

"Israel bought a third of south"
The Kuwait daily *As-Siyassa* alleged on 12 January that about 32 per cent of the land in southern Lebanon had been "indirectly sold" to Israel. The land sales had been made through individuals and companies which had been shown to be working in association with international companies working for Zionist interests and using Israeli capital. Landowners had been persuaded to sell under the pressure of Israeli bombardments and the civil war.

ADF's South Yemeni contingent leaves
The Commander of the Arab Deterrent Force (ADF), Colonel Sami Khatib, on 10 January paid a farewell visit to officers of the ADF's South Yemeni contingent before their departure from Lebanon. The first South Yemeni contingent would be leaving Lebanon on 15 January, the *Middle East News Agency* reported.

It was reported in December 1977 that the South Yemeni contingent would be leaving Lebanon (ARR 77/980).

Hoss: fears on ADF unfounded
Prime Minister Selim Hoss said on 15 January that fears that the ADF would be withdrawn from Lebanon when its mandate expired in April (ARR 77/731) were unfounded. It would be staying as long as the Lebanese authorities wanted it to.

ECONOMIC: COMMUNICATIONS

Details of unified TV company
Details of the government decree of 26 December 1977 (ARR 77/983) authorising the creation of a unified Lebanese television company to take over Lebanon's two existing stations, Tele-Orient and Compagnie Libanaise de Television (CLT), were published by the *Middle East Reporter* on 5 December. The company would be capitalised at £Leb 30 million (\$ 10 million) in 300,000 shares of £Leb 100 (\$33.4) each. The government would subscribe to at least 50 per cent of the shares, and priority shares would be given to CLT and Tele-Orient on an equal basis. Government representation on the board of directors would be at the recommendation of the ministers of Information and Finance. Representatives of other shareholders on the board would be elected by an annual general meeting. The government

would not participate in elections, but would appoint a commissioner at the new company to oversee the running and operation of the two stations.

OIL & GAS

Tapline workers end strike
The Workers Union of the Trans-Arabian Pipeline (Tapline) Company decided on 12 January to end their strike, despite the fact that the company had refused to meet their demands for a 36-hour working week. The strike had halted pumping to the Zahrani refinery since 8 December 1977, *L'Orient-Le Jour* reported, but on 14 January the newspaper reported that pumping was expected to restart within the next few days.

In December 1977, it was reported that pumping of Saudi crude to the Zahrani refinery via Tapline had stopped because the 'storage tanks were full' (ARR 984).

PUBLIC WORKS

\$66 million for road resurfacing
It would cost £Leb 200 million (\$66 million) to resurface Lebanon's roads, the president of the parliamentary public works committee, Shafiq Badr, announced on 10 January. Work might start at the end of the winter, and the project might be financed by Gulf states. He added that some roads could not support heavy international transport vehicles.

SOCIAL: EDUCATION

Three new university branches
It was announced after a cabinet meeting on 11 January that three new branches of the Lebanese University would be launched by mid-February. Branches would be set up in North Lebanon (at Tripoli), in South Lebanon (at Nabatiya, although the LU could start the new branch in a temporary location elsewhere), and in the Beqaa (at Ksara-Hawsh al-Umara).

LABOUR

\$633,000 compensation for dockers
The Lebanese Unloading Company was told on 12 January to pay compensation of £Leb 1,895,000 (\$633,000) to 270 Palestinian workers who had lost their jobs at Beirut port during the civil war. The sum was fixed after mediation by the Ministry of Labour & Social Affairs.

IN BRIEF: POLITICAL

Prime Minister Hoss, Interior Minister Salah Salman, Education Minister Rizq and other Lebanese officials paid a one-day visit to Kuwait on 2 January to express Lebanese condolences on the death of the Amir, Shaikh Sabah.

The leader of the Lebanese Forces (Lebanese rightist militia), Bashir Gemayel, left on 14 January, for a week's visit to West Germany to discuss Lebanese Middle Eastern affairs with German

Walid Junblatt, the leader of the Lebanese Socialist Party (PSP), left Beirut on 14 January for a week's tour of various European countries'.

President of the Syrian Nationalist Party (formerly PPS), Abdulla Saada, on 14 January, had gone to Baghdad, L'Orient reported on 3 January. He would be representing the National Movement at the Arab People's Conference (see ARR 77/980) (ARR 77/980).

Inaam Raad, former leader of the Lebanese Nationalist Party, left Beirut for Beirut on 4 January at the head of a delegation to the Central Political Council of the National Movement. The purpose of the delegation was to congratulate Archbishop Hilari on his release from prison in Israel.

A parliamentary delegation left Beirut on 14 January to continue discussions on Lebanese and Syrian legislative matters, particular customs laws, the penal code and rent laws.

The Shia spiritual leader, Imam Musa al-Sadr, arrived in Jordan from Syria on 14 January and praised King Husain's "efforts to establish Arab unity". On 9 January he talked with King Husain, and then flew to Kuwait to offer his condolences on the death of the Amir, Shaikh Sabah.

Falange Party leader Pierre Gemayel paid a two-day visit to Kuwait at the head of a Falange Party delegation on 9 and 10 January. During his visit, Gemayel met with the Amir, Shaikh Jaber, and offered his condolences on the death of Shaikh Sabah.

IN BRIEF: ECONOMIC

The Saudi Arabian Ambassador, General Ali Shaeir, on 7 January paid a visit to Beirut. He offered \$1 million for £Leb 500,000 (\$167,000) to the Sunni Mufti, Shaikh Hasan Khalil, for £Leb 500,000 (\$167,000) to the Muslim victims of the civil war.

Mental illness in Lebanon, which is believed to have increased during the civil war, would be studied by an expert commission who had been commissioned by the Ministry, the Kuwait daily reported on 12 January.

2,505 vessels used Beirut port in 1977, compared with 3,612 in 1974.