

Similar problems characterize RAKAH these days too, but while the Communists are still carrying on a struggle to the bitter end with the progressives in the Arab electorate, no great shake-ups are expected in the leadership of the movement. Me'ir Wilner, Tawfiq Tubi, and Tawfiq Ziyad, mayor of Lower Nazareth, will continue to head RAKAH, and, if the elections are held early, Charlie Biton's place will not be taken in the opening quartet. The main problem in RAKAH, the most important component in the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality, is the closed leadership and the lack of access by leftist groups which have joined the movement in recent years to the top ranks. According to research carried out not long ago by Middle East expert Dr Eli Rekhes from the Dayan Center at the University of Tel Aviv, it appears that at least Me'ir Wilner, longtime leader of RAKAH, has been trying to keep out new leaders as a way of offering something to his two sons to get them to join RAKAH. Tawfiq Tubi is also holding on to his position, but in the Arab faction in RAKAH, some young people are advancing, such as Tawfiq Ziyad, Salim Abran, and Assad Kana'ana, who may try to attain a real place on the list of the Front.

It is no secret that a rejuvenation of the Communist Party is expected if Israeli-USSR relations improve, and in RAKAH, they are alert to this possibility. A special unit for propaganda and information has been operating for a few months already and is concentrating its activity in the Arab electorate with attacks on the Progressive List and on the organization of religious groups which are getting special treatment in AL-ITTIHAD, the mouthpiece of RAKAH. For now, RAKAH is making progress in the Arab electorate, and attesting to that fact are the results of recent elections for Arab student councils at the universities.

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ISRAEL

NEAR EAST

WESTERN GALILEE WATER CONTAMINATED

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 27 May 87 p 2

[Article by Eli El'ad: "There Is a Noticeable Deterioration in the Quality of the Water in the Springs of the Western Galilee"]

[Text] A noticeable worsening of the quality of the waters streaming through the Western Galilee has been noticed recently. So said Dr Ya'acov Eren, who is in charge of the quality of water in the northern region, at a conference of the Israeli Society for Ecology and the Quality of the Environment. Until a few years ago, those waters were considered to be among the best sources of drinking water in Israel.

Four springs are in question. They include those of Kabri, Ga'ton, and 'En Ziv and Hardelit, which flow through the natural reserves in the Kaziv Valley. The annual flow of the Western Galilee streams amount to about 15-20 million cubic meters of water every year, and they represent one of the main sources of drinking water in the region.

Dr Eren reported that the results of bacteriological studies of the Western Galilee springs showed that their quality is deteriorating due to an increase in the level of bacteria. He pointed out that, for the first time this year, the water supply people had to discard about a million cubic meters of water that used to be of excellent quality because of large amounts of bacterial contamination measured in them.

This water was funneled to the sea because the water supply people could not let it get into the drinking water supply system, which is disinfected and chlorinated. This treatment is given to all the springs which supply drinking water for the area.

There is a serious problem in the Western Galilee of poorly organized sewage water, which is seen as the probable major source of contamination of the springs. Of concern are the sewage waters of Ma'alot and other settlements which pour untreated through channels or into absorbing wells of other settlements whose waters permeate the layers of underground water.

9348/13046  
CSO: 4423/34

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ISRAEL

NEAR EAST

REPORT REVEALS SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITIES AT ISRAEL LAND ADMINISTRATION

Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 21 May 87 pp 1, 2

[Article by Baruch Me'iri: "Report Reveals Suspicions Concerning the Integrity of the Head of the Israel Land Administration"]

[Text] An in-depth investigation conducted by the assistant Attorney General Yoram Bar-Sel'a, revealed bad news about deviant activities being conducted by the Israel Land Administration, especially on the part of the man who heads that organization, Moshe Lipke.

The assistant attorney general investigated four complaints out of six that reached him. Several days ago he handed his findings over to the attorney general, Yosef Harish.

In his conclusion, Yoram Bar-Sel'a stated categorically: "It appears on the face of it that the basis of the complaints points to a blot on the administrative functions, improper practices, deficient management, possible preferential treatment, and more--activities indicating a possible lack of integrity."

Notwithstanding, the assistant attorney general, who in the meantime had left his position, pointed out that the essence of the complaints indicates disciplinary aberrations as opposed to any fear of criminal wrongdoing. Against this background, he decided to pass the information on for examination by the attorney general.

Paragraph one of the report summarizes the main points of the assistant's findings:

- It may be said that there is a common thread in all the files that were examined... At issue are incidents in which the Israel Land Administration was saddled with people working against the interests of the administration, or breaches of contract, or incidents in which plans were not implemented or land was trespassed upon...

- At first, the administration worked against these people, as required. However, at a later stage, for reasons which are neither clear nor detailed, there was interference in the regular work process. In most of the incidents,

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At first glance, it seemed that things might be different. When Begin came to power, it seemed that, finally, a man of education had arrived at the head of the government. Although the intellectual world of the Likud leader was one-dimensional, to a certain extent, and conservative, still it appeared that he represented a change for the better over his predecessors. After Levi Eshkol, Golda Meir, and Yitzhaq Rabin, Menahem Begin was a man of learning, familiar with the history of other nations, an expert in Jewish sources, not to mention his legal expertise. Begin would, apparently, be able to open up a rich and stimulating dialogue with the Israeli academic world. He was not a stutterer nor was he limited in his interests like his three predecessors. He was a prime minister who had had 30 years to read and enrich his learning.

Whatever the problem, the chemistry did not work. Begin did not speak to the heart of the Israeli intellectuals and they, apparently, did not succeed in capturing his attention. There were no meetings between him and them. No interest on his part in writers and artists was noted. No one ever saw him at the opening of an important art exhibit or at a concert.

Begin set the tone for Likud generally. During his tenure and afterwards, Likud never did succeed in encouraging the growth of any major personality who would be identified with the interests of the Israeli intelligentsia. There is nowhere in Likud--not even in the youngest group of its leaders--a man who surrounds himself naturally with artists or writers or professors. When you hear the word professor coming out of the mouths of one of the Likud

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the interference was from the head of the administration.... The burning question why and how the situation suddenly changed...."

In another place in the report, the assistant attorney general criticized the intervention of the former minister of agriculture, Pesah Gruper, saying: "The agriculture minister's interference, and that of the head of the administration in all these files, stimulated a vested interest in the file. Its not clear what the motives for intervention were and it is difficult to follow up."

One of the six complaints that were submitted to the Justice Ministry was related to a dispute between two factions in Moshav Poris, over the land rights of the village. The issue was litigated and it was decided that the administration would appoint a committee to investigate the subject. The conclusions of the committee were authorized by a ruling of the district court in Haifa in December 1984. However, to date the recommendations have not been fully implemented. "The picture is one where one side has not succeeded in implementing its rights and receiving the land area that was allotted to it," stated Yoram Bar-Sel'a.

The head of the Israel Land Administration responded yesterday, via the administration's spokesman, 'Amkam Shapira, with these words: "There is no factual basis for these claims. Everything that was done by the administration was proper and authorized by the parties agreed upon."

The head of the administration further claims that he is not familiar with the report and that his response relates to statements published in the media. According to him, for every incident mentioned in the report there is an explanation anchored in the decisions of authorized parties within the administration.

Lipke harshly attacked what he called "Justice Ministry leaks." "I take a very negative view of the fact that legal parties, who are supposed to be engaged in proper administration, leak internal reports that were given to the attorney general for consideration."

Yoram Bar-Sel'a summarily dismissed Moshe Lipke's response, saying that the tactic of personally attacking the complainant "appears to be unacceptable, and to be worthy criticism on the part of the Justice Ministry.... The question to be asked in each incident examined is why the head of the system deviated from the recommendations and from the routine and ongoing operative mode of the apparatus he was obligated to run."

There is also discussion of land being held illegally by the Swititzki family. In 1965, the head of the Israel Land Administration filed a claim for removal against the Swititzki inheritors. While legal proceedings were under way, and when it was finally likely that the case would be won, negotiations were conducted between the administration and the inheritors. The negotiation itself and the settlement in April 1982 raised some doubts. However, according to the assistant to the attorney general, it was the implementation

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