for Paris today to take part in the annual Rome Club conference, scheduled to debate the international economic and development situation. The conference will discuss means of promoting relations between rich and poor countries and boosting cooperation between northern industrial nations and the developing countries of the South.

During the visit, his royal highness will meet with leading political and economic world figures participating in the conference.

The crown prince was seen off upon his departure by the chief of the Royal Court, the chief chamberlain, the commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and senior officials.

Paper Reports Suspension of Temporary Passports

*JN2510205688 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic
24 Oct 88 p 1*

[Text] As a result of the Aqaba summit, Jordan intends in the near future to suspend the issuance of temporary passports to the inhabitants of the West Bank and those who are holding green cards and to permit visitors from the West Bank to stay for a much longer period on its territory.

Society To Study Computer Development, Education

*JN2610140888 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
26 Oct 88 p 2*

[By Najwa Najjar]

[Excerpts] Amman—Communication through computers is the fastest growing field worldwide. Although thousands of mini-computers are already in use in Jordan, a need to develop indigenous software for computers and to spread computer awareness and literacy in Jordan to enhance, or raise, the level of the profession has become increasingly apparent.

To meet this need, 12 individuals in 1984 founded the Computer Society. As a professional scientific society, its stated objective is to provide a forum for the computer activities, to study the profession's organisational

3

matters, to spread computer awareness and to provide initial directions to private and public organisations, according to the president of the society, Ghassan 'Abdallah.

It took until 1986 for the society to be officially approved and until the beginning of 1987 for it to start functions. In the past year membership has grown to 306, of which 20 per cent are women. 'Abdallah noted that more women are joining since they comprise 50 per cent or more of the computer students in community colleges and universities. One advantage that women have "is that they do not have to spend two years in the military, and therefore, do not forget what they have learnt," he said, pointing out that computer science is a "fast changing field." [passage omitted]

In the past year, the members of the society have been preparing for "Amman Computer Expo" which will be held in March 1989; and holding bimonthly lectures on computer topics such as data communication, computer management and computer development. [passage omitted]

Moreover, the society has been involved with government personnel in order to remove custom duties from all computer components. 'Abdallah explained that although there are no taxes on computers as such, "if a computer screen is ordered on its own, it is taxed just like a television set would be, and similarly with software. The disks are listed in the same category as musical records for tax purposes."

Contacts with the government are also continued to encourage government institutions to computerise their systems. "In general, Jordan is less computerised than the Gulf states, and a lot less than Israel," he said, pointing out as an example that out of the 33 insurance companies (the number before the merger of some) only five companies have mini-computer systems.

'Abdallah believes that one of the main reasons behind Jordan's underdevelopment in the computer field is "lack of awareness among the top management people in both the private and public sectors."

According to him, there is local expertise in computers, however, top managers and decisionmakers do not refer to the local expertise or the juniors in the company "who know a lot about computers." "Instead, they (managers and decisionmakers) turn to foreign expertise," which 'Abdallah admits may help Jordan in "some very specialised fields."

"But they may not always have the appropriate expertise for Jordan," he stressed. The society aims to attract national expertise in the computer field and direct it towards local needs. [passage omitted]

Further plans of the society include establishing a library which includes the leading computer publications. "These publications are essential to allow professionals to follow-up on the latest developments in the hardware and software technology," he said. 'Abdallah finds this field especially important to Jordan since "we are behind in developing indigenous software." More importance has been accorded to hardware and the expense of software, he said, citing that while 80 per cent of training is done on hardware, only 11 per cent is done on software. These figures are far from the 50/50 ratios currently in other countries.

However, he believes that since the Jordanian government has decided to introduce 2,000 computers to schools over the next five years, "there is a good opportunity for the development of educational programme software, which can later be exported to Arab countries."

Regional and international conferences to expose Jordanian computer professionals to the latest in computer technology is also on the society's future agenda.

AL-RA'Y Views Efforts for Peace in Lebanon

*JN2610104088 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
26 Oct 88 p 1*

[Editorial: "Lebanon and the Arab Responsibility"]

[Text] No other Arab people on the soil of their homeland have suffered and continue to suffer as much as the fraternal Lebanese people. We can also say that no other people in this world and age have suffered as much bloodshed, terror and destruction as the Lebanese people and territory. Throughout these many long years of insecurity, instability, continuous infighting, and alliances and counteralliances, Lebanon—dear to every Arab citizen—has continued to face disasters and misery and overcome one crisis after another without any sign

of a final salvation. This can only be achieved through the Lebanese people's consensus on the unity of their homeland and their affiliation to this nation.

Yesterday, His Majesty King Husayn received a message from his brother President Hafiz al-Asad. It was conveyed to his majesty by Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, and deals with the Arab and Lebanese situations. We, in Jordan, have always announced our clear-cut position on the Lebanese crisis, and have exerted every effort to end the crisis in order to restore this Arab country's security and stability and strengthen its unity and affiliation.

The brothers in Syria have also exerted such efforts because Lebanon's security and stability are part of the Arab security and stability, and because Lebanon's affiliation to its nation is part of the greater affiliation of millions of Arabs to their homeland. Hence, any contact, consultation, and coordination in the Arab arena for the sake of the one goal of Lebanon's salvation and unity will certainly lead to a joint effort and to turning the unified Arab position on the Lebanese crisis into persistent action to end this fraternal country's tragedy and restore its health and role.

It is hoped that the current Arab consensus on seeking a solution will end what happened and is still happening in Lebanon. As there is no winner in this continuous tragedy, any departure from this situation will be a real gain for all the Lebanese citizens and territories. We know that the Lebanese will never relinquish Lebanon's unity and affiliation and that the Arabs will support them in their national and pan-Arab eagerness to preserve Lebanon and resume its normal role. We hope that current active bilateral Arab contacts will lead to this goal, and there is no doubt they will achieve that goal and mobilize all the energies to confront the challenges that threaten the homeland.