

"ANTECEDENTES SOBRE EL CONFLICTO DEL GOLFO PERSICO"

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"ANTECEDENTES SOBRE EL CONFLICTO DEL GOLFO PERSICO"

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EL MERCURIO, 21 de Junio 1961

Entró en Vigor la Independencia del Estado de Kuwait

LONDRES, 20 (AFP).— De ahora en adelante el Estado de Kuwait es independiente y soberano, puede recibir misiones extranjeras y mantener relaciones diplomáticas con cualquier país del mundo sin control del gobierno británico, se informó hoy en la Cancillería británica.

La declaración fue hecha por Edward Heath, Ministro adjunto de Relaciones Exteriores británico, quien anunció la anulación del Tratado de 1899 que hacía de Kuwait un Protectorado británico y prohibía a su Emir mantener relaciones diplomáticas con otros países.

Se recuerda que Kuwait es uno de los más grandes productores de petróleo de Medio Oriente con un promedio de 80 millones de toneladas por año.

Demanda de Irak Sobre Kuwait Crea Nuevo Problema en el Medio Oriente

LONDRES, 26 (AP).— (Por Arthur Gavshon).— Respaldo por Gran Bretaña, Kuwait anunció hoy que resistirá los intentos de Irak de asumir control de ese rico Principado. A ese efecto, pidió también el apoyo de otros Estados árabes.

Había indicaciones, entretanto, de que Irak no encontraría sino débil respaldo, en el convulsionado Medio Oriente, a sus pretensiones sobre Kuwait.

El pequeño territorio cuyos yacimientos petrolíferos proporcionan a su regente una entrada de tres millones de dólares diarios, de ó en claro su posición luego de sostener consultas con Gran Bretaña, de la cual obtuvo la independencia recién la semana pasada.

En una declaración emitida en Londres, el gobierno de Kuwait expresó su "determinación a defender el territorio y la independencia" del país, y expuso la esperanza de que todas las naciones amantes de la paz, particularmente los Estados árabes, ayudarían a esa posición.

Un vocero de la Cancillería británica recordó que el nuevo acuerdo entre Londres y Kuwait reafirmaba la promesa británica de defender el Principado si había una solicitud en ese sentido. Fuentes diplomáticas expresaron que Kuwait no ha hecho aún tal pedido y mostraron esperanza de que el problema sería solucionado pacíficamente.

Un despacho noticioso de Kuwait decía hoy que el sorpresivo anuncio que hiciera anoche el Primer Ministro de Irak, Abdel Karim Kassem sobre sus pretensiones acerca del Principado, movieron a las naves de guerra y soldados británicos a postergar su partida de ese territorio del Golfo Pérsico.

ACTITUD DE KASSEM

Se esperaba que el propio Kassem actuaría con lentitud, no obstante las belicosas declaraciones de su ejército. Su Jefe de Estado Mayor le envió un mensaje expresando que el ejército de Irak, "que destruyó la fortaleza del Imperialismo en el Medio Oriente, se encuentra listo a disposición vuestra".

El gobierno del riquísimo territorio, recientemente independizado de Gran Bretaña, proclamó sus intenciones de resistir las pretensiones de anexión anunciadas por el Primer Ministro Karim Kassem. — Kuwait tiene un ingreso diario de tres millones de dólares por concepto de las exportaciones de petróleo. — Por su parte, el régimen de Bagdad calificó a ese Estado de "parte integrante del patrimonio de Irak"

El Premier iraquí anunció anoche, en una conferencia de prensa, que la anexión sería pacífica y que el Jeque que gobierna Kuwait, Sir Abdullah Ass Salim As Sabah, de 66 años de edad, sería nombrado principal administrador del territorio de unos 9.000 kilómetros cuadrados.

Interrogada sobre los motivos que podría tener Kassem para anexar Kuwait, una fuente diplomática en Londres dijo que el país "es un botín muy valioso, razón que es más que suficiente".

El Gobierno de Kuwait ha estado recibiendo unas tres millones de dólares diarios por una producción petrolera que totalizó más de quinientos millones de barriles en 1959.

La American Gulg Oil Corp. y la British Petroleum Co. han explotado conjuntamente los recursos de Kuwait, que ocupa el cuarto lugar entre los productores del mundo, después de Estados Unidos, Venezuela y Rusia. La producción de Irak alcanzó sólo 300 millones de barriles en 1959.

CONFERENCIAS SECRETAS

El regente del Principado sostuvo hoy una larga y secreta conferencia con el representante británico, John Richmond, en el Palacio Real. Se informó luego que ambos se mostraban confiados en que el Premier iraquí cambiaría de criterio, evitando así una grave crisis en el Medio Oriente.

Provisamente, Gran Bretaña rechazó la afirmación de Kassem

de que el rico Estado petrolero pertenecía legalmente a Irak, "por derecho histórico".

La Cancillería británica declaró que "Kuwait es un Estado independiente y soberano".

Al poner término al Protectorado, la semana pasada, Gran Bretaña anunció que continuaría protegiendo a Kuwait contra la agresión, si el Principado lo solicitara.

REAFIRMACION DE LAS DEMANDAS DE IRAK

DAMASCO (República Árabe Unida), 26 (AP).— Irak denunció hoy el nuevo acuerdo concluido entre Gran Bretaña y Kuwait sobre la independencia de este territorio, y reafirmó formalmente las reclamaciones de soberanía sobre ese reino del Golfo Pérsico formuladas por el Primer Ministro Abdel Karim Kassem.

Radio Bagdad expresó que en una nota a todas las misiones extranjeras y árabes en esa capital, el gobierno iraquí destacó "su firme determinación a preservar la unidad de los pueblos de Irak y Kuwait".

El Gobierno, según la emisora, calificó a Kuwait de "parte integrante del patrimonio de Irak". Por su parte, el Gobierno de ese territorio, según un despacho recibido en Beirut, declaró esta noche que defenderá la independencia de Kuwait contra cualquier tentativa de anexión.

El Proyecto de Irak de Anexarse Kuwait Podría Abarcar la Costa Occidental del Golfo Pérsico

La radio de Bagdad anunció que el proyecto de anexarse el Principado podría incluir la cadena de territorios del Golfo Pérsico. — El gobierno izquierdista de Irak mantiene inalterables sus pretensiones territoriales a pesar de la oposición del resto de los países árabes y del respaldo de Estados Unidos y Gran Bretaña al Principado de Kuwait

BEIRUT (Libano), 28 (AP).— Irak aludió hoy a que la pretendida anexión de Kuwait por parte del régimen del Primer Ministro Abdel Karim Kassem podría extenderse a toda la región petrolera de la costa occidental del Golfo Pérsico.

Radio Bagdad lanzó así, con esa alusión, un globo de ensayo en la tormenta desatada en el Medio Oriente por las reclamaciones territoriales que hizo Kassem, el domingo, sobre Kuwait, pequeño y rico Principado al que calificó de "distrito sur de Irak".

Entretanto, los dirigentes del mundo árabe se aprestaban a presentar un frente común contra esas pretensiones.

La emisora de Bagdad informó que el pueblo iraquí estaba enviando felicitaciones a Kassem por su medida tendiente a "libertar a Kuwait", urgiéndolo, al mismo tiempo "a salvar todos los otros anillos de la cadena de territorios del Golfo Pérsico, y devolverlos al patrimonio de Irak".

Esos territorios incluyen a Qatif y Ahsaa, en Arabia Saudita, donde se han otorgado concesiones petroleras a la Arabian American Oil Co. y a los Pro-

tectorados británicos de Qatar, Bahrein y Abu Dhabi.

El Gobierno izquierdista de Bagdad parecía inalterable ante la firme posición de potencias tales como Arabia Saudita, y la República Árabe Unida, (RAU) contra las pretensiones sobre Kuwait y el respaldo de Estados Unidos y Gran Bretaña a la soberanía de ese Principado.

El gobierno británico, que rescató la semana pasada el control de los asuntos exteriores de Kuwait a su ex Protectorado, reafirmó hoy su apoyo a ese país contra la amenaza de anexión. "Estamos preparados para llevar a cabo nuestras obligaciones", declaró en la Cámara de los Comunes Sir Edward Heath, Lord del Sello Privado.

REACCION ARABE

La reacción árabe parecía unánime contra las pretensiones de Irak.

La RAU se pronunció en con-

tra de cualquier intento de anexión. Su anuncio, combinado con la firme oposición de Arabia Saudita, probablemente tendrá como resultado que la mayor parte de las 10 naciones que forman la Liga Árabe, se sitúen detrás de la actitud desafiante del Jefe de Kuwait, Sir Abdullah As Salim As Sabah.

En una transmisión radial, el Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores de la RAU, Abdel Kader Hatem, declaró: "La RAU no acepta la lógica de la anexión".

Por su parte, la radio de Arabia Saudita transmitió una declaración del Rey Saud diciendo que "cualquier daño que sufra Kuwait afecta a Arabia Saudita y viceversa".

Fuentes oficiales de Kuwait dijeron que Saud estaba dispuesto a emplear la fuerza si Kuwait es "sometida a una acción militar".

Ejército de Kuwait Vigila Fronteras ante la Amenaza De Invasión por el Irak

La Armada británica habría enviado unidades al Golfo Pérsico para proteger al Principado de Kuwait, rico en petróleo.

KUWAIT, 29 (UPI).— El ejército de Kuwait está hoy guardando las fronteras y la Armada británica vigila desde el mar para proteger a este rico territorio petrolero de una posible invasión del Irak.

Sin embargo, la situación en el Sultanato, situado en las orillas del Golfo Pérsico, está tranquila. Las demostraciones contra el Irak que estallaron cuando el Primer Ministro iraqués, Abdul Karim Kassem, anunció sus planes de anexionarse a Kuwait parecen haberse desvanecido.

El gobierno reveló que su ejército se está desplegando a lo largo de la frontera de Kuwait con el Irak, y fuentes informadas dijeron aquí que la Marina británica está "próxima y preparada para hacer frente a cualquier eventualidad".

El soberano de Kuwait, Jeque Abdullah As-Salim As-Sabah, dijo que ha recibido "miles de mensajes" en defensa de la soberanía y la independencia de su sultanato, y expresó su gratitud a los manifestantes por sus demostraciones de apoyo.

INCIDENTE

TEHERAN, 29 (UPI).— Patrullas iraquesas hicieron fuego sobre lanchas que llevaban víveres a Kuwait desde Abadan.

Esa noticia fue dada por viajeros llegados hoy a Abadan, que agregaron que varios iraqueses fueron sorprendidos cuando trataban de incendiar una refinería de petróleo de Kuwait fueron detenidos por la policía de seguridad la cual asumió también la vigilancia de la refinería.

MOVIMIENTOS DE UNIDADES BRITANICAS

LONDRES 29 (AP).— El portaviones "Bulwark", llevando a su bordo a 600 comandos de la Infantería de Marina británica, se dirigió hoy hacia la pertur-

bada zona del Golfo Pérsico, según informó un portavoz del Abmirantazgo.

Otros tres buques de guerra, inclusive el portaviones "Victorious" se dirigen hacia el Lejano Oriente. Informaciones llegadas a Londres dicen que estos barcos se dirigen hacia Kuwait.

Un portavoz del Ministerio de Defensa expresó: "Nada tenemos que decir por el momento sobre las razones de estos movimientos".

Añadió que los otros dos barcos además del Victorious, eran los fragatas "Yarmouth" y "Llandaff".

Sería Inminente Invasión de Kuwait por Tropas del Irak

Ante la inminencia de un ataque, Gran Bretaña hizo un llamamiento a los países árabes del Cercano Oriente para que exhorten al gobierno de Bagdad a que se abstenga de intervenir en Kuwait, y, al mismo tiempo, tomó medidas de precaución para proteger la independencia del sultanato rico en petróleo

BEIRUT, 30 (UPI).— Fuentes diplomáticas dijeron hoy que informaciones de Bagdad indican que el Primer Ministro de Irak, Abdel Karim Kassem, prepara a su ejército para atacar a Kuwait. Se dijo también que el Gobierno británico teme que en cualquier momento se produzca una acción militar.

Las noticias del sultanato de Kuwait, muy rico en petróleo, situado en el extremo norte del golfo Pérsico, decían que había tranquilidad allí aunque se habían visto unidades blindadas atendidas por tropas de Kuwait que se dirigían hacia la frontera de Irak. Despachos inconfirmados declararon que "algunas" tropas iraquesas estaban cerca de la frontera, pero las fuentes diplomáticas citadas manifestaron que no había concentración alguna de tropas iraquesas para invadir a Kuwait.

Gran Bretaña hizo anoche un llamamiento a los países árabes

del Cercano Oriente para que se unan a ella en el aviso al Gobierno iraquí de que se abstenga de intervenir en Kuwait. Pero al mismo tiempo Gran Bretaña ha enviado con urgencia por lo menos ocho barcos de guerra con destino a Kuwait con lanchas de desembarco, infantería de marina y otras tropas preparadas para cualquier eventualidad.

LLAMAMIENTO BRITÁNICO

El llamamiento de Gran Bretaña para que se hiciera una advertencia a Irak fue hecho lue-

go de una reunión de emergencia del Gabinete en Londres. Un portavoz declinó decir si Kuwait había solicitado ayuda militar, pero se hizo evidente que Gran Bretaña está preparada por si se le hacía tal pedido.

Se dirigen a todo vapor hacia Kuwait cuatro fragatas de guerra y dos portaviones con 600 "comandos" de infantería de marina. Además se han alertado unos ocho mil soldados destacados en Bahrein y otros en Ko-

nya y dos barcos de guerra más se dirigen a Kuwait desde Hongkong.

En Londres el Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores informó que el representante británico en Kuwait, John Richmond estaba en constante consulta con las autoridades de ese sultanato. No se espera pedido alguno de ayuda a menos que las tropas de Irak crucen la frontera y se traben en lucha con la pequeña pero bien instruida fuerza de Kuwait, que cuenta con tanques británicos.

ANTECEDENTES DE LA CRISIS

La crisis comenzó el domingo cuando el Primer Ministro iraquí anunció que consideraba a Kuwait hoy sultanato independiente, como parte del territorio de Irak. Gran Bretaña y muchas de las naciones árabes replicaron rápidamente con declaraciones en las que expresaban que Kuwait era un país soberano e independiente.

Kuwait ha solicitado su incorporación a la Liga Árabe y noticias llegadas a Beirut dicen que el secretario general de esa Liga, Abdel Khalek Hassuna, irá mañana en avión a Bagdad desde El Cairo para mediar entre Irak y Kuwait.

Detrás de todo eso está el petróleo. El sultanato, con una superficie de 15.600 kilómetros cuadrados, suministra casi la mitad del petróleo que consume Gran Bretaña. Su rendimiento en petróleo es del equivalente de 435 millones de dólares por año y los países árabes vecinos, pobres en petróleo, ambicionan la posesión de Kuwait.

ADMISION EN LA NACIONES UNIDAS

(Nueva York), 30 (AFP).— El Principado de Kuwait informó que próximamente presentaría una solicitud de ingreso a las Naciones Unidas, en un comunicado que envió hoy al secretario general de la organización mundial.

Inmediatamente se informó que Irak se opondría a la admisión de Kuwait en ese máximo orga-

nismo mundial, por considerar que el Principado es parte integrante del territorio iraquí.

Por ahora es difícil saber si Irak contará con apoyo en la defensa de su tesis ante el Consejo de Seguridad para bloquear la admisión de Kuwait. El mundo árabe está representado este año en ese Consejo por la República Árabe Unida, que hasta la fecha no ha defendido las reivindicaciones iraquíes.

Es probable, por otra parte, que el problema sea examinado a través de consultas diplomáticas antes de su examen en el Consejo de Seguridad.

El Golpe Sobre Kuwait

Como si Berlín, Argelia, Cuba, Laos, y otros ingratos territorios no proporcionaran suficientes quebraderos de cabeza al mundo ansioso de paz, he aquí que al dictador del Irak se le ocurrió anexionarse —"velis, no velis"— el Principado de Kuwait, recién reconocido independiente por Gran Bretaña. Como es lógico, dada la sinrazón de Kassem y las inmensas riquezas petroleras de Kuwait, inmediatamente ha surgido un grave foco de preocupación en el Oriente Próximo y Medio, delicadísima zona de tensiones internacionales que desde cierto tiempo estaba relativamente tranquila y ello ha obligado a tropas británicas a desembarcar en la tierra amagada.

La Liga de los Estados Árabes —y en particular los países árabes más próximos, como la Arabia Saudita, la RAU y Jordania— han anunciado su oposición a las ambiciones de Kassem, mientras que Gran Bretaña moviliza la fuerza necesaria para oponerse por las armas a la posible invasión de su ex protectorado, que está obligada a defender, y no sólo por razones egoístas, es decir, porque de él procede ahora buena parte de los suministros del consabido "otro negro" que el Reino Unido necesita importar para sus industrias y para sus fuerzas armadas. Porque es tan necio decir, como lo hacen diversos comentaristas, que en esta nueva crisis surgida en el Oriente Árabe la manzana de la discordia es el petróleo, como lo sería achacar al preciado combustible la interminable serie de conspiraciones subversivas que se están provocando en Venezuela.

Evidentemente, cuanto acaece en los países que producen esa materia prima en abundancia suele estar impregnado de su inconfundible olor. Y como el Ku-

wait ha llegado en poco tiempo a producirla por valor de medio millar de millones de dólares al año, es lógico que cualquier país considere apetecible el botín, especialmente los que no la cuentan entre sus riquezas naturales. Se explicaría, pues, que por razones fundamentalmente económicas Gran Bretaña hubiera pretendido retener "sine die" en sus manos la "protección" de Kuwait, o que quienes acariciarán el propósito de conquistarlo fueran la RAU, Jordania o Israel. Pero ¿para qué necesita Irak más petróleo, como cuestión de vida o muerte para su subsistencia, si a su vez es uno de los mayores productores del mundo? Las razones de Kassem son otras y mucho más vitales para su régimen que la incautación de tan sugestiva fuente de divisas duras.

El dictador del Irak, en efecto, está en un callejón sin salida desde hace tiempo. La brutal eliminación de la familia real es lógico que le enajenara las simpatías de quienes la respetaran, a pesar de todo, pocos o muchos. Después, su zigzagueante política le ha llevado a apoyarse en los comunistas para diezmar sangrientamente a los nacionalistas, sin perjuicio de caer en el exceso opuesto. Encima, la unidad nacional no puede ser más precaria, minada sobre todo por la turbulencia, siempre al acecho, de los kurdos. En resumen: Kassem hace tiempo que vive una dramática existencia, rodeado de una fuerte guardia personal armada hasta los dientes, de cuya fidelidad tampoco puede fiarse. Son las circunstancias "ideales", pues, para crear una diversión estratégica, tratando de provocar cierta unidad interna por el so-called procedimiento de armar un lío internacional a cuenta de fantásticas reivindicaciones de carácter territorial.

Tropas de G. Bretaña Desembarcaron en Kuwait Para Proteger su Independencia

El Consejo de Seguridad Se Reúne Hoy para Tratar La Amenaza contra Kuwait

SEDE DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS (Nueva York), 1.º (AP).— El Consejo de Seguridad de las Naciones Unidas se reunirá mañana a las 11.30 horas para considerar la urgente queja presentada por Kuwait, de que Irak está amenazando su independencia.

El Embajador de Ecuador, Leopoldo Benites, Presidente del Consejo por este mes, informó de la determinación, después de consultar con los demás miembros.

Manifestó que "era muy difícil" celebrar una sesión para hoy a las 20 horas, como se había propuesto originalmente.

El Secretario de Estado de Kuwait, Bader Almulha, envió la nota por cable, siguiendo instrucciones del gobierno de su país, el Jeque Abdulla As-Salim-As Sabah.

Macmillan Exhortó a Irak a Abstenerse de Toda Acción Agresiva Contra el Sultanato

Expresó la esperanza de que las tropas británicas que están siendo movilizadas en Kuwait no tengan en ningún momento que entrar en acción.— Esas fuerzas serán retiradas tan pronto como se cese la amenaza sobre la independencia del pequeño sultanato.

LONDRES, 1.º (AP) (Por Geoffrey Lally).— El Primer Ministro Harold Macmillan urgó esta noche a su colega de Irak, Abd Karim Kassem, a no precipitar una crisis en Kuwait, y expresó la esperanza de que las tropas británicas que están siendo movilizadas a ese Principado no tengan en ningún momento que entrar en combate. "Todavía confío en que las amenazas sobre Kuwait no son de esas palabras y en que el gobierno de Irak evitará tomar acciones agresivas", declaró Macmillan en un discurso pronunciado en Calne, en el oeste de Inglaterra.

La declaración del Primer Ministro fue emitida pocas horas después de que navos de guerra, aviones, tanques e infantes de marina de Gran Bretaña habían sido enviados a su ex-provincia del Golfo Pérsico para defenderlo de la amenaza de Kuwait por parte de Irak.

La amenaza provocó gran alarma en Gran Bretaña, que se cree alrededor de un 40 por ciento de sus necesidades de petróleo crudo en Kuwait. La pro-

ducción petrolera del Principado está en manos de intereses británicos, norteamericanos y japoneses.

Macmillan manifestó que las fuerzas británicas intervinieron en respuesta a un urgente y formal pedido que hizo el regente de Kuwait, el Jeque Sir Abdulla As Salim As Sabah, y que se encontraban a disposición suya.

INFORMO A GAITSKELL "El Gobierno de Su Majestad espera con vehemencia que no surgirá la necesidad de emplear esas fuerzas", añadió el Premier.

Prometió, además, que las tropas serían retiradas tan pronto como el Jeque considerase que la amenaza sobre la independencia de Kuwait ha terminado.

Anteriormente, Macmillan había conferenciado con sus jefes de la Defensa y con Ministros sobre las medidas militares en el Medio Oriente. También se reunió por veinte minutos con el jefe de la oposición, Hugh Gaitskell, para mantenerlo al tanto de los acontecimientos.

Gaitskell dijo luego a los periodistas que el Partido Laborista apoya decididamente al gobierno. "Ifemos aclarado en el reciente acuerdo con Kuwait que si se nos pidiese ayuda, ella sería concedida", dijo Gaitskell. "En vista de la real posibilidad de un ataque de Irak y del pedido del Jefe del Estado kuwaitiano, no veo cómo podríamos haberla rehusado".

Pero Gaitskell estipuló que las tropas británicas no permanecerían en Kuwait, más tiempo del necesario, y que serían reemplazadas tan pronto como fuese posible por una fuerza de las Naciones Unidas.

La acción británica, puesta en conocimiento del Secretario General de la NU, Dag Hammarskjöld, fue respaldada por Estados Unidos y Túnez. — El sultanato de Kuwait, rico en petróleo, se encuentra bajo la amenaza de anexión por Irak. — Arabia Saudita envía también ayuda para proteger la independencia del nuevo país del Golfo Pérsico. — Kuwait tiene un ejército de sólo 2.400 hombres. — Las fuerzas británicas desembarcaron a petición del jefe del sultanato

KUWAIT, 1.º (AP).— (Por Colin Frost).— Gran Bretaña desembarcó hoy tropas y tanques en este principado, y agregó a esos refuerzos cazas a chorro, para respaldar la posición de Kuwait ante la amenaza de anexión por parte de Irak. Naves británicas de guerra contribuyeron a la acción de amparo al nuevo país del Golfo Pérsico.

Una ayuda adicional se hallaba también en camino desde Arabia Saudita según anunció la radio el Gobierno del Jeque Abdulla As Salim As Sabah. Se informó que el Rey Saud había despachado tropas árabes para reforzar el pequeño ejército de 2.400 hombres del Jeque, además de algunos miles de tribunos beduinos que han sido armados debido a la amenaza desde el norte.

Hubo informaciones en Kuwait de que Irak estaba movizando tropas a lo largo de la frontera para así confirmar la reclamación territorial que hizo el domingo el Primer Ministro Abd Karim Kassem, cuando, en un discurso, calificó a este ex Protectorado británico como "provincia del sur" de Irak.

Tal noticia fue desmentida en Bagdad. La agencia noticiosa oficial de Irak informó a través de Radio Bagdad que no había movilización alguna de tropas.

Los kuwaitianos se agolparon en los muelles y algunos navegaron en sus típicos "dhows" para dar la bienvenida a la flota británica. El portaviones "Bulwark" desembarcó 14 tanques "Centurión" y unos 750 soldados. Dos fragatas acompañaron a la nave de 22.000 toneladas.

El comandante de la operación británica es el Mariscal del Aire Sir Charles Elworthy, que comanda las fuerzas de su país en el Medio Oriente, con base en Aden.

El "Bulwark" debía originalmente haber llegado el 6 de julio para una visita de cortesía. Proveniente de Singapur, aceleró su marcha a causa de la crisis.

ANUNCIO EN LONDRES

El anuncio, en Londres, de la operación británica, daba a entender que la movilización comprendía a toda la zona del Golfo Pérsico.

En efecto, un despacho de Nairobi, Kenya, decía que la bri-

gada de infantería número 24 estaba enviando 200 soldados británicos a Kuwait y otros posiblemente a Bahrein.

La Cancillería británica no dio detalles respecto al tamaño de las fuerzas que participan en la operación.

En el comunicado se dice que el Secretario General de las Naciones Unidas, Dag Hammarskjöld, ha sido informado de la medida, y se destaca que el envío de fuerzas ha sido hecho atendiendo a una petición urgente del Jeque. En virtud de un último acuerdo que otorgaba la independencia a Kuwait, Gran Bretaña quedó obligada a respaldar militarmente al nuevo Estado en caso de ser solicitada en ese sentido.

Por su parte, el Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores de Kuwait, Bader Abdulla Mulla, anunció que su Gobierno ha pedido una reunión de emergencia del Consejo de Seguridad de las Naciones Unidas "para investigar las amenazas de Irak que pueden poner en peligro la seguridad e independencia de Kuwait".

APOYO DE ESTADOS UNIDOS Y TUNEZ

En Washington, el Departamento de Estado apoyó la demostración británica de fuerza y expresó que tiene la esperanza de que esa actitud, así como el anunciado despacho de tropas de Arabia Saudita, ayudarán a asegurar "la preservación de la paz".

Lincoln White, funcionario de prensa del Departamento, declaró también que Estados Unidos está pidiendo a todos los Gobiernos involucrados en esta nueva erupción en el Medio Oriente, que controlen sus acciones en interés de mantener la paz en la región.

Túnez, por su parte, expresó hoy su "apoyo total" a la independencia de Kuwait.

El Ministro de Informaciones de Túnez, Mohammed Masoudi, declaró que "el Gobierno tunecino cree que la unidad de los árabes, dondequiera se encuentren, no puede ser construida sobre la base de la anexión".

REUNION DE LA LIGA ARABE

EL CAIRO 1.º (AP).— El Consejo de la Liga Arabe celebrará una sesión extraordinaria el martes a pedido de Arabia Saudita para considerar la solicitud de Kuwait de ingresar a la Liga Arabe, según se anunció hoy en esta capital.

Nuevas Tropas Fortalecen Posición Militar de Gran Bretaña en Kuwait

KUWAIT, 2 (AP).— Gran Bretaña fortaleció hoy su posición militar, por aire y mar, en este país. Nuevas tropas y equipos llegaron hoy para respaldar aun más a este país, rico en petróleo, contra la amenaza de anexión de Irak.

Las tropas de asalto se establecieron al noroeste de la capital en un cuartel de brigada, justamente al norte de donde se encuentra la sede del gobierno del jeque Abdullah As-Salim As-Sabah.

El brigadier Derek Horsford se hizo cargo del comando de las operaciones británicas. Camiones y helicópteros transportaron 100 soldados de asalto del aeropuerto de Fairwani a las posiciones de defensa al noroeste de la ciudad. Estaban colocados a lo largo de una "ruta lógica de invasión" desde Irak, cuyo Primer Ministro, Abdel Karim Kassem, alega que Kuwait es una provincia de Irak.

Las unidades de tropas de refuerzos incluyeron al segundo batallón de la guardia "coldstream" famosa tanto por sus desfiles reales como por sus batallas de honor, y un escuadrón del undécimo húsar, cuyos predecesores hicieron la carga de la brigada ligera en Balaclava, durante la guerra de Crimea en 1854.

Se destacaron soldados de asalto en una "ruta lógica de invasión" desde Irak, país que ha lanzado una amenaza de anexión. — Esta amenaza movió al sheik Abdullah As-Salim As Sabah a pedir la protección del Reino Unido, de acuerdo con un tratado que se concertó el mes pasado al hacerse cargo Kuwait de sus propios asuntos extranjeros y dejando ser un protectorado británico. — Censura de pronuncia. — Llamamiento de Radio Bagdad. — Acusaciones de la RAU. — Declaraciones oficiales de Jordania y Arabia Saudita

El Jeque Abdullah solicitó la ayuda británica bajo los términos de un acuerdo celebrado el mes pasado, por el cual Kuwait se hizo cargo de sus propios asuntos extranjeros y dejó de ser un protectorado británico después de 62 años.

A pesar de que este Estado del desierto ha sido gobernado por la dinastía del jeque Abdullah, desde 1756, Kassem alega que históricamente, es parte de Irak.

Empresas británicas y norteamericanas fueron las primeras en fomentar la industria petrolera de Kuwait, después de la segunda guerra mundial.

Unidades del Ejército de Kuwait, de 2.400 miembros, así como millares de tribenos armados han marchado hacia la frontera, a veces, en medio de tormentas de arena, al haber recibido informes de que tropas de Irak estaban reuniéndose allí, en masa, para invadir a Kuwait.

Mientras tanto, el Gobierno impulsó hoy la censura a todos los telegramas y comunicaciones telefónicas internacionales, incluyendo a las de prensa.

LLAMAMIENTO DE IRAK A OCCIDENTE

La Radio de Bagdad, captada en El Cairo, hizo hoy un llamamiento a Gran Bretaña y Estados Unidos para que "reconsideren su posición agresiva. La radio está controlada por el gobierno iraquí.

La emisora se quejó de que las dos potencias occidentales estaban poniendo en peligro la paz en el Cercano Oriente y tratando de presentar a Irak como un país agresor ante el mundo.

En El Cairo, los periódicos de

para el movimiento árabe de liberación cuando un país árabe recientemente independiente apresura a invitar a las fuerzas armadas de una potencia (Gran Bretaña) que lo domina hasta hace unos días, para que lo proteja contra otro país árabe".

CULPAN A KASSEM

Todos los diarios de Damasco culparon a Kassem por causar este revés. Se pidió a los gobiernos árabes para que se mantuvieran firmes y "salvaran a Kuwait de su actual aflicción de una novada ocupación británica causada por la deplorable posición de los gobernantes de Irak".

"Al Ayam", extendiéndose su acusación de que Kassem estaba actuando como instrumento de los británicos, declaró:

"Gran Bretaña instruyó a Kassem para que anunciara su amenaza para anexar Kuwait a Irak para aterrorizar a los gobiernos de Kuwait y hacer que ellos solicitaran la protección británica".

PETICION DE LOS REYES HUSSEIN Y SAUD

En Amman, Jordania, el Rey Hussein presidió una reunión del Consejo Supremo de Defensa para tratar la crisis de Kuwait. Una declaración oficial, del día anterior, dijo que el rey conocerá anoche, después de la reunión, dice solamente que el problema árabe. Anteriormente, Hussein envió un mensaje a Kassem pidiéndole cautela en sus determinaciones.

la República Árabe Unida, se ocuparon hoy de la crisis de Kuwait atacando a las partes principales de la misma: Irak, Gran Bretaña y Kuwait.

El Primer Ministro Abdel Karim Kassem, viejo enemigo del Presidente de la RAU, Gamal Abdel Nasser, recibió el ataque más fuerte por su alegato del 25 de junio de que Irak tenía soberanía sobre el pequeño reino vecino.

El periódico de Damasco "Al Ayam" dijo creer que Kassem estaba actuando bajo instrucciones británicas.

Hubo críticas para los desembarcos de tropas británicas en la prensa, tanto de los sectores egipcio y sirio de la RAU.

A pesar de que el régimen de Nasser públicamente ha respaldado al gobernante de Kuwait, el Sheik Sir Abdullah As Salim As-Sabah, hubo esta referencia sobre Kuwait, en el periódico de Damasco "Al Nasr":

"Constituye un doloroso revés

EL MERCURIO, 4 de
Julio 1961

Conflicto en el Kuwait

El Medio Oriente ha sido constantemente una zona explosiva, cargada de latentes amenazas de extender sus conflictos locales al resto del mundo, por la enorme variedad de intereses que allí están concentrados. Ahora ha correspondido al territorio de Kuwait atraer la atención mundial, al pretender el Gobierno del Irak incorporarlo a su territorio, declarándolo suyo, justo cuando la nación ha adquirido su independencia. Naturalmente, el Gobierno de Kuwait no está dispuesto a ser absorbido y en su posición cuenta con el apoyo de las potencias occidentales, especialmente de Gran Bretaña, a la cual ha recurrido en demanda de auxilio. El aporte británico no puede serle negado al Kuwait, porque con ello no hace Gran Bretaña sino responder a compromisos formalmente contraídos.

Lo extraño de la pretensión del Irak es que el propio Gobierno iraquí reconoció la independencia de Kuwait aun en fecha tan próxima como el 13 de junio, cuando le apoyó en su solicitud de incorporarse a la Organización Internacional del Trabajo.

La inquietud del Gobierno del Kuwait ante una posible acción inmediata iraquí en su contra —que es lo que le ha impelido a solicitar la ayuda de Gran Bretaña— deriva de las propias expresiones de los líderes iraquíes, especialmente de Kassem, de las violentas declaraciones formuladas por la prensa y por la radio del Irak, y por otras indicaciones igualmente ominosas. Además, se confabula contra el pequeño Estado recién llegado a la independencia su propia posición geográfica: está ubicado en sitio tal, que las fuerzas del Irak podrían ocupar el territorio en pocas horas, a menos que las tropas del Kuwait fuesen considerablemente reforzadas. De ahí la solicitud a Gran Bretaña, que de inmediato encontró respuesta.

Pero no solamente el mundo occidental está en favor del mantenimiento de la soberanía de Kuwait. Desde que Kassem anunció la intención iraquí de absorber al pequeño Estado, la opinión árabe, en general, se ha mostrado unánime en pro de la independencia de Kuwait. Y la inminencia del peligro era conocida también por el mundo árabe. En efecto, el Ministro de Estado de la República Árabe Unida, Abdul Kadir Hatem, anunció, antes del envío de ayuda británica en respuesta al pedido de auxilio de Kuwait, que había recibido indicaciones en el sentido de que las fuerzas del Irak habían recibido la orden de movilizarse hacia las fronteras del Kuwait, y que la posibilidad de una inmediata intervención militar era seriamente discutida en Bagdad.

Como es sabido, el Kuwait es un territorio riquísimo en petróleo, en el cual tienen intereses varias compañías occidentales. Pero en este conflicto no puede haber la idea de que el apoyo británico tiende a proteger los intereses petroleros propios o de otros, por cuanto ya el Gobierno británico había declarado su intención de retirar los intereses petroleros ingleses del nuevo Estado. Se trata, en consecuencia, de una medida que corresponde a la obligación perentoria de responder a la petición de ayuda del Gobierno de Kuwait, en respuesta y respeto de acuerdos contraídos entre el Estado de Kuwait y Gran Bretaña.

Tropas Británicas en Kuwait Se Hallan a Ocho Kilómetros de la Frontera con Irak

KUWAIT, 3 (AP).— Tropas británicas avanzaron hoy en este principado petrolero hasta una distancia de ocho kilómetros de la frontera con Irak, mientras continuaban llegando refuerzos y abastecimientos militares de Gran Bretaña para contrarrestar la aparente concentración de regimientos iraquíes a lo largo de la línea limítrofe.

El mariscal del aire Sir Charles Elworthy, comandante en jefe de las fuerzas británicas en el Medio Oriente, declaró que tenía ahora a la mano más de tres mil hombres, luego de un difícil comienzo en la operación debido al mal tiempo en las rutas aéreas.

En Londres, mientras tanto, el Primer Ministro Harold Macmillan expresó ante la Cámara de los Comunes que Irak estuvo a punto de invadir Kuwait cuando Gran Bretaña intervino.

Irak, por su parte, acusó hoy formalmente a Gran Bretaña de "agresión" contra el territorio iraquí y manifestó que la concentración de fuerzas británicas en Kuwait constituía una "amenaza peligrosa y directa a la seguridad de Irak, así como a la de todos los demás países árabes".

Elworthy expresó confianza en que su contingente, respaldado por el poderío bélico de la Armada y la Fuerza Aérea británica, es capaz de hacer frente a cualquier agresión por parte de Irak, el cual ha afirmado que Kuwait integra su territorio.

FUERZAS COMBINADAS

El mariscal destacó en su conferencia de prensa: "Me encontraré aún más confiado mañana al amanecer" lo que daba indicio de que los refuerzos británicos continuarían llegando durante todo el día de hoy.

Gran Bretaña no está sola en Kuwait. El Ejército de 2.400 hombres del Jeque, Sir Abdullah As Salim As Sabah, ha sido puesto en estado de alerta, y miles de beduinos tribales han sido armados y enviados a la frontera. Además, llegó hoy un destacamento de tropas de Arabia Saudita cuya constitución no se anunció.

El general de brigada Derek G. Horsford, comandante de las fuerzas de tierra en la operación británica, dijo que sus hombres y tanques se encuentran ahora estacionados a todo lo largo de la línea limítrofe de 10 kilómetros; en algunos puntos a sólo 8 kilómetros de ella.

No se han destacado todavía tropas en torno al enorme campo petrolero que explotan intereses británicos y norteamericanos al sur de la capital, pero Horsford indicó que tenía elementos para ese fin y que podrían ser movilizados en cualquier momento.

Las fuerzas de Arabia Saudita se encuentran bajo el comando de Kuwait y no de Gran Bretaña, que no tiene relaciones diplomáticas con aquel reino.

MOVIMIENTOS EN IRAK

Se interrogó a Elworthy por qué, si el Primer Ministro iraquí Abdel Karim Kassem intentaba una invasión, no se la llevó a cabo antes de la llegada de las fuerzas británicas.

"Llegamos aquí atendiendo al pedido urgente del Jeque porque, luego de las reclamaciones territoriales que hizo Kassem, comenzó un despliegue militar que era indicio de que se proyectaba una invasión. Esos movimientos continúan hasta ahora, según he sido informado.

"Si hubo una decisión (Kassem) tuvo dos posibilidades: O intentar una acción brusca y súbita, o esperar a concentrar una fuerza que creería capaz de echarnos de aquí..."

Por su parte, Macmillan dijo en Londres que "las fuerzas de Irak en Basora, solamente a 48 kilómetros de la frontera de Kuwait, estaban claramente a suficiente distancia como para ocupar Kuwait mediante un rápido movimiento contra el modesto ejército de ese Estado".

De acuerdo a un intercambio de notas del 19 de junio, que puso término al protectorado británico sobre Kuwait, Gran Bretaña está obligada a acudir en ayuda del Jeque en caso de surgir una amenaza extranjera.

"Estoy convencido —expresó el Primer Ministro ante los parlamentarios— que era deber del Gobierno británico actuar como lo hizo, y creo que las medidas adoptadas contaron con el apoyo general de la Cámara y del país".

"El Gobierno británico confía —añadió— en que los consejos de moderación se impondrán en Bagdad.

"Nuestras fuerzas se encuentran en Kuwait solamente con propósitos defensivos y de acuerdo con nuestras obligaciones contractuales. Serán retiradas tan pronto como el gobernante de Kuwait estime que la independencia de su país ya no esté amenazada".

Destacó Macmillan que Gran Bretaña "no excluye una solución de las Naciones Unidas u otras fuerzas, pero lo primero es lo primero: La fuerza que fue desembarcada —puntualizó— es por ahora el único medio efectivo de mantener la independencia de Kuwait".

ACUSACION DE IRAK

La operación británica, que provocó ya gritos de protesta en la prensa de la Unión Soviética y de la República Árabe Unida, mereció hoy la acusación formal que hizo Irak.

Un portavoz de la Cancillería de Bagdad calificó el desembarco británico como "una abierta interferencia extranjera en los asuntos del mundo árabe" y exhortó a todas las potencias árabes a "unirse en un frente para repeler esta agresión británica y liberar a todas las otras zonas colonizadas en la península árabe".

LLAMAMIENTO DE LIBIA

En Trípoli, Libia, el Primer Ministro Mohammed Othman Al Sald apeló hoy ante Irak para que se abstenga de realizar cualquier acción que pueda agravar la situación en Kuwait.

El Premier libio entrevistó al Ministro de Irak en Trípoli, Abdul Munim Kalailani, y le pidió que transmitiese su mensaje al Gobierno de Bagdad. Afirmó que cualquier conflicto entre Kuwait e Irak sólo beneficiaría a los enemigos de la armonía árabe.

DESPLAZAMIENTO DE UNIDADES

LA VALETTA (Malta) 3 (UPD). —Fuentes fidedignas informaron hoy que la primera escuadrilla británica de destructores se halla anclada ante la isla, presta a partir hacia Kuwait a la hora de recibir la orden de hacerlo.

Al propio tiempo, la jefatura naval dijo que cuatro barreminas salieron esta mañana para Aden, y que el crucero "Centaur" ha recibido instrucciones de que se aprovisione en Malta.

Las fuentes añadieron que el crucero "Lyon" y el transporte de suministros "Duquesne" también están cargando provisiones, y que el "Lyon" puede emprender viaje a las seis horas de recibir orden.

La Liga Árabe Interviene en el Conflicto Causado por Amenaza de Gobierno de Irak Contra Kuwait

Abdel Khalek Hassouna, Secretario General de la Liga Árabe, que se encuentra en Kuwait, expresó que podía dar seguridades absolutas en el sentido de que no se materializará la amenaza de Irak. — Gran Bretaña ha movillizado unidades de combate hacia el desierto a fin de proteger la independencia del principado.

KUWAIT, 4 (AP).— (Por Colin... El secretario general de la Liga Árabe declaró esta noche que Irak no atacará a este principado, no obstante lo que Gran Bretaña, deseosa de evitar riesgos, movilizó uni-

dades de combate al desierto para hacer frente a posibles consecuencias de los movimientos bélicos que estaría haciendo Irak en la frontera.

El funcionario de la Liga, Abdel Khalef Hassouna, de Egipto,

llegó a Kuwait procedente de Bagdad, donde conferenció con dirigentes iraquíes en un esfuerzo por mediar en la disputa que ha colocado a árabes contra árabes.

"He venido para imponerme del punto de vista de Kuwait", declaró a los periodistas. "Creo que puede ser encontrada una solución".

Interrogado sobre si Irak atacaría para materializar sus pretensiones territoriales sobre Kuwait, Hassouna declaró: "Definitivamente, no".

Cientos de ciudadanos de este nuevo Estado aclamaron al secretario de la Liga a tiempo que desplegaban letreros en que se leía: "Bienvenido Hassouna", "Que viva el Jeque", y "Muera Kassem".

Hassouna se dirigió directamente al Palacio del Jeque Abdullah As Salim As-Sabah, regente del Principado, quien solicitó la ayuda británica luego del anuncio del Primer Ministro de Irak, Abdel Karim Kassem, de que consideraba a Kuwait como parte del territorio iraquí.

AUMENTADAS FUERZAS

El comandante británico de la operación defensiva, el mariscal del Aire Sir Charles Elworthy, dispone ahora de más de 20.000 hombres bajo su mando, incluso 10.000 árabes entre beduinos del desierto y voluntarios de Arabia Saudita.

Oficiales británicos expresaron que unos 50 transportes aéreos llegaron en las últimas 24 horas desde Gran Bretaña con hombres y equipo millar, y que continuarán aterrizando más en un promedio de 5 por hora.

En Londres, el canciller británico, Lord Home, destacó que el movimiento de tropas británicas en Kuwait será completado mañana o el jueves.

En un discurso en la Asociación de Prensa Extranjera, Home agregó que el gran problema, ahora, es mantener las fuerzas ya establecidas en Kuwait, abastecerlas y relevarlas con nuevos efectivos.

"Cualquier nueva operación que pudiéramos tomar —dijo— se relacionaría con el aprovisionamiento y relevo de tropas en un país que en cualquier momento teme ser invadido".

Reiteró también que Gran Bretaña proyecta tener en Kuwait una fuerza lo suficientemente grande para proteger la independencia del Estado, "pero no mayor que esa".

KUWAIT EN LA LIGA

El Consejo de la Liga Árabe, entre tanto, reunido en El Cairo, decidió hoy, a pesar de las objeciones de Arabia Saudita, postergar la consideración del ingreso de Kuwait en la Liga hasta el 12 de julio.

PLANES BRITANICOS

LONDRES, 4 (UPI).— El Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores del Reino Unido, Lord Home, anunció que el envío de fuerzas británicas a Kuwait quedará completado en el curso de las próximas 48 horas.

Hablando en un banquete con los periodistas, agregó que lo único que el Reino Unido quiere en Kuwait "es el establecimiento de una fuerza suficientemente importante como para asegurar la independencia de ese territorio. No más grande".

Dijo el Ministro que las "operaciones subsiguientes" tenderán exclusivamente a suministrar y a reemplazar a las tropas en el poderoso Reino, amenazado ahora por Irak.

Lord Home agregó que "no hay dudas de que la independencia de Kuwait ha quedado asegurada".

"No hay indicios de que la crisis se extienda a todo el Cercano Oriente.

"Confío en que la acción que hemos tomado y el hecho de que la misma ha quedado completada, impedirán cualquier intento de agresión contra Kuwait".

Se Solicitó al Consejo de Seguridad el Retiro de las Tropas Británicas de Kuwait

SEDE DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS, 5 (AP).— La República Árabe Unida y la Unión Soviética instaron ambas hoy al Consejo de Seguridad de la ONU para que ordene el retiro de las fuerzas armadas británicas desde Kuwait.

Omar Loutfi, delegado de la RAO, acompañó a su llamado con una apelación al Consejo para que se deje a los países árabes resolver ellos mismos la crisis.

Expresó que la mejor forma de realizar esto era dentro del mecanismo de la Liga Árabe, cuyo secretario general se encuentra actualmente celebrando consultas con los líderes de los países árabes.

Las posiciones soviética y de la RAO fueron planteadas en la segunda reunión del Consejo sobre Kuwait. El Consejo se había reunido por primera vez, en sesión extraordinaria, el domingo, y luego suspendió su sesión hasta hoy.

El delegado soviético Valerian A. Zorin afirmó que el primer

deber del Consejo es condicionar a Gran Bretaña por enviar tropas, y adoptar tales medidas que lleven al inmediato retiro de las tropas británicas desde Kuwait.

Kuwait ha Pedido a la NU que Garantice Independencia e Integridad de su Territorio

Gran Bretaña solicitó al Consejo de Seguridad que acceda a la petición del pequeño principado del Golfo Pérsico.— Presentó un proyecto de resolución en tal sentido en la sesión de ayer del Consejo de Seguridad.— Gran Bretaña completó el despliegue de sus tropas en Kuwait

SEDE DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS (Nueva York), 6 (AP).— Gran Bretaña solicitó hoy al Consejo de Seguridad que acceda a la petición de Kuwait de que las Naciones Unidas garanticen su independencia e integridad territoriales.

Sir Patrick Dean, delegado británico, presentó una resolución a ese efecto ante el Consejo de once naciones, reunido por tercera vez desde el domingo a raíz de la crisis de Kuwait.

La petición británica siguió a las declaraciones que hizo a la prensa Abdel Aziz Hussein, delegado de Kuwait, quien dijo que su Gobierno no podía solicitar el retiro de las tropas británicas de su país a menos que el Consejo garantizara la independencia del nuevo Estado y lo admitiera en el seno de la NU.

En Londres, mientras tanto, el Ministerio de Defensa de Gran Bretaña anunció que había puesto

término a la movilización de tropas hacia Kuwait.

La resolución, redactada en términos suaves, pide al Consejo tomar nota de que las fuerzas británicas fueron enviadas al rico Principado petrolero en respuesta a la solicitud de su gobernante, y que ellas serían retiradas tan pronto como él considere que "ha sido despejada la amenaza sobre Kuwait".

Kuwait pidió que el Consejo se reuniera para considerar lo que dijo eran amenazas de una acción militar de Irak para complementar sus pretensiones territoriales sobre el Principado.

El proyecto de resolución pide también al Consejo tomar nota de las declaraciones de Irak de que sólo emplearía "medios pacíficos para encaminar su política" y de la bienvenida a todo paso constructivo que pueda ser tomado por la Liga Árabe para ayudar a resolver la disputa.

Pide, además, que todos los Estados "respeten la independen-

cia e integridad territorial de Kuwait", e insta a que "todos aquellos a quienes concierne el problema laboren por la paz y tranquilidad de la zona".

ANUNCIO BRITANICO

El anuncio británico de haber terminado su movilización de fuerzas hacia Kuwait, destacaba que "en" de esperarse que como resultado de ello la situación se haya estabilizado, por el momento".

La concentración de tropas británicas se inició el sábado pasado con el desembarco de 600 comandos de la Real Armada, procedentes del portaviones "Hulwark". Extraoficialmente se dijo que la fuerza británica consiste en más de 5.000 hombres, respaldados por buques de guerra y aviones de combate y bombardero.

El Ministerio de Defensa dijo que los movimientos militares en la zona de Kuwait estarán circunscritos al reemplazo rutinario de unidades y al tránsito administrativo normal.

Añadió que el portaviones "Centaur" y sus unidades de escolta que hoy cruzan el Canal de Suez serían mantenidos en Aden por el momento, en vez de ser enviados a Kuwait.

ACLARACION DE ARABIA SAUDITA

En El Cairo, la Embajada de Arabia Saudita negó hoy los informes de prensa que señalan que las fuerzas árabes sauditas destacadas en Kuwait se encuentran bajo el comando conjunto de las tropas kuwaitianas y de Gran Bretaña.

Una declaración de la Embajada expresó que las fuerzas árabes sauditas en Kuwait han tomado posiciones a cierta distancia de las fuerzas británicas y que "el comando británico no tiene autoridad sobre esas tropas".



Pide Garantías para la Independencia de Kuwait.—SEDE DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS, (Nueva York); 6.—

Abdel Aziz Hussein, portavoz de Kuwait en el Consejo de Seguridad, da énfasis a sus palabras durante una conferencia de prensa realizada hoy. Hussein manifestó que el Consejo de Seguridad debe dar a Kuwait una garantía efectiva de independencia antes de que pueda sentirse con suficiente seguridad para pedir el retiro de las tropas británicas. (Radio Wirephoto de The Associated Press).

Kassem se Esfuerza por Restar Gravedad a la Crisis Causada Por su Amenaza contra Kuwait

Viajeros procedentes de Bagdad expresan que Kassem, después de haber precipitado la crisis el 25 de junio último, desea ahora que el problema sea resuelto por las Naciones Unidas.— En Irak se aplica una estricta censura a la prensa

BEIRUT (El Líbano), 9 (AP).— El Primer Ministro de Irak, Abdel Karim Kassem, mantiene a su país en el hermetismo, mientras se esfuerza por enfriar la crisis que provocó sus demandas para anexar a Kuwait.

Viajeros procedentes de Bagdad informan que Kassem, después de haber precipitado la crisis el 25 de junio pasado, desea ahora llevarla a las Naciones Unidas.

Kassem de ninguna manera piensa abandonar sus pretensiones de que Kuwait es parte integral de Irak. Sin embargo, ahora que su decisión se vió contrarrestada por la movilización de fuerzas británicas a Kuwait y en vista de que no consiguió que los países árabes lo apoyaran, se propone presentar su punto de vista por la vía diplomática.

Es muy improbable que el líder iraqués haya tratado de anexar Kuwait con el uso de la fuerza, lo que personalmente ha negado enfáticamente. La creencia generalizada en Bagdad es que ahora el Primer Ministro no se propone usar la fuerza para materializar sus demandas.

Mientras se realizan estas maniobras, Kassem y su régimen militar mantienen a Bagdad en algo así como un vacío, aislada del mundo exterior.

Desde el comienzo de la crisis de Kuwait, esta inquieta capital del Tigris se ha mantenido extrañamente calma y casi sin entusiasmo, casi fría. Los viajeros informaron que el comercio continúa como de costumbre.

En tanto que la Radio de Bagdad ha atacado al "vicioso imperialismo británico" y los diarios han denunciado la "agresión contra nuestra sub-provincia de Kuwait" los iraqueses han continua-

do tratando a los británicos residentes en Bagdad con la cortesía y amistad de siempre.

Funcionarios iraqueses han asistido a reuniones sociales británicas y el Ministro de Comercio de Irak viajó a Londres para una visita de Estado. Kassem acudió a una reunión social con motivo de la celebración de la Independencia norteamericana y recibió un apretón de manos del Embajador británico, Sir Humphrey Trevelyan.

GOBIERNO NO ACEPTA APOYO COMUNISTA

No se han realizado manifestaciones populares. Cuando jóvenes comunistas trataron de organizar una protesta el viernes pasado, posiblemente con la intención de atacar propiedades británicas, fueron dispersados. La policía intervino cuando los jóvenes trataban de formar grupos.

El gobierno ha demostrado una frialdad interesante hacia un posible apoyo comunista a sus pretensiones sobre Kuwait. Kassem parece darse cuenta que el apoyo podría ser bochornoso y se ha mantenido alejado tanto de los comunistas, que cualquier alianza entre ellos será muy difícil, si no imposible. Al preguntársele si deseaban hacer alguna declaración agradeciendo el veto soviético contra la proposición británica sobre Kuwait, en las Naciones Unidas, funcionarios del Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores dijeron definitivamente que no tenían declaración alguna que hacer.

El vacío creado en Bagdad afecta a la salida y entrada de despachos informativos de la capital. La censura allí siempre ha sido estricta. Recientemente se ha aplicado a todas las noticias, excepto declaraciones oficiales del gobierno.

Actitud de Espera En Londres sobre Problema de Kuwait

LONDRES, 10 (UPI).— "Todavía es prematuro afirmar si Irak se propone o no atacar a Kuwait", dijo hoy en la Cámara de los Comunes el Ministro de Estado para Relaciones Exteriores, J. B. Godber.

Agregó que "es necesario seguir esperando antes de llegar a una conclusión".

El alto funcionario dijo a la Cámara "que algunas de las tropas fueron retiradas ya de la zona. No es nuestro propósito tenerlas allí más tiempo del necesario".

Se preguntó al Ministro si se proyecta pedir a los Estados miembros de las Naciones Unidas que envíen tropas para unirse a la fuerza británica en Kuwait. Godber respondió que esa es una de las medidas que el Gobierno tiene en consideración.

Subrayó que cualquiera medida de carácter militar debe ser autorizada o responder a los deseos del Jeque de Kuwait.

Irak Inicia Hoy Celebración Del Tercer Aniversario del Gobierno de Abdel K. Kassem

Los actos tendrán un marcado tenor nacionalista, relacionados especialmente con el problema de Kuwait.— A pesar de las objeciones iraquíes, el Consejo de la Liga Árabe decidió reanudar las conversaciones respecto a la admisión en la Liga del pequeño principado petrolero.— Declaraciones del Agregado Militar de Irak en Londres

BAGDAD (Irak), 13 (AP).— (Por Webb McKinley).— Esta polvorienta y calurosa capital ingresa mañana en un período de seis días de ferviente demostración nacionalista para celebrar tres años de gobierno revolucionario bajo el Primer Ministro, Abdel Karim Kassem.

La crisis diplomática sobre la exigencia de Irak de anexarse el principado petrolero de Kuwait, es sólo uno de los temas principales. Las declaraciones oficiales mencionan la actitud de Kassem en el problema de Kuwait como otro ejemplo de "sabia dirección" que ha dado al país desde que encabezó a sus tropas en Bagdad, hace tres años, y la multitud arrastró el cuerpo del Rey Faisal por las calles.

Todas las frases acostumbradas del nacionalismo árabe, tales como "Israel es la daga empozoñada en el corazón del arabismo", han sido revividas para el desfile popular del sábado próximo. Entre las 38 frases aprobadas oficialmente, sólo dos se refieren a Kuwait. Una dice: "Abajo con los complots imperialistas de Kuwait, la puerta de Irak".

Irak ha buscado apoyo a sus reclamaciones territoriales sobre Kuwait en otras naciones árabes, sin éxito hasta ahora. En una ceremonia de intercambio de documentos ratificatorios de un pacto anterior con el Embajador de Marruecos, el Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores de Irak, Hashim Jawad, dijo que deberán unirse los esfuerzos de ambos países "para liberar a Kuwait y Mauritania".

Marruecos reclama Mauritania, una nación desértica vecina, que recientemente obtuvo su independencia de Francia.

KUWAIT EN LA LIGA ARABE

En El Cairo, mientras tanto, el Consejo de la Liga Árabe deci-

dió, a pesar de las objeciones de Irak, reanudar las conversaciones respecto a incluir a Kuwait como miembro de la Liga.

El delegado especial de Irak, Abdel Hussein El Koteify, apeló al Consejo de la Liga para postergar el asunto por el momento.

Declaró que los países árabes deberían unificar sus filas para enfrentarse a los peligros del sionismo.

Las objeciones que presentó Irak a la admisión de Kuwait en la entidad, están basadas en que el pequeño principado es parte de su territorio.

DECLARACIONES DE AGREGADO MILITAR EN LONDRES

LONDRES, 13 (UPI).— Un portavoz militar iraquí dijo hoy que las tropas británicas enviadas a Kuwait tienen ante sí un enemigo de "sólo viento, arena, calor y estrellas... y no fuerzas iraquíes".

El brigadier Abdel Khalek Faik, Agregado Militar de la Embajada del Irak en Londres, aseguró en una conferencia de prensa que las tropas británicas viajaron al pequeño sultanato petrolero en "misión fantasma".

"Nosotros no llevamos un sólo soldado a la frontera con Kuwait, ni una sola cosa", dijo.

Faik afirmó que el Primer Ministro Abdel Karim Kassem había dado órdenes, antes de que apareciesen las fuerzas británicas, de que la única compañía de guardias fronterizos que estaba destacada allí se retirase.

"Si su excelencia el general Kassem hubiera querido tomar Kuwait —expresó—, podría haberlo hecho en seis horas". Afirmó luego que Kassem "no quiere atacar" a Kuwait.

Faik, que regresó ayer a Londres después de estar en Bagdad y conversar con Kassem y otras autoridades iraquíes, dijo que las reclamaciones con respecto a Kuwait se harán solamente por medios pacíficos.

El Primer Ministro, Abdel Karim Kassem, Amenaza a G. Bretaña

BEIRUT, Líbano, 14 (AP).— El Primer Ministro, Karim Kassem, amenazó hoy a Gran Bretaña con una guerra a menos que los británicos cesen en "sus ataques y provocaciones", según informó Radio Bagdad.

Dijo la emisora que el Primer Ministro de Irak formuló el ultimátum en un discurso que pronunció al inaugurar una tumba al Soldado Desconocido en Bagdad, durante las ceremonias del nuevo aniversario de la revolución iraquí.

Evidentemente al referirse a las tropas británicas que están en Kuwait, Kassem dijo que las fuerzas de Irak estaban listas para resistir cualquier agresión imperialista.

Kassem espuso que las fuerzas que desfilaron esta mañana en Bagdad representaban sólo una parte del poderio militar del país; el resto estaba distribuido en toda la nación.

"El ejército y el pueblo son una sola cosa y nadie puede separarlos. Los imperialistas no pueden atacarnos", agregó Radio Bagdad.

Kassem agregó: "A no ser que los británicos cesen en sus ataques y provocaciones, declararemos una guerra salvaje contra Gran Bretaña".

La emisora también informó que Kassem reveló que se había detenido a un Agregado Militar de una Embajada no mencionada, sospechoso de espionaje. Kassem no identificó al Agregado Militar pero dijo que estaba realizando una investigación.

Inaugurada en Irak Potente Radioemisora Construida por Técnicos de la U. Soviética

BAGDAD, 16 (UPI).— El Primer Ministro Abdul Karim Kassem inauguró hoy una poderosa radioemisora que podrá escucharse en todo el mundo, y la cual fue construida cerca de la aldea de Salam Pak por técnicos soviéticos.

La inauguración de la estación, la primera obra de envergadura terminada en Irak bajo el acuerdo de cooperación técnico-económica con la Unión Soviética, firmado en 1959, constituyó el punto culminante del tercer día de la semana de celebraciones con motivo del tercer aniversario de la rebelión militar que derrocó a la monarquía iraquesa y llevó a Kassem al poder.

El dictador asimismo declaró hoy abierto el nuevo edificio del Parlamento en Bagdad aunque el país no tiene Parlamento desde 1958 ni lleva trazas de tenerlo bajo el régimen autocrático de Kassem.

La radio, que costó 1.5 millones de dinares (4,2 millones de

dólares), competirá con la poderosa emisora "La voz de los arabes", de la República Árabe Unida, que transmite a todo el Cercano Oriente y el resto de Asia y Africa.

EXPRESIONES DE KASSEM

DAMASCO, 16 (AP).— El Primer Ministro iraquí Abdel Karim Kassem declaró hoy que "la devolución de Kuwait a Irak se ha tornado ahora posible", según expresó la radio de Bagdad.

Según dicha emisora, Kassem hizo esta declaración en un discurso en la ceremonia de inauguración cerca de Bagdad, de la carretera de 168 kilómetros que une a Bagdad con el distrito meridional iraquí de Al-xut.

Refiriéndose a la presencia de tropas británicas en Kuwait, la radio citó a Kassem, quien habría dicho: "El imperialismo atraviesa ahora por su etapa de agonía y podremos derrotarlo y eliminarlo de nuestro país".

Gran Bretaña Retira Parte de las Tropas Enviadas a Kuwait

KUWAIT, 19 (UPI).— (Por David L. Dugas).— Gran Bretaña inició hoy la evacuación de una gran parte de la fuerza de emergencia enviada a Kuwait para proteger este territorio del Golfo Pérsico contra la amenaza de invasión de Irak.

Aviones de transporte de la Real Fuerza Aérea procedentes de Aden, Kenya y Chipre partían del aeropuerto de Farwánia a razón de dos por hora, cargados con tropas.

Un vocero militar dijo que entre las fuerzas evacuadas figuran comandos de la Marina, paracaidistas e ingenieros. Agregó que la retirada parcial debe quedar terminada dentro de uno o dos días.

Gran Bretaña anunció la semana pasada que retiraría la mayor parte de sus tropas, pero aplazó la operación hasta después del aniversario de la revuelta del 14 de Julio que llevó al poder al Primer Ministro Abdel Karim Kassem.

Voceros británicos dijeron que se temió que Kassem intentaría aprovechar la fecha para emprender un ataque sobre Kuwait, lugar de origen de aproximadamente el 40 por ciento del petróleo británico. Fuerzas de Gran Bretaña y de Kuwait tomaron posiciones a lo largo de la frontera, pero no hubo incidentes.

Británicos Harían Nueva Reducción de Tropas en Kuwait

BATHRAIN, 27 (AP).— Conversaciones políticas respecto a la posibilidad de una nueva reducción de las fuerzas británicas que se encuentran en Kuwait se iniciarán a fines de semana, según informaron hoy fuentes dignas de crédito.

Sir William Luce, jefe de los representantes políticos británicos en el Golfo de Persia, regresará a Kuwait el sábado desde su cuartel general de Bahrain para celebrar nuevas conversaciones con el Sheik Sir Abdullah Al Salim Al Sabah.

Anuncian Evacuación De Fuerzas de Gran Brefaña en Kuwait

EL CAIRO, 29 (UPI).— El diario "Al Ahran" dice hoy que todas las tropas británicas serán evacuadas de Kuwait antes de que comience el próximo período de sesiones de la Asamblea General el mes de septiembre próximo.

El periódico agrega que Marruecos, Arabia Saudita y Túnez enviarán tropas para reemplazar a las británicas, mientras que otras naciones árabes ofrecerán "otras formas de ayuda".

**NUEVO ACUERDO DE
CONCESION PETROLERA
KUWAIT, 29 (UPI).—** El Gobierno de Kuwait anunció hoy un nuevo acuerdo de concesión petrolera, revisado, con la American Oil Company.

El nuevo convenio estipula el pago por la empresa de un 75 por ciento de sus beneficios al jefe del Estado, Sheik Abdullah As-Salem As-Sabbah, basado en las ventas efectivas, o de un 50 por ciento de los beneficios sobre la base del precio fijado por la compañía. El Sheik recibirá cualquiera de los dos porcentajes que sea mayor.

El anuncio del Gobierno dice que el nuevo acuerdo deja sin validez el firmado en 1948.

Se ha anunciado también que se nombrará a dos ciudadanos de Kuwait para formar parte del consejo de administración de la compañía, y que se espera que tomen pronto posesión de sus puestos.

Lucha en la Frontera Libran Irak y Kuwait

KUWAIT, 20 (UPI).—Tropas del Irak y Kuwait chocaron hoy en una región de la disputada frontera de 250 kilóme-

tros entre las dos naciones. El Gobierno kuwaiti denunció que tropas iraquíes ocuparon un puesto fronterizo y bom-

bardearon otro, agregando que cuatro policías resultaron heridos en el ataque y "varios más han desaparecido".

El Parlamento y el Gabinete de Kuwait celebraron sesiones de urgencia poco después del choque librado a las 3.10 horas.

Los legisladores emitieron la siguiente declaración:

"El Parlamento exhorta al Gobierno iraquí a retirar inmediatamente sus fuerzas del puesto fronterizo de Al Samitah y poner fin a todas las actividades en la zona fronteriza".

La declaración implica que tropas iraquíes estaban ocupando la posición limitrofe.

Los medios de comunicación controlados por el Estado en Irak no mencionaron el choque hasta la una y media de la tarde, es decir, más de 10 horas después de ocurrido.

Radio Bagdad transmitió una declaración gubernamental señalando que "fuerzas kuwaitíes destacadas en la zona fueron las primeras en abrir fuego sobre fuerzas iraquíes empuñadas en ejercicios normales de entrenamiento".

"Las tropas iraquíes se vieron obligadas a retornar el fuego y sufrieron varias bajas", agregó la declaración.

Según los anuncios de Kuwait, los iraquíes ocuparon el puesto fronterizo de Al Samitah y desataron "un ataque de artillería al puesto fronterizo de Um Kasr".

Ambos se encuentran en el extremo nororiental de Kuwait, un Estado rico en petróleo que tiene 830.000 habitantes y está al noroeste del Golfo Pérsico.

Esta región, adyacente a una entrada del golfo, viene siendo disputada desde que Kuwait accedió a la independencia en 1961.

Después que Radio Kuwait anunció el choque fronterizo, manifestantes contra Irak comenzaron a reunirse en la capital del Estado, gobernado por el emir Al-Salim Al-Sabah.

¿Qué Importancia Tiene La Crisis Kuwait-Irak?

NUEVA YORK 21 (AP).— A la luz de todos los otros problemas que enfrenta el mundo, la captura de un puesto fronterizo en Kuwait por tropas de Irak parecería ser un asunto de infinitesimal importancia.

Pero cualquier circunstancia que amenace la frágil estabilidad política del golfo pérsico automáticamente es causa de alarma en el Occidente, especialmente en estos días en que se cierne una escasez mundial de petróleo y otras fuentes energéticas.

Irak ha abrigado designios sobre Kuwait, y trató de ocuparla por la fuerza hace una docena de años. De hacerse ahora nuevo intento similar, el caos sobreviviente podría paralizar la producción petrolera Kuwait, con las serias repercusiones que serían de esperar.

Kuwait es el tercer productor mundial de petróleo después de Arabia Saudita e Irán, según algunas opiniones autorizadas. La cesación de la producción petrolera en un país como Kuwait podría causar significativa —aunque temporaria— escasez mundial.

Kuwait se vio sometida a la "protección" británica en 1899 y pasó desapercibida para el resto del mundo hasta que se descubrió allí petróleo en cantidades notables, antes de la segunda guerra mundial. El hidrocarburo era explotado por la Kuwait Oil Company, empresa británico-estadounidense. En 1961 el pequeño país, rico a raíz de la venta de su petróleo, se independizó.

Ya al margen de la protección británica, Kuwait se vio de inmediato amenazada por su vecina: Irak. Los iraquíes en 1958 pasaron por una sangrienta etapa revolucionaria que culminó en el fin de la mo-

narquía con la muerte del Rey Faisal y el acceso al poder de un grupo radical de socialistas del partido Baath. Estos prontamente se dieron a pedir ayuda y armamentos soviéticos, y pronto Rusia estaba en posición de ejercer influencia dominante en el país.

En 1961, el régimen Bath de Irak trató de apoderarse de Kuwait pero se vio frustrado por la intervención de Gran Bretaña, pero ahora Kuwait está expuesta: Gran Bretaña no está ya en el área del golfo Pérsico para protegerle.

INTERVENCION EGIPCIA

EL CAIRO, 21 (AP).— El Presidente Anwar Sadat ha ordenado a su ministro del Exterior, Mohamed Hassan El Zayat, que suspenda su recorrido por Asia y se dirija inmediatamente a Bagdad, a fin de mediar en el conflicto fronterizo entre

Kuwait e Irak, dice hoy el diario semioficial "Al Ahram".

Zayat visita actualmente Irán, recibió la orden de mediar entre Kuwait y Bagdad hasta que se solucione la crisis, dice el diario. Según informes, Sadat recibió un mensaje urgente del gobierno de Kuwait en el que éste le informaba acerca de la crisis, que estalló ayer.

MEDIO ORIENTE:

Renunció Presidente de Irak

● El Vicepresidente, Saddam Hussein, asumió jefatura de Estado

BAGDAD, 16 (AFP).— El Presidente de Irak, general Ahmed Hassan Bakr, renunció hoy por "razones de salud".

REEMPLAZANTE

BAGDAD, 16 (AFP).— La renuncia del Jefe de Estado iraquí, general Ahmed Hassan Bakr, se produjo "por propia decisión y por razones de salud, que me obligan a retirarme de mis funciones en la Presidencia de la República, de secretario general del Partido Baas y de presidente del

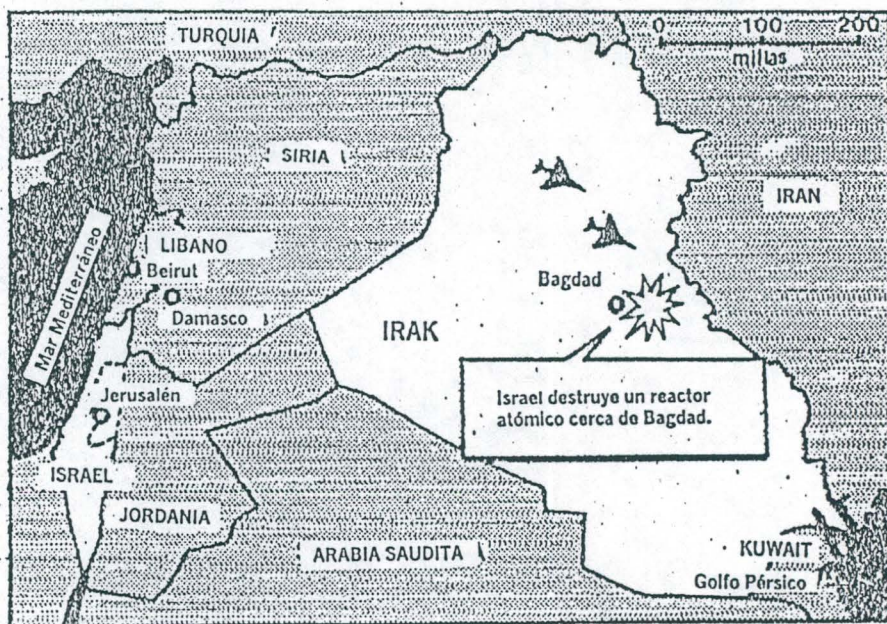
Consejo de Comando de la revolución iraquí", según señaló él mismo hoy aquí por televisión.

Hassan Bakr anunció inmediatamente la designación de Saddam Hussein, actual vicepresidente del Consejo de Comando de la revolución, en los puestos que él ocupó hasta hoy.

Saddam Hussein fue elegido el 11 de julio último en el cargo de secretario general del Partido Baas por los secretarios regionales del partido.

Al día siguiente, 12 de julio, los miembros del Consejo de Comando de la revolución lo eligieron a la presidencia de ese organismo.

Es el Consejo de Comando de la revolución quien eligió igualmente a Hussein para la Presidencia de la República, se señaló en Bagdad.



UPI
INCURSION ISRAELI.— El mapa muestra la ubicación de la central nuclear cercana a Bagdad, en Irak, bombardeada por aviones israelíes el domingo. El objetivo se encuentra a unos 1.500 kilómetros, en línea directa, de Tel Aviv. Voceros militares judíos afirmaron que el reactor atómico fue "completamente destruido"

Israel Destruyó una Planta Nuclear Iraquí

- Participaron en la acción aviones de fabricación norteamericana
- Gobierno de Begin dijo que adoptó la medida ante el peligro de que Irak produjera bombas atómicas y las usara contra la nación judía
- Departamento de Estado señaló que la radiación provocada por el ataque estará posiblemente limitada a la zona circundante a las instalaciones afectadas
- Un técnico francés murió durante el bombardeo

JERUSALEN, 8 (Latin-Reuters).— Israel anunció hoy que su Fuerza Aérea destruyó una planta nuclear iraquí para evitar la fabricación de bombas atómicas que fueran usadas contra el Estado judío, en un ataque que fue mantenido en secreto aún de Estados Unidos.

El Primer Ministro Menahem Begin dijo en una entrevista radial esta noche que el gobierno israelí había decidido la destrucción de la planta hace varios meses, "pero por varias razones fue postergado en algunas oportunidades", agregó.

Un comunicado gubernamental, divulgado por Radio Israel, dijo que aviones de reacción fabricados en Estados Unidos, hicieron blanco ayer contra la planta Osirak, cerca de Bagdad. "Todos los aviones retornaron a salvo", dijo el documento.

Begin dijo que no informó al gobierno estadounidense acerca del ataque hasta que éste estuvo completado. También ocultó los planes como un secreto cuando se reunió la semana pasada con el Presidente egipcio Anwar Sadat.

Begin negó reclamaciones iraquíes de que la planta sólo tenía fines de investigación. "Era para producir bombas nucleares que habrían destruido nuestro país", afirmó.

INFORME FRANCES

Francia ha replicado a las críticas israelíes por su proyecto conjunto con Irak diciendo que Israel es uno de más de 30 países que han comprado reactores similares al que fue bombardeado ayer.

El reactor Osirak es uno de dos pro-

porcionados por Francia y levantados en el mismo lugar. Su etapa de construcción estaba programada para terminar hacia fines de año.

"De los dos reactores, el primero está aparentemente intacto y el segundo, que no contenía combustible... fue seriamente dañado", dijo un comunicado de la Cancillería en París.

Pierre Beregovoy, secretario general de la Presidencia, identificó al técnico fallecido como Chausspiéd, de alrededor de 40 años.

Israel, al anunciar la incursión, dijo que se había efectuado el domingo para garantizar que los trabajadores extranjeros de la planta no fueran afectados.

CONDENA DE EE. UU.

WASHINGTON, 8 (Latin-Reuters).— El gobierno estadounidense condenó hoy el ataque israelí contra una planta nuclear de Irak y dijo que el uso de aviones suministrados por Washington en la incursión habría violado las leyes de los Estados Unidos.

"El gobierno de los Estados Unidos condena el informado ataque aéreo israelí contra instalaciones nucleares iraquíes; el carácter sin precedentes del cual no puede sino agregar gravedad a la ya tensa situación en el área", dijo el vocero del Departamento de Estado, Dean Fischer.

Fischer dijo que Israel informó a Estados Unidos del ataque ayer a última hora de la tarde.

CONVOCADA LA LIGA ARABE

La Liga Árabe se reunirá dentro de seis días para discutir el ataque aéreo israelí contra el reactor nuclear iraquí, anunció esta noche el Secretario general de la Liga, Chedji Klibi.

Mientras tanto, Irak pidió una reunión de emergencia del Consejo de Seguridad de las Naciones Unidas.

El secretario general de la Liga Árabe indicó que la organización se reunirá a "petición iraquí", aunque no especificó dónde o a qué nivel se hará el conclave.

Entretanto, en un cable al Secretario General de las Naciones Unidas, Kurt Waldheim, el Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores Ira Ovi, Saadoun Hammadi, pidió una reunión urgente del Consejo para que adoptara medidas sin demora.

Irak informó acerca de la incursión en las primeras horas de hoy, luego del anuncio de que el reactor había sido destruido para impedir la fabri-

cación por Irak de una bomba atómica.

Bagdad no dio detalles acerca de víctimas o daños, pero se comprometió a continuar con su programa nuclear.

MURIO TECNICO FRANCES

En París, un vocero del Presidente François Mitterrand, informó a esta agencia que un técnico francés murió en el bombardeo israelí.

REACCION SOVIETICA

MOSCU, 8 (Latin-Reuters).— Los primeros informes soviéticos sobre ataque israelí contra un reactor nuclear iraquí sugirieron que Moscú ve a los Estados Unidos como responsable indirecto de la incursión.

FRANCIA: "INACEPTABLE"

PARIS, 8 (Latin-Reuters).— El Primer Ministro francés, Pierre Mauroy describió hoy como "inaceptable y muy serio" el ataque israelí que destruyó un reactor de fabricación francesa cerca de la capital de Irak.

Peró Mauroy, preguntado en una entrevista radial si Francia reconstruiría el reactor de Osirak, en las inmediaciones de Bagdad, dijo que su gobierno deseaba reforzar los mecanismos de control sobre tales proyectos nucleares.

DENUNCIA BRASILEÑA

BRASILIA, 8 (AFP).— De "Acto de agresión totalmente injustificada" calificó hoy Brasil un ataque lanzado el domingo por Israel contra la central nuclear iraquí.

En una declaración de su Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Brasil declaró que el raid israelí "puede contribuir a aumentar aún más la tensión en el Cercano Oriente".

RUTA

AMMAN, 9 (EFE).— Los aviones israelíes, que bombardearon el pasado domingo la central nuclear iraquí sobrevolaron el golfo de Aqaba (en el Mar Rojo) y cruzaron el norte de Arabia Saudita, según se ha sabido en Amman.

ARABIA SAUDITA

NICOSIA, Chipre, 8 (AP).— Arabia Saudita denunció hoy el bombardeo israelí de un reactor nuclear iraquí en Bagdad como "el colmo del terrorismo internacional practicado por Israel".

La declaración fue hecha por el Ministro de Información saudita, Mohamed Abdo Yamani, después de una reunión del gabinete para discutir "la gravedad de la situación en un nivel internacional" a consecuencia del bombardeo.

Irak Reconstruirá Su Centro Atómico

■ El Presidente iraquí Saddam Hussein destacó el carácter pacífico de la planta destruida por los israelíes

WASHINGTON, 28 (DPA).— Irak reconstruirá el centro atómico destruido el pasado 7 de junio por los israelíes si recibe la necesaria ayuda científica y técnica, declaró el Presidente iraquí Saddam Hussein, en una entrevista transmitida hoy por la cadena norteamericana de televisión ABC.

Hussein subrayó el carácter pacífico del centro destruido, pero se abstuvo de responder directamente si Irak, como objetivo final, se propone también construir una bomba atómica con la planta, en la entrevista con la periodista norteamericana Barbara Walters. "Ningún país permite que los países (árabes) tengan una bomba atómica, co-

mo Irak lo ha exigido para mantener el equilibrio atómico en el Cercano Oriente, pues Israel ya tiene la suya, añadió Hussein.

El Presidente iraquí dijo que dudaba que Washington hubiese ignorado las intenciones israelíes de lanzar el ataque contra el centro atómico "Osirak" cerca de Bagdad, pues "habría sido aún mucho más peligroso si no lo hubiese sabido".

Se abstuvo de hablar de una posible represalia, pero señaló que "el pueblo iraquí no olvidará" y aplaudirá si el Presidente libio Muammar Kaddafi hace realidad con mano propia su llamado a destruir una planta atómica israelí.

CRONOLOGIA DE LA INVASION:

Cómo Se Generó la Crisis

- El 17 de julio el Presidente iraquí acusa a Kuwait de haberle clavado una daga envenenada al aumentar las cuotas de producción de petróleo.

NICOSIA, 2 (Reuter).— La invasión de Irak a Kuwait siguió al fracaso de las conversaciones en Arabia Saudita sobre la crisis entre los dos Estados.

El Presidente iraquí Saddam Hussein precipitó la disputa hace dos semanas cuando acusó a su diminuto vecino del Golfo, Kuwait, y a los Emiratos Arabes Unidos (EAU), de provocar la caída del precio del petróleo al exceder las cuotas de producción de la OPEP e inundar el mercado.

Reflotó también viejos reclamos territoriales contra Kuwait. La frontera nunca fue trazada de común acuerdo, pero Irak se abstuvo de hacer reclamos cuando Kuwait y otros estados del Golfo aportaron fondos para su guerra de 1980-88 contra Irán.

La disputa alcanzó un nuevo clímax cuando el canciller iraquí Tarek Aziz afirmó que Kuwait había usurpado 2.400 millones de dólares en petróleo de yacimientos iraquíes.

Saddam dispuso el envío de miles de tropas de elite, apoyadas por blindados y equipos lanza cohetes hacia la frontera kuwaití.

Los siguientes son los principales acontecimientos previos a la invasión.

— Julio 17.— El Presidente iraquí Saddam Hussein denuncia a los partidarios de aumentar las cuotas de producción en el Golfo, acusándolos de haber clavado a Irak una daga envenenada.

Emiratos Arabes Unidos dice reducirá la producción según lo prometido. El Parlamento de Kuwait denuncia la acción iraquí. Líderes árabes tratan de desactivar la crisis en cierne. Los precios del petróleo aumentan.

— Julio 19.— Kuwait acusa a Irak de perforar pozos petrolíferos en territorio iraquí.

— Julio 20.— La prensa iraquí controlada por el Estado dice que Kuwait y EAU no se atendrán a las cuotas de la OPEP. Egipto pide calma.

— Julio 21.— El canciller de Arabia Saudita viaja a Bagdad y luego a Kuwait. La Federación de Sindicatos

de Kuwait acusa a Irak de virtual declaración de guerra.

— Julio 22.— El canciller iraquí llega a El Cairo. Egipto dice que la crisis del Golfo pronto habrá terminado.

— Julio 23.— Diarios de Bagdad califican al canciller kuwaití de "agente estadounidense". Kuwait niega que trate de atraer a potencias extranjeras a la disputa y dice que quiere que los árabes la solucionen.

— Julio 24.— El despliegue iraquí de miles de efectivos apoyados por blindados en la frontera con Kuwait toma estado público. Naves de guerra estadounidenses en el Golfo son puestas en estado de alerta. El Presidente egipcio Hosni Mubarak visita Irak, Kuwait y Arabia Saudita. Los precios del petróleo vuelven a subir.

— Julio 25.— Irak exige a Kuwait 2.400 millones de dólares en concepto de compensación. Mubarak dice que Kuwait e Irak se reunirán en Yeddah para discutir la crisis. Diplomáticos árabes señalan que Irak dio a Egipto seguridades de que no atacará a Kuwait.

— Julio 27.— La OPEP acuerda elevar el precio de referencia del petróleo a 21 dólares por barril. Irak advierte a Kuwait que debe satisfacer los "legítimos derechos" de Bagdad en las conversaciones previstas para realizarse en Yeddah.

— Julio 31.— Altos funcionarios de Irak y Kuwait se reúnen en Yidda, Arabia Saudita. Las conversaciones duran dos horas. El "Washington Post" informa que Irak ha enviado a unos 100.000 hombres a la frontera con Kuwait.

— Agosto 1.— Las conversaciones en Yidda fracasan sin que se acuerde realizar otras reuniones. Un delegado iraquí dice que el encuentro fracasó debido a que Kuwait no mostró seriedad acerca de las exigencias planteadas por Irak. Funcionarios de Kuwait indicaron que el país se niega a ceder territorio.

— Agosto 2.— Tropas y tanques iraquíes cruzan la frontera a las 02:00 de la madrugada.

Los Caminos Recorridos Hacia un Conflicto Bélico

EL MERCURIO, 15 de

Enero 1991

NICOSIA, 14 (Reuter).— La siguiente es una lista de los acontecimientos más trascendentes registrados en la crisis del Golfo Pérsico desde que Irak invadió Kuwait el 2 de agosto.

Agosto 3: Estados Unidos anuncia el envío de una fuerza naval al Golfo.

Agosto 4: La Comunidad Europea congela activos financieros de Kuwait. Se informa que unos 800 kuwaitíes habrían muerto o quedado heridos desde la invasión.

Agosto 6: Iraquíes detienen a occidentales en Kuwait. El Consejo de Seguridad de las Naciones Unidas impone embargo comercial contra Irak.

Agosto 7: El Presidente norteamericano, George Bush, ordena el envío de fuerzas a Arabia Saudita.

Agosto 8: Irak declara la anexión de Kuwait.

Agosto 10: Doce de 20 jefes de Estado árabes reunidos en El Cairo acuerdan enviar una fuerza pan-árabe a proteger el reino saudita.

Agosto 12: El Presidente iraquí, Saddam Hussein, anuncia plan de paz basado en el retiro israelí de territorios árabes ocupados y de efectivos sirios en El Líbano.

Agosto 15: Saddam acepta todas las demandas iraníes para poner formalmente fin a la guerra librada entre 1980 y 1988.

Agosto 16: Irak ordena que 4.000 británicos y 2.500 estadounidenses que se encuentran en Kuwait se concentren en hoteles.

Agosto 17: El Gobierno iraquí anuncia que retendrá a ciudadanos occidentales en instalaciones estratégicas como escudos humanos contra un posible ataque.

Agosto 20: Bagdad ordena el cierre de las embajadas en Kuwait.

Agosto 28: Irak declara que Kuwait es su 19.ª provincia. Ordena la libertad de todas las mujeres y niños occidentales retenidos.

Agosto 31: Las conversaciones en Jordania entre el canciller iraquí, Tarik Aziz, y el Secretario General de la ONU, Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, no alcanzan resultados concretos.

Septiembre 9: Bush se reúne con el Presidente soviético, Mijaíl Gorbachov, en Helsinki. Ambos exhortan a Irak a abandonar Kuwait.

Septiembre 13: Tropas iraquíes irrumpen en la residencia del embajador francés en Kuwait. Otras misiones diplomáticas occidentales son allanadas en los días siguientes.

Septiembre 22: Los precios del petróleo alcanzan su nivel más alto de los últimos nueve años.

Septiembre 25: El Consejo de Seguridad de la ONU decide prohibir todo tráfico aéreo desde y hacia Irak, excepto por razones humanitarias.

Octubre 9: Saddam amenaza con atacar a Israel con un nuevo misil. Los precios del petróleo llegan a 40 dólares por barril.

Octubre 14: Irak niega la versión de que Saddam habría manifestado a un enviado soviético que podría retirar sus tropas de Kuwait si se le permite retener un yacimiento petrolífero de la zona fronteriza e islas de importancia estratégica. Washington informa que

más de 200.000 efectivos norteamericanos ya están en el Golfo Pérsico.

Octubre 16: Estados Unidos rechaza cualquier acuerdo que permita a Irak retener parte de Kuwait.

Octubre 18: Irak ofrece al mundo petróleo barato.

Octubre 22: Los precios del petróleo caen a 27 dólares.

Noviembre 9: Irak amenaza con reducir la península Arábiga a cenizas. Saddam destituye al jefe del Ejército. Bush ordena el envío de otros 100.000 efectivos al Golfo. Moscú dice que probablemente no pueda descartarse el uso de la fuerza.

Noviembre 18: Saddam ofrece liberar a unos 2.000 occidentales y japoneses retenidos en Irak y Kuwait en un plazo de tres meses a partir del 25 de diciembre de 1990.

Noviembre 20: Irak anuncia que liberará a todos los rehenes alemanes y que enviará otros 250.000 soldados a Kuwait.

Noviembre 22: Bush pasa el Día de Acción de Gracias con las fuerzas norteamericanas en el Golfo.

Noviembre 29: El Consejo de Seguridad de la ONU autoriza (con la oposición de Yemen y Cuba, y la abstención de China) el empleo de la fuerza contra Irak si Bagdad no retira sus tropas de Kuwait antes del 15 de enero.

Noviembre 30: Irak rechaza el ultimatum de la ONU. Bush invita al canciller iraquí, Tarik Aziz, a Washington para sostener conversaciones y ofrece enviar al Secretario de Estado, James Baker, a Bagdad.

Diciembre 1.º: Irak acepta la propuesta de Bush sobre conversaciones, pero dice que quiere discutir otras cuestiones del Medio Oriente, incluyendo el problema palestino.

Diciembre 6: Saddam sorprende al mundo al ordenar la libertad de todos los rehenes extranjeros.

Diciembre 18: Saddam descarta conversaciones con EE.UU. si sólo piensa reiterar las resoluciones de la ONU ya rechazadas por Bagdad.

Diciembre 19: La Asamblea General de la ONU condena a Irak por violaciones de los derechos humanos en Kuwait.

Enero 3: Bush dice a Irak que acuda a conversaciones en Suiza en una semana, sin negociaciones sobre Kuwait, o habrá guerra.

Enero 4: Irak acepta enviar a Aziz a entrevistarse con Baker en Ginebra el 9 de enero.

Enero 9: Baker y Aziz se reúnen en conversaciones en Ginebra para evitar la guerra pero no logran arribar a una solución pacífica. Bush presiona al Congreso para que avale el uso de la fuerza contra Irak.

Enero 12: El Congreso estadounidense realiza una votación y se decide en favor del pedido de Bush. El Secretario General de la ONU Javier Pérez de Cuéllar se traslada a Bagdad para sostener conversaciones con Saddam.

Enero 13: Pérez de Cuéllar se entrevista con Saddam pero no logra persuadirlo a que se retire de Kuwait.

Enero 14: Saddam exhorta a los iraquíes a luchar hasta la muerte para conservar Kuwait.

"ANTECEDENTES SOBRE EL CONFLICTO DEL GOLFO PERSICO"

- 2.- SELECCIÓN DE ARTÍCULOS DE KEESING'S CONTEMPORARY ARCHIVES SOBRE EL ORIENTE MEDIO 1958 - 1975 Y DE LA ENCICLOPEDIA UNIVERSAL ILUSTRADA EUROPEO-AMERICANA; SUPLEMENTO ANUAL 1973 - 1974.

BIBLIOTECA DEL CONGRESO NACIONAL
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ENERO, 1991

Kuwait and Persian Gulf Sheikhdoms.

The Ruler of Kuwait (Sheikh Abdullah as-Salim as-Sabah) had a meeting with President Nasser in Damascus on July 20 and also with M. Kuwatly, the former President of Syria; no statement was issued on these discussions. In a statement in Cairo on July 21, the chairman of the Ruler of Kuwait's Advisory Council (Mohamed Sulciman el-Oneibi) said that the Sheikhdom would "object to foreign troop concentrations on its soil"; that the Kuwaiti Army was "able alone to safeguard the oil"; and that Kuwait had no plans to join the Iraqi Republic, with which it had "brotherly relations."

The Sheikhdom of Kuwait produces about half of all the crude oil imported into Britain; situated at the head of the Persian Gulf, and adjoining Iraq, it is 5,800 square miles in area and has a population of about 200,000. Kuwait is in special treaty relations with Britain, which has responsibility for the Sheikhdom's foreign

relations and a major interest in its oil production. No British forces are stationed in the Sheikhdom—the nearest are at Bahrain, 300 miles to the south.

The Special Correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph* in Bahrain cabled (July 20): "Despite the superficial appearance of calm in Kuwait it has been apparent for some time that there has been considerable misgiving about the activities of the pro-Egyptian elements there, especially the teachers, who are mostly Egyptians. The Ruler normally spends a summer holiday each year in Lebanon, but this year, owing to the crisis there, he went to Damascus and Teheran instead."

The Ruler of Kuwait is reputed to have an income of over £100,000,000 a year from oil royalties; much of the proceeds have been used for building schools, hospitals, housing estates, and other amenities, whereby Kuwait has been transformed into one of the most modern places in the Middle East.

August 9-16, 1958

en: KEESING'S CONTEMPORARY ARCHIVES (WEEKLY DIARY OF IMPORTANT WORLD EVENTS).

A. ARAB LEAGUE. — Baghdad Meeting of Arab Foreign Ministers. — Improvement in Relations between United Arab Republic and Tunisia, Iraq, and Jordan. — Casablanca and Cairo Meetings of League Council. — Shtura Meeting of Foreign Ministers. — Cairo and Baghdad Meetings of Economic Council.

A meeting of Foreign Ministers of the Arab League countries was held in Baghdad from Jan. 30-Feb. 4, 1961, being the first conference of the League since 1958 at which all its members were represented. Tunisia, which had boycotted the League since that year as a protest against its alleged domination by the United Arab Republic, had previously decided not to send a representative to Baghdad but had reversed its decision in response to a personal appeal sent to President Bourguiba by the Iraqi Premier, General Kassem. In other respects the conference marked an improvement in relations between the U.A.R. on the one hand and Iraq and Jordan on the other; the fact that it was held in Baghdad was regarded as a concession on the part of the U.A.R., to which the Iraqi Government responded by permitting the sale of Egyptian periodicals for the first time since March 1959. Immediately after the conference, moreover, attacks on the U.A.R. by the Jordanian Press and radio were ended on King Hussein's orders.

The Baghdad conference, at which the Algerian "Provisional Government" was represented by its Foreign Minister, M. Krim Belkacem, unanimously adopted a resolution on Algeria whereby the Arab League agreed to grant additional military and financial assistance to the Algerian insurgents; to allow the recruitment and training on their territory of volunteers for the "National Liberation Army" and to assist their transport to Algeria; and to reconsider their political and economic relations with France if the Algerian war continued. A resolution opposing the admission of Mauritania to the U.N. was adopted, with Tunisia dissenting. The Foreign Ministers also discussed Israel, the Palestinian refugees, and the Oman question, no details of their decisions being published.

Details of other recent meetings of members of the Arab League are given below:

The Casablanca Meeting. A meeting of the Arab League Council in Casablanca on Sept. 1-8, 1959, was boycotted by Iraq, which, like Tunisia, objected to the alleged domination of the League by the United Arab Republic. Representatives of the Algerian "Provisional Government" attended for the first time with the status of observers, which gave them the right to take part in the discussions but not to vote. The Council took four decisions directed against Israel: (1) a request to member-States to form "Palestine committees" to take counter-measures against all Israeli actions; (2) a request to members to keep close watch on Jewish immigration into Israel and take measures against it; (3) approval of the U.A.R.'s closing of the Suez Canal to Israeli ships and cargoes; (4) establishment of a committee to study ways of making the League's economic boycott of Israel more effective.

The Cairo Meeting. A League Council meeting held in Cairo on Feb. 8-29, 1960, was again boycotted by Tunisia and Iraq. It agreed to postpone for future discussion the question of the creation of a "Palestine national entity" and a "Palestine Army," in view of disagreements between its members, and appointed a committee of experts to study its general policy on Palestine and report to the next Council meeting. The Council unanimously condemned Israeli plans to divert the waters of the Jordan to irrigate the Negev as an "act of aggression" justifying "collective Arab action in self-defence," and recommended that the Arab States should speedily exploit the Jordan waters "to their advantage and to the advantage of the Palestinian Arabs." It also rejected any proposal for the partition of Algeria, and supported the "Provisional Government's" demand for guarantees of the freedom of Algerian elections as a pre-requisite of any cease-fire.

The Shtura Conference. A conference of Arab League Foreign Ministers was held at Shtura (near Beirut) on Aug. 22-28, 1960, being attended by all the members except Tunisia. Following the ending of the violent Press campaign against Iraq in the U.A.R., the Iraqi Government had announced on May 14 its intention to end its boycott of the League.

M. Belkacem submitted a memorandum to the conference proposing (1) diplomatic and political action in favour of a referendum in Algeria under U.N. auspices; (2) the severing of all diplomatic, cultural, and economic relations with France; (3) the evacuation of all French and other foreign troops from Arab countries; (4) facilities for the recruiting and transport of Arab and non-Arab volunteers for the Algerian "National Liberation Army"; (5) a conference of Arab Heads of State on the Algerian question; (6) denunciation of the NATO countries which supported the French operations in Algeria.

The resolution on Algeria adopted by the conference called for (1) intensified efforts for a referendum under U.N. supervision; (2) a diplomatic offensive to persuade friendly States to recognize the "Provisional Government"; (3) assistance to Arab and non-Arab volunteers; (4) representations to NATO countries on the possible grave consequences of the use of NATO war material in Algeria. M. Belkacem's other proposals were referred to the Arab Governments for further consideration.

The conference again failed to reach agreement on the formation of a "Palestinian State" and Army, referring the question to a committee. A resolution on relations between Arab countries urged them to desist from radio and Press campaigns against one another and to refer disputes between them to the League, and reaffirmed the League's adherence to international law and custom regarding asylum for political refugees, provided that they did not engage in harmful activities. [The latter clause referred particularly to M. Saleh Ben Youssef, whose extradition from the U.A.R. on a charge of plotting President Bourguiba's assassination had been demanded by Tunisia.] The Jordanian Government had ended its radio campaign against the U.A.R. on Aug. 23, but resumed it after the murder on Aug. 29 of the Jordanian Premier, Mr. Majall, which was attributed by Jordan to the U.A.R. [see 17638 A].

Economic Council Meetings. The Arab League Economic Council, meeting in Cairo on Dec. 9-18, 1960, adopted resolutions in favour of the application of "rigorous economic measures" against France; the tightening of the boycott of Israel and of international companies trading with Israel; and the speedy abolition of trade restrictions among Arab countries.

At a further meeting in Baghdad, which ended on April 17, Iraq, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, the U.A.R., and Kuwait signed (1) an agreement for establishing an International Arab airline, and (2) an agreement for setting up an Arab tanker company, which would be based on Kuwait and would have a capital of £35,000,000. Final decisions on an Arab oil pipeline company and an Arab Common Market were deferred pending further studies of these projects. The agreement on an Arab Development Bank (now known as the Arab Financial Organization) was signed by Iraq and Kuwait; the other member-countries are the U.A.R., Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Lebanon, and Libya, all of whom had joined previously. The capital of the Organization was raised to £25,000,000.

It was announced on Feb. 22, 1961, that the British Government had agreed to the opening of an Arab League office in London which would be headed by Mr. Edward Rizk, a former member of the Lebanese delegation to the United Nations.—(Times - Daily Telegraph - Guardian - Le Monde) (Prev. rep. 17862 A; 17385 A; 16794 A; 16485 D.)

April 15-22, 1961

New Anglo-Kuwaiti Agreement. - Abrogation of 1899 Agreement between Britain and Kuwait.

The U.K. Lord Privy Seal (Mr. Edward Heath) informed the House of Commons on June 19 that the Anglo-Kuwaiti agreement of 1899 had been abrogated because it was "inconsistent with the sovereignty and independence of Kuwait" and had been replaced by a new agreement of "close friendship" between the British Government and the Sheikdom of Kuwait. Mr. Heath explained that the 1899 agreement pledged the Sheikh and his successors not to receive representatives of any Power but Britain, nor to cede, sell, or lease any portion of his territory to the Government or subjects of another Power without Britain's prior consent; this agreement, however, had become "obsolete and inappropriate" by the fact that Kuwait had for some time past possessed entire responsibility for the conduct of its international relations and had joined a number of international organizations as a sovereign independent State.

In place of the 1899 agreement (Mr. Heath continued) a new agreement had been concluded, under an exchange of letters between the British Political Agent and the Ruler of Kuwait, whereby (1) relations between the two countries would continue to be governed by "a spirit of close friendship"; (2) when appropriate, the two Governments would consult together on matters of common concern; (3) nothing in the new agreement would "affect the readiness of H.M. Government to assist the Government of Kuwait if the latter requests such assistance"; (4) the agreement would remain in force subject to three years' notice of termination by either side.

In reply to questions by Mr. Denis Healey (Lab.) and Mr. George Brown (Lab.), the Lord Privy Seal said that Britain had undertaken to train Kuwaitis so that a Kuwait foreign service could be formed; that the question of diplomatic relations between Kuwait and other countries was solely a matter for the Ruler of Kuwait; that Britain would support a Kuwaiti application for membership of the United Nations if such application was made; and that the British representative in Kuwait would for the time being retain the title of Political Agent, the Ruler having made no request for any change in the existing title.

Kuwait made formal application for membership of the Arab League on June 22; it was stated in Cairo that the application would be considered at the League's next meeting at Casablanca in September.—(Times - Daily Telegraph) (Prev. rep., 18014 G; Kuwait and Arab League, 18043 A.)

Note. The Sheikdom of Kuwait, situated at the head of the Persian Gulf and bounded by Iraq and Saudi Arabia, covers an area of some 6,000 square miles and has a population of about 200,000. Its great oil resources are exploited by the Kuwait Oil Company, owned jointly by the British Petroleum Company and the American Gulf Oil Corporation and employing some 10,000 men; there are also important oil resources in the Neutral Zone between Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, concessions in this area being held by the American Independent Oil Co. and the Getty Oil Company, with headquarters in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia respectively. The very large oil revenues accruing from the concessionaires have enabled the Kuwaiti Government to carry out large-scale social development, including the building of schools, hospitals, and dispensaries of the most modern type and a big re-housing programme.—(Ed. K.C.A.)

June 17-24, 1961

en: KEESING'S CONTEMPORARY ARCHIVES (WEEKLY DIARY OF IMPORTANT WORLD EVENTS).

A. KUWAIT. — General Kassem claims Iraqi Sovereignty over Kuwait. - Ruler of Kuwait's Appeal for British and Saudi Arabian Assistance. - British and Saudi Military Forces sent to Kuwait. - International Reactions to Kuwait Crisis. - Soviet Veto of British Resolution in Security Council.

A claim to Iraqi sovereignty over Kuwait was made by General Kassem (Prime Minister of Iraq) on June 25, only six days after the signing of the new agreement between Britain and the Sheikhdom of Kuwait [see 18159 B]. In a statement broadcast by Baghdad Radio, General Kassem described Kuwait as an "integral part of Iraq," basing his claim on the arguments (1) that Kuwait was part of the province of Basra in the former Ottoman Empire, and (2) that it had been recognized by Britain as such both before and after the treaty of 1899 whereby Kuwait came under British protection. General Kassem said that Iraq did not recognize what he described as the "forged treaty" of 1899, which had been "imposed on Kuwait by the imperialists" in consideration of a payment of 15,000 rupees; he also described the Kuwaiti signatories of the new agreement as "irresponsible people who are under the sway of imperialism."

In the course of his statement General Kassem announced that a decree had been issued appointing the Sheikh of Kuwait as *kaimakan* (prefect) of Kuwait—thereby implying that the Sheikhdom was regarded as an integral part of Iraqi territory. It was commented abroad that General Kassem apparently regarded as a precedent an Ottoman decree of 1871 under which the Sheikh of Kuwait was appointed *vahi* (governor) of Basra province.

A memorandum was presented to all diplomatic missions in Baghdad on June 26 in which the Iraqi Government upheld its claim to Kuwait as a "fact attested to by history." After saying that "foreign Governments, including the British Government itself, recognized the sovereignty of the Ottoman Empire over Kuwait" up to the First World War, the memorandum said that after the Iraqi revolution of 1958 "British imperialism resorted to new methods" to separate Kuwait from Iraq "under the screen of alleged independence." For this purpose the British Government had concluded on June 19, 1961, a new "imperialist agreement" with the Sheikh of Kuwait involving the termination of the "invalid 1899 agreement." The memorandum said that "this new agreement in fact provides for the continuation of the British protectorate over Kuwait by the British Government's undertaking to give any assistance requested by the Sheikh."

The Ruler of Kuwait (Sheikh Abdullah es-Salem es-Sabah) formally requested British assistance on June 30 under the provisions of the new Anglo-Kuwaiti agreement, following reports of Iraqi troop movements in the Basra area; a similar request was made to Saudi Arabia, whose King had previously sent a telegram to Sheikh Abdullah expressing Saudi Arabia's full support for "fraternal Kuwait." The Kuwaiti Government had issued a statement on June 26 declaring its determination to defend the territory of Kuwait; emphasizing that Kuwait was "an independent Arab State with full sovereignty, recognized internationally"; and expressing confidence that Kuwait would have the support of "all friendly and peace-loving countries, especially the sisterly Arab States."

In London, the Foreign Secretary (Lord Home) stated in the House of Lords on June 28 that the British and Kuwaiti Governments had been in consultation and that the Ruler of Kuwait had been assured of British support if it were requested. He added: "The [Anglo-Kuwaiti] exchanges of Notes of June 19 was an agreement between two independent States. It was not an instrument by which Kuwait achieved an independence which she previously lacked; Kuwait had been internationally recognized as an independent and sovereign State for some time past." A similar statement was made in the House of Commons by the Lord Privy Seal (Mr. Edward Heath), who pointed out that most Arab countries had sent messages of support to the Ruler of Kuwait.

The following statement was issued on June 30 by the British Foreign Office:

"The Government have certain obligations to the Government of Kuwait. In the face of a declared threat to this small independent State of annexation by a more powerful neighbour, the Government have had to take some normal precautionary measures.

"At the same time the Government have informed a number of friendly Governments in the Middle East and elsewhere of their deep

concern at this situation, and have expressed to them the hope that they will use their moderating influence with the Iraq Government so that Kuwait may continue her development as an independent Arab State amongst the nations of the world."

The British Ambassador in Baghdad (Sir Humphrey Trevelyan) had meanwhile had a meeting with the Iraqi Foreign Minister, Mr. Hashim Jawad, while the British Political Agent in Kuwait (Mr. John Richmond) had maintained close contact with the Ruler and the Kuwaiti Government.

British Military Build-up in Kuwait.

As stated above, formal requests for British and Saudi Arabian military assistance were made on June 30 by the Ruler and Government of Kuwait, following reports of a southward movement of Iraqi troops towards the Kuwait



(Daily Telegraph)

border. A rapid build-up of British troops began on July 1, when 600 men of No. 42 Royal Marine Commando went ashore from the aircraft carrier H.M.S. *Bulwark* and airborne forces landed at Kuwait Airport, supported by a squadron of the 3rd Dragoon Guards with *Centurion* tanks and by *Hunter* jet fighters from Bahrain. Within a week some 6,000 troops had been moved to Kuwait by air and sea from Kenya, Aden, Cyprus, the United Kingdom, and Germany, with supporting air and naval units from the Mediterranean and the Far East. The first Saudi Arabian units also arrived in Kuwait on July 1, followed on July 7 by 100 Saudi paratroops equipped with U.S. weapons. The Kuwaiti forces themselves had meanwhile been mobilized. All the British and Kuwaiti forces were placed under a joint British-Kuwaiti Command.

The following British Army and Royal Marine units had been concentrated in Kuwait by July 7: H.Q. 24th Infantry Brigade, flown from Kenya; 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards from Bahrain; 1st Battalion Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers from Kenya; 1st Battalion The King's Regiment (Liverpool and Manchester) from Kenya; 2nd Battalion Parachute Regiment from Cyprus (which flew to Kuwait over Turkey and Persia, both members of CENOT, so as to avoid flying over Iraqi territory); a squadron of the 11th Hussars from Aden, with armoured cars; a squadron of the 3rd Dragoon Guards with tanks; a battery of the 7th Parachute Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery, from Aldershot; the 34th Field Squadron, Royal Engineers; a reconnaissance flight from the Army Air Corps; No. 42 Royal Marine Commando; and No. 43 Royal Marine Commando.

Naval units concentrated off Kuwait were the 20,000-ton carrier *Bulwark*, which was despatched from Karachi and which, as stated above, landed No. 42 Royal Marine Commando; the frigate H.M.S. *Loch Aline*; the amphibious H.Q. ship H.M.S. *Moon*; and the tank landing ship H.M.S. *Striker*. The 30,000-ton aircraft carrier *Victorious*,

recalled from Far Eastern waters, arrived at Kuwait on July 11. In addition, six other warships at Malta were ordered to Aden as a precautionary measure, passing through the Suez Canal without incident on July 5-6; they were the 22,000-ton aircraft carrier *H.M.S. Centaur*, three destroyers (the *Cumperdown*, *Finisterra*, and *Saintes*, all of 2,300 tons), the 2,200-ton tank landing ship *Messina*, and a Fleet tanker.

Air units concentrated at Kuwait included two squadrons of *Hunters* (ground attack and fighter reconnaissance aircraft); *Camberras* of the 2nd Allied Tactical Air Force capable of carrying bombs, rockets, and cannon; a small number of *Shackleton* naval reconnaissance aircraft; *Beaverley* transports, each capable of carrying 100 fully-equipped men; and *Pioneer* aircraft for communications and liaison duties.

The movement of the above force was carried out by the carrier *H.M.S. Bulwark*, the Amphibious Warfare Squadron, and *Britannia*, *Comet*, *Hastings*, and *Valetta* aircraft of R.A.F. Transport Command and overseas commands. Air Marshal Sir Charles Elworthy, C-in-C., British Forces, Arabian Peninsula, was in overall command of the British forces in Kuwait; Major-General J. A. R. Robertson (G.O.C. Land Forces, Middle East) in command of land forces; Rear-Admiral A. A. F. Talbot (Flag Officer, Arabian Seas and Persian Gulf) in command of naval forces; and Air Vice-Marshal D. J. P. Lee in command of air forces. Despite temperatures of up to 120 degrees in the shade, and violent sandstorms with winds up to 25 m.p.h., the British troops had by July 7 established a defence line extending for 60 miles, and about five miles from the Iraqi border.

At a press conference on July 5, Brigadier Derek Horsford (commanding British ground forces) described the conditions of his troops as "cruel." He said: "They are living, working and digging in the red-hot wind—burning, hot, stinging sand. In a temperature of 115 degrees it drains all one's energies. The morale is terrific, but there's a limit. Chaps are passing out quite a lot from heat exhaustion. We got them back to an air-conditioned place and usually they are able to return the same day. . . ." The Brigadier pointed out that unlimited ice and water were available and were being brought up to the troops in the desert each day, and that he was also providingiced fruit drinks and iced melon for them.

Sir Charles Elworthy, who had established his H.Q. at Bahrain, said on July 3 that according to the "best intelligence" there was a "general movement" of Iraqi troops southwards toward Basra, including armour; he emphasized that "our position is 100 per cent defensive" and that "we have not the slightest wish to get involved in a shooting match, but that depends on Kassem."

In a further statement on July 7, Sir Charles Elworthy said that there was no fresh news about Iraq's intentions and "nothing to suggest that an Iraqi attack is imminent." He added that the British build-up in Kuwait was "virtually complete"; that the Coldstream Guards would be brought back to Bahrain from Kuwait; and that other units would be withdrawn in rotation in accordance with a policy of "minimum defensive force."

"My responsibility," said Sir Charles, "is now to maintain in Kuwait a force of all three Services which, together with the Kuwait Army, is the minimum necessary to enable us to defend Kuwait's independence. Naturally during the early part of the Kuwait build-up I put in forces which I had immediately available to strengthen our position until reinforcements from further afield could arrive. Now that our defensive position is firmly established some of these are superfluous to our needs, and accordingly I have withdrawn the Coldstream Guards from Kuwait. I shall withdraw further units when practicable, in line with a policy of a minimum defensive force. I shall also move units back in rotation so that none remains too long in these oppressive climatic conditions."

Mr. James Ramsden, U.K. Under-Secretary of State for War, visited Kuwait on July 12-13 for discussions with the Ruler and Sir William Luce, British Resident in the Persian Gulf. It was announced on the latter date that the Ruler, Mr. Ramsden, and Sir William Luce had reached an agreement whereby about one-third of the British troops would be withdrawn from Kuwait, together with supporting units and *H.M.S. Bulwark*, leaving about 4,000 British forces in the Sheikhdom. The units scheduled for withdrawal were stated to be the two Royal Marine Commandos, the 2nd Parachute Regiment, the Dragoon Guards squadron, and the Royal Horse Artillery battery.

In London, a Ministry of Defence spokesman said that no movement of forces from Kuwait was likely during the next few days; while it was the intention to reduce forces, "the final decision must wait until the C. in-C. Middle East has made his recommendations and they have been accepted by the Government."

The Iraqi Military Attaché in Britain (Brigadier Muhammad Faik), who had just returned from a visit to Baghdad, categorically denied on July 13 that there had at any time been any concentration of Iraqi troops against Kuwait.

While repeating the claim that Kuwait was an "integral part of Iraq," Brigadier Faik emphasized that his country sought a solution of the Kuwait dispute by peaceful means only and had "not moved a single soldier, tank, or vehicle" towards the south. On the contrary, orders had been given to the frontier guards to withdraw northwards; hence there were no Iraqi forces at all opposite the British troops dug in near the frontier.

Security Council Debate on Kuwait. - Soviet Veto of British Resolution. - Kuwaiti Application for Membership of United Nations.

* The Security Council met in New York on July 2, at Britain's request, to consider a complaint by Kuwait that Iraq was threatening her independence and territorial integrity and that the situation was calculated to endanger international peace. The Council adjourned its debate on July 7 without adopting any resolution, and after a British resolution had been defeated by a Soviet veto.

Sir Patrick Dean (U.K.) gave a categorical assurance that the British troops in Iraq had no aggressive intentions whatever, constituted no threat to Iraq, would only be employed in a combat role if Kuwait were attacked from across the border, and would be withdrawn as soon as the Ruler of Kuwait considered that the threat to his country was over.

The Anglo-Kuwaiti Note exchanges of June 19 (Sir Patrick continued) formally established the independence of Kuwait, as a fully sovereign State—a status which, in fact, Kuwait had possessed for some time previously. This step was in accord with the wishes of Kuwait, the long-established policy of the British Government, and the U.N. Charter. "We had thought that . . . this represented an advance which all countries would have welcomed. . . . It was therefore with surprise and shock that the news was received that Iraq had reacted not with approval but with a threat."

Reports had begun to circulate that Iraq was preparing to launch an attack on Kuwait in support of General Kassem's claim to sovereignty over the Sheikhdom. There were considerable Iraqi forces in the Basra area which could have invaded Kuwait at a few hours' notice, and there had also been indications that reinforcements, including tanks, had been moved southwards from Baghdad; all this seemed to indicate the possible imminence of an Iraqi attack. The Ruler of Kuwait had formally asked for British and Saudi Arabian help, and under the terms of the Anglo-Kuwaiti agreement Britain had no option but to comply. The British Government had informed a number of friendly Governments in the Middle East of its deep concern at the situation and had urged them to use their moderating influence with the Iraqi Government.

Dr. Pachachi (Iraq)—who was invited to participate in the Council's debate without voting rights—maintained his country's claim to sovereignty over Kuwait and described the despatch of British troops as a "sordid operation," a "military adventure reminiscent of Suez," and an "aggressive act accompanied by a singularly unconvincing attempt to hide behind the mantle of the Sheikh of Kuwait." He claimed that the original Anglo-Kuwaiti agreement of 1899 was without validity; declared that Iraq had "not moved a single soldier" towards Kuwait; and said that his Government had repeatedly emphasized that it would use only peaceful means "to defend our legitimate rights."

After asserting that Kuwait had never been a sovereign State, Dr. Pachachi claimed that as a result of the despatch of British troops to "an integral part of Iraq" a dispute existed on the international level between Iraq and the United Kingdom, and not between Iraq and Kuwait. His Government therefore asked the Security Council to consider the counter-complaint of an "armed threat, by the United Kingdom to the independence and security of Iraq."

Mr. Zorin (U.S.S.R.) asserted that the threat to peace came not from Iraq but from the presence of British troops in Kuwait, and asked the Security Council to condemn Britain's "armed intervention" and to call on her to withdraw her forces immediately from the area. He stressed that the Iraqi Government "has never contemplated and is not planning any military actions with regard to the Principality of Kuwait or enforcing Iraq's right to the area by means of arms," and described the despatch of British troops to Kuwait as an example of the "old colonialism."

Mr. Abdel Aziz Hussein (Kuwait) was invited to take part in the debate, with the "non-support" of Mr. Zorin and against the objections of Dr. Pachachi. He emphasized that his country was peace-loving and presented no threat to anyone; said that Kuwait had historically maintained its independence from Ottoman domination; and described Kuwait today as an efficient Welfare State, "the pride of the Middle East," with all the attributes of independence and sovereignty.

Quite recently (Mr. Hussein continued) a letter had been received from the Iraqi Government favouring the establishment of Kuwait as an independent State, and expressing its intention to open a consulate in Kuwait; he also quoted from a joint statement by Iraq and Kuwait referring to the understanding "between two sister States." It was not until June 25 that General Kassem had for the first time asserted Iraq's claim to annex Kuwait—a declaration which had come as "a great shock not only to the people of Kuwait but also, I am sure, to the people of Iraq," and which he (Mr. Hussein) thought might be due to General Kassem's need to bolster his own internal position. The British forces had arrived at Kuwait's invitation and would be withdrawn as soon as the threat of invasion was over. It was not the intention of the Kuwait Government to allow a single foreign soldier to remain on its soil indefinitely.

Mr. Francis Plimpton (U.S.A.) said that his country "regards Kuwait as a sovereign independent State and supports the desire of the Kuwaiti Government and people to remain fully independent and free." After recalling that Kuwait was a member of UNESCO, ICAO, and other U.N. agencies, and stating that the U.S.A. would support her application for full U.N. membership, Mr. Plimpton continued:

"There have been a number of recent public statements by Iraqi leaders regarding their intentions with respect to Kuwait. The nature of some of these statements is at variance with past expressions of Iraqi friendship for Kuwait and with Iraq's often-avowed desire to maintain tranquillity in the Middle East. . . . In the second place, there have been reports . . . that Iraqi troop dispositions have been made near the border of Kuwait. In the circumstances, the Ruler of Kuwait has felt it necessary to take precautionary defensive measures by inviting military forces of friendly States to assist him in strengthening Kuwait's defensive capabilities. The Ruler asked for such help from Saudi Arabia and also from the United Kingdom, pursuant to the agreement concluded by Kuwait and Great Britain on June 19. . . . The United States believes that Saudi Arabia and the United Kingdom have acted appropriately, and that these actions will tend to ensure the preservation of peace in the area. We welcome the U.K. statement that 'H.M. Government earnestly hopes that the necessity to make use of this force will not arise and that it is intended that it should be withdrawn as soon as the Ruler considers that the threat to the independence of Kuwait is over.' My Government has been informed by the Government of Iraq that Iraq does not intend to resort to force in Kuwait, and welcomes the similar assurances provided to the Security Council by the Iraqi representative. . . ."

Dr. Omar Loutfi (U.A.R.) expressed his concern at the dispute between "two sister Arab States," his confidence that Iraq would not resort to military action against Kuwait, and his conviction that the dispute would be settled peacefully. At the same time he expressed "grave concern" at the British landings in Kuwait, which could "not but have serious repercussions" and which, far from contributing to a settlement, could only aggravate the situation. Dr. Loutfi summarized the U.A.R.'s position as follows: (1) support for the independence of Kuwait based on the self-determination of the Kuwaiti people; (2) the immediate withdrawal of the British forces; (3) the peaceful solution of the dispute within the framework of the Arab League.

Sir Patrick Dean, speaking again at the end of the debate, emphasized that Britain would recall her troops from Kuwait "as swiftly as they arrived" once Iraq had demonstrated her peaceful intentions towards the Sheikdom "both in deed and word."

Two resolutions were presented to the Security Council, one by Great Britain and the other by the United Arab Republic.

The British Resolution called on all States to respect the independence and integrity of Kuwait; urged all concerned to keep the peace in the area; and asked the U.N. to keep the situation under review. In addition, it noted that British and Saudi Arabian forces had been placed at the disposal of the Ruler of Kuwait in response to the latter's appeal; that the Iraqi Government had undertaken to use only peaceful means; and that Britain had undertaken to withdraw her forces as soon as the threat to Kuwait was removed. The resolution emphasized the importance of re-establishing peaceful conditions in the area and welcomed any constructive steps by the Arab League to this end.

The U.A.R. Resolution declared that the question should be solved by peaceful means and called upon Britain to withdraw her forces from Kuwait immediately. In presenting this resolution, Dr. Loutfi asked the Security Council to view the Kuwait situation as "a dispute among the Arab nations" and urged that it should be settled "in accordance with the principles and traditions of the Arab States."

The voting on the British resolution was seven in favour (the U.K., the U.S.A., France, Turkey, Chile, Liberia, and Nationalist China), one against (the U.S.S.R.), and three abstentions (Ceylon, Ecuador, and the U.A.R.); it was therefore defeated by the Soviet veto—the 95th cast by the Soviet Union in the Security Council. The U.A.R. resolution received only three affirmative votes (the U.A.R., the U.S.S.R., and Ceylon), the other eight Council members abstaining. The British resolution was supported by Kuwait and the U.A.R. resolution by Iraq.

The Kuwaiti representative (Mr. Hussain) told a press conference on July 6 that two conditions had to be met before the British forces could be asked to leave Kuwait: (1) the admission of Kuwait to the United Nations, and (2) the withdrawal by Iraq of her claim to annex Kuwait. The Government of Kuwait had formally applied for membership of the United Nations on June 30.

Debate in British Parliament.

Mr. Macmillan made a statement on the Kuwait situation in the House of Commons on July 3, followed by a debate in which Mr. Gaitskell expressed the Opposition's support for the Government's action in sending forces to Kuwait at the Ruler's request.

Mr. Macmillan said: "Last Wednesday (June 23) the Lord Privy Seal (Mr. Heath) made it clear that in the situation created by Iraq's claim to sovereignty over Kuwait, H.M. Government had assured the Ruler of Kuwait of British support. At the same time they took precautionary military measures to enable swift action to be taken if the situation deteriorated.

"The Iraqi Government's claim to the territory and sovereignty of Kuwait followed swiftly on the [Anglo-Kuwait] exchange of Notes on June 19. The claim was accompanied by a violent press and radio campaign from Baghdad. Iraqi forces at Basra, only 30 miles from the Kuwait border, were clearly quite sufficient to occupy Kuwait by rapid movement against the modest Kuwait Army.

"On June 29 and 30 evidence accumulated from a number of sources that reinforcements, especially of armour, were moving towards Basra. In this situation the Ruler felt it his duty to make a formal request for British assistance under the treaty. This he did on June 30. H.M. Government had a clear obligation to meet such a request under the exchange of Notes and responded at once. British forces landed in Kuwait on July 1.

"At the same time the Ruler sent to the Security Council a complaint in respect of the circumstances caused by the threat of Iraq to the territorial independence of Kuwait, which was likely to endanger peace and security, and asked for an emergency meeting of the Council to consider it.

"The British representative in New York reported on Britain's action to the Security Council in accordance with the Charter and supported the Ruler's request for a meeting. The Security Council took note of the situation and adjourned.

"The Government earnestly hope that counsels of moderation will prevail in Baghdad. Our forces are in Kuwait purely for defensive purposes and in accordance with our treaty obligations. They will be withdrawn as soon as the Ruler considers that the independence of Kuwait is no longer threatened. They present no threat to Iraq, with whom we wish to maintain the friendliest possible relations.

"I am convinced that it was the duty of the Government to act as they did. I believe that they will receive the general support of the House and the country. I will keep the House informed of further developments."

Mr. Gaitskell (Leader of the Opposition): "Much as we regret the fact that British troops have had to be landed in Kuwait, most of us will feel that in view of the treaty obligations and the formal request of the Ruler, following the threatening posture adopted by Iraq, the Government had no option but to take the action they did.

"In view of the unfortunate possibility that the situation may continue for some time without being properly cleared up, would it not be a good idea to propose to the United Nations that we would be willing to support the idea of a U.N. Force to take responsibility for the protection of Kuwait, since this would do much to get rid of the misrepresentation to which we are undoubtedly being subjected at this moment by propaganda in the Middle East and many other parts of the world.

"The situation in the Middle East, particularly in Kuwait, is liable to be somewhat unstable and uncertain in view of the great disparity of wealth between the different countries. Would it be a good plan to propose through diplomatic channels to the Arab States concerned the creation of a fund to which both the oil-producing countries and the oil companies might contribute for the benefit of the Middle East generally? Has not the Ruler of Kuwait himself indicated his willingness to subscribe to such a fund, and would the Government consider putting their authority and influence behind this idea?"

Mr. Macmillan: "I am grateful for what the right hon. gentleman has said. I feel sure that it records the general view that we had no option but to act in the circumstances as they were. Of course, we do not rule out any solution through a U.N. force or other force, but first things first. The force that has been landed in response to the Ruler's request is at present the only effective method of maintaining the independence of Kuwait. I cannot tell what will happen in the next two or three days, or two or three weeks, but there are no signs of the threat diminishing. Rather the contrary, as the attitude of the Iraqi representative in the Security Council seems to show.

"There may, of course, come a later stage when it would be possible to support the independence of Kuwait by an arrangement made on a wider basis. Meanwhile, I assure the House that we have no desire to carry on with this considerable military and financial burden for any longer a period than our obligations require.

"The second question is a much wider one. The Ruler of Kuwait has shown himself conscious of his responsibilities in the Arab world. The Government of Kuwait has recently agreed to employ part of its revenue for projects of a constructive kind in the Arab world."

Mr. Nabarro (C.) asked the Prime Minister for some information about the U.S. attitude, adding: "Is it not a fact that 50 per cent of the output of oil from Kuwait is British-controlled and 50 per cent is American-controlled? Are they [the U.S.A.] proposing to participate in the military arrangements in defence of Kuwait, or is it to be solely a British responsibility?"

Mr. Macmillan: "The great thing is to deal with each crisis as it occurs. My colleagues and I found this quite a difficult decision to take, and I am much supported by the general sense of the House that we could not afford to leave Kuwait hopelessly undefended against forces poised to attack them. We have been in the closest touch throughout with the Commonwealth countries . . . and in the

closest consultation with the United States. I do not think that we ought now to embark on the larger issues. Let us see just where we can get through this immediate crisis."

Mr. Galtskell: "While I entirely support what the Prime Minister has said about the immediate situation, there is no inconsistency between holding firm on the policy on which the Government have been obliged to stand and, at the same time, looking a little further ahead for the reasons which he himself has given, and seeking as soon as possible a wider basis for the protection of Kuwait which is so obviously desirable."

Mr. Macmillan: "Yes, of course. One of the things we fail to understand is that only a short time ago the Government of Iraq appeared to recognize the independence of Kuwait and was discussing with them a question which clearly regarded them as an independent country. This was suddenly reversed, and it is that which has caused so much anxiety. . . ."

"It is always a great difficulty to try not to move into a territory until the last possible moment, but not to leave it so long that the intervention would be ineffective. It is a delicate position to hold. . . . We will look at the longer issues. Naturally these are heavy burdens on our economy. We want to create a general state of harmony in the Arab world, and we are encouraged by the degree of understanding from Arab countries as a whole."

Mr. Grimond (Lib.): "As it appears that Arab neighbours are willing and eager to defend the independence of Kuwait, have they taken any steps in this direction or are any consultations taking place?"

Mr. Macmillan: "The Arab neighbours are a long way off, in some of the most difficult country in the world. I am happy to see that the Saudi Arabian Government has sent some token of its support. There is a very heavy sandstorm at the moment and visibility is very bad. It is hard to get accurate reconnaissance. But there are a good number of methods by which we obtain information, and it is undoubtedly true that the [Iraqi] forces now at Basra, recently reinforced, would constitute a serious menace, even with the forces we have under our command."

Mr. Arthur Henderson (Lab.) asked whether, in view of the risk of border incidents, the Prime Minister would consider proposing to the Security Council that a contingent of U.N. observers should be stationed on the Iraq-Kuwait border.

Mr. Macmillan replied: "There is a distance of about 60 miles of desert. . . . Whether it would be a good thing to station observers on this frontier in the desert I would like to consider a little more. But all this will develop. What we had to do was to decide to take certain action, which I hope will lead to the Government of Iraq having second thoughts. Then we shall see how to develop the best way of getting out of this tangled situation in such a way as to maintain the independent life of a State which we recognize as independent."

A similar statement was made in the House of Lords by Lord Home. Viscount Alexander of Hillsborough (leader of the Labour peers) and Lord Rea (the leader of the Liberal peers) expressed their support for the Government's action.

Arab and International Reactions to Kuwait Dispute.

Iraq's claim to sovereignty over Kuwait was not supported by any of the other Arab States, nor by the Arab League. King Saud of Saudi Arabia, as stated above, assured the Ruler of Kuwait of his full support and sent Saudi troops to the Sheikhdom; King Hussein of Jordan sent a message to the Ruler congratulating him on the achievement of independence by Kuwait following the Anglo-Kuwaiti agreement of June 19; and President Nasser informed the Ruler that the independence of Kuwait was "of great concern" to the United Arab Republic. The Ruler of Kuwait also received messages of support and recognition from Libya and the Sudan.

In Cairo, a statement was issued on July 5 by Colonel Hatem (Minister of State) to the effect that the U.A.R. was closely watching developments in view of reports that "certain circles in Baghdad" were "seriously considering the possibility of military intervention" in Kuwait; the statement appealed to Iraq not to take any action which might adversely affect the cause of Arab unity, and at the same time demanded the immediate evacuation of British forces from Kuwait.

Implicit criticism of Iraq's annexation claim was expressed by all leading Egyptian newspapers. *Al Ahrām* criticized General Kassam for the "mischief" he had done to the cause of Arab unity, while *Al Akhbar* said that union between Iraq and Kuwait should come about through "a mutually and freely expressed will. . . . This trend alone, and not that of force and annexation, should be the rule observed in Arab relations." The official *Al Gounhouria* said that both the Iraqi and Kuwaiti peoples were "fully inspired with faith in Arab nationalism," which was "in itself a potential means of political unity provided a unanimous popular will in both countries supports that trend and calls for its implementation."

The Secretary-General of the Arab League (Mr. Abdul Khalek Hassouna) visited Baghdad, Kuwait, and Riyadh during the first ten days of July to discuss the Kuwait situation with the Governments of Iraq, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia. The Arab League Council meanwhile met in Cairo on July 4 to discuss Kuwait's application for membership [see 18159 B] and decided to adjourn until Mr. Hassouna had returned from

his mission; the meeting was held *in camera* and no statement was issued, but it was understood that Iraq had opposed Kuwait's membership of the Arab League. Following Mr. Hassouna's return to Cairo, the League Council met again on July 13 and decided by a majority vote (the U.A.R. and Saudi Arabia opposing) to adjourn for another week to enable delegates to consult their Governments.

A Kuwaiti goodwill mission left the Sheikhdom on July 10 for Cairo and other Arab capitals. It was headed by Sheikh Jabr al-Ahmed as-Sabah, the Kuwaiti Minister of Finance and Economy, its other members being Sayyid Abdul Aziz al-Sagah, president of the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce; Sayyid Nusuf Yusuf el-Nusuf, a prominent businessman with a dominant interest in Kuwait Airways; and Sayyid Abdul Aziz Sirawi, deputy director-general of the Social Affairs Department. The delegation met Mr. Hassouna in Cairo on July 11 and also visited Alexandria for conversations with President Nasser, to whom they handed a personal message from the Ruler of Kuwait.

In Washington, the State Department spokesman (Mr. Lincoln White) expressed on June 30 the hope that Iraq would not resort to force in her dispute with Kuwait, and stated that the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad had been assured that Iraq would use only "peaceful means." On the following day the Department issued a statement expressing the U.S. Government's opinion that Britain had "acted quite appropriately in the light of the request of the Ruler and of its obligations to Kuwait," and its belief that "the British action will tend to ensure the preservation of peace in the area."

In New Delhi, Mr. Nehru said on June 30 that he was "glad that Kuwait has become independent," adding that India had "treated Kuwait as a separate entity for a considerable time past and we propose to continue to treat it as an independent entity." It was subsequently disclosed that the Government of India had sent a communication to Iraq urging a peaceful approach in her dispute with Kuwait.

The Shah of Persia sent a congratulatory message to the Ruler of Kuwait on the Sheikhdom's achievement of independence, following the new agreement with Britain. A Persian Foreign Ministry spokesman described Iraq's claim to sovereignty over Kuwait as "ludicrous," and just as invalid as if Turkey were to claim Iraq because that country was once part of the Ottoman Empire.—(Times - Daily Telegraph - Guardian - Le Monde - U.N. Information Centre, London - U.S. Information Service - Soviet Embassy Press Department, London - Indian High Commissioner's Office, London)

(Prev. rep. Kuwait, 18159 B.)

July 8-15, 1961

D. KUWAIT. — Admission to Arab League.

Kuwait was admitted to membership of the Arab League on July 20 against the opposition of Iraq, whose delegate walked out before the vote was taken. The Arab League Council, which met in Cairo, recorded that Kuwait had been unanimously admitted to the League in view of the fact that the Iraqi delegate was not present when the vote was taken. The Iraqi Foreign Ministry, however, claimed that the League's decision to admit Kuwait was "null and void"; asserted that it was a "blatant violation" of the Arab League's Charter, which stipulated that a unanimous vote was required for the admission of new members; and declared that Iraq would not relinquish her claim to Kuwait.—(Times - Daily Telegraph)
(Prev. rep. 18187 A.)

July 15-22, 1961

en: KEESING'S CONTEMPORARY ARCHIVES (WEEKLY DIARY OF IMPORTANT
WORLD EVENTS).

A. KUWAIT. — Progressive Withdrawal of British Troops. - Replacement by Arab League Force.

The Ruler of Kuwait (Sheikh Sir Abdullah es-Salem es-Sabah) and the Secretary-General of the Arab League (Mr. M. A. Hassouna) signed an agreement on Aug. 12 for the replacement of the British forces in Kuwait by a force drawn from member-countries of the Arab League. The agreement bound the Arab League (Iraq alone dissenting) to preserve Kuwait's territorial integrity and independence under her present regime; to regard any aggression against the Sheikhdom as aggression against the League's members; and, in the event of any such aggression, to render Kuwait immediate assistance and, if necessary, repel it with armed force. It was also announced that Kuwait had signed the Arab League collective security pact, following her admission to membership of the League [see 18221 D].

The agreement between the Ruler of Kuwait and the Arab League covered details of the composition of the force (see below), supply procedure, and immunities and facilities for the members of the force. It was stated that the expenditure for maintaining the Arab League force in the Sheikhdom would be borne by Kuwait.

Prior to the above agreement, an Arab League military mission headed by General Halim Imam (U.A.R.) had visited the various Arab capitals—Baghdad excepted—in an effort to form an Arab force, on as broad a basis as possible, to take over the defence of Kuwait from the British in agreement with the Ruler of Kuwait; at the same time Mr. Hassouna visited a number of Arab capitals, including Kuwait, to discuss the political aspects involved. By the time the agreement was signed, five Arab States had agreed to provide contingents for this force—Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Republic, Jordan, Sudan, and Tunisia. Of the other Arab States, Morocco and Libya agreed in principle to the creation of the force but did not commit themselves to providing contingents; Lebanon and Yemen declined to provide military units; while Iraq strongly criticized the Arab League's action and reiterated her claim to sovereignty over Kuwait.

By the beginning of September the Arab League force totalled about 3,300 men, of whom 1,200 were provided by the U.A.R., the same number by Saudi Arabia, 400 by the Sudan, 300 by Jordan, and 200 by Tunisia—the whole under the command of a Saudi Arabian officer, General Abdullah el-Issa. The first units—the Saudi Arabian contingent, half infantry and half cavalry and motorized troops—moved into Kuwait on Sept. 9-10.

Following Kuwait's agreement with the Arab League, the Ruler sent a letter on Aug. 13 to the British Political Agent in the Persian Gulf, Sir William Luce, formally requesting the withdrawal of the British forces in view of the Arab League's undertaking to assume responsibility for the defence of Kuwait and the maintenance of its territorial integrity. The agreement with the Arab League was welcomed in London, a Foreign Office spokesman stating that British troops would be progressively withdrawn from Kuwait, in accordance with the Ruler's request, as the Arab League force moved into the Sheikhdom.

The British phased withdrawal began on Sept. 19, when some 200 men of the 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, left for Bahrain; they were followed at the end of the month by further units of the 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, who were also withdrawn to Bahrain, and of the 1st Battalion, The King's Regiment, who were flown to Kenya.

No. 45 Royal Marine Commando and elements of The Parachute Regiment had previously been withdrawn from Kuwait in the last fortnight of July, being transferred to Aden and Bahrain respectively. Seven British warships left the Persian Gulf in the same month—the aircraft carriers *Victorious* and *Bulwark*, the destroyers *Cassandra* and *Finislarre*, and three frigates; the carrier *Centaur*, transferred from the Mediterranean, arrived as replacement for the *Victorious* and *Bulwark*.

It was announced on Sept. 22 that diplomatic relations had been established between Great Britain and Kuwait at ambassadorial level; that Mr. J. C. B. Richmond, H.M. Consul-General in Kuwait, would be the first British Ambassador to the Sheikhdom; and that Khalifa al-Ghunaim, a prominent businessman and member of the Currency Board and the Development Board, would become the first Kuwaiti Ambassador in London.

A Cairo announcement of Sept. 25 stated that Mr. Salah Khalil, U.A.R. Foreign Under-Secretary, had flown to Kuwait on a three-month mission to organize the Kuwait Foreign Office, at the Ruler's request; 11 Kuwaiti officials had previously gone to Britain for training, as a first step in the establishment of a Kuwaiti Foreign Service.

The Arab League's decision to assume collective responsibility for the defence of Kuwait was strongly criticized in Baghdad, as stated. In a speech to military graduates on

July 14, the third anniversary of the Iraqi revolution, General Kassem had reiterated Iraq's claim to sovereignty over Kuwait; asserted that the Sheikhdom had become an "imperialist bridgehead"; and accused "British imperialism" of seeking to dominate the entire Persian Gulf "in Bahrain, Shahjah, Oman, and elsewhere." Despite this attack, General Kassem had a meeting on July 20 with the British Ambassador in Baghdad (Sir Humphrey Trevelyan) which was described as "friendly" and at which, according to an official statement, "future cordial relations" between the two countries were discussed.

The Iraqi Government sent a Note to London on July 27 drawing attention to the fact that three British soldiers had been captured in Iraqi territory some days earlier; alleging that they had entered Iraq for purposes of "sabotage" on the "orders of the British military authorities in Kuwait"; and protesting against what was described as an "aggressive and provocative act constituting a violation of Iraqi sovereignty."

The three soldiers in question—members of a Royal Engineers unit—had been reported missing while on routine patrol in the border area with a scout car. They were stated in the British Press to have lost their way in the desert, crossed the Iraqi frontier in an area where it was undemarcated, and to have been subsequently arrested and taken to Baghdad. Reporting on this incident on July 26, Baghdad Radio said the three men were "roaming in the southern part of our country as if they were penitents on the banks of the Thames"; alleged that they had entered Iraq for purposes of sabotage; and said they would be tried by a military court.

Lord Home (U.K. Foreign Secretary) described the allegation of sabotage as "ridiculous," adding that the Iraqi authorities "seem to be making heavy weather of an unfortunate human error; their investigation can only reveal that the men were only guilty of getting themselves lost."

Sir Humphrey Trevelyan was allowed to see the three detained soldiers on Aug. 9; he stated that all were in good health and were being well treated.—(Times - Daily Telegraph - Guardian) (Prev. rep. Kuwait, 18221 D; 18187 A.)

October 7-14, 1961

A. KUWAIT. — Election of Constituent Assembly. - First Cabinet. - Withdrawal of British and U.A.R. Forces. - Establishment of Arab Economic Development Fund. - Relations with Iraq.

The first elections to be held in Kuwait took place on Dec. 30, 1961, when a Constituent Assembly was elected to draw up a Constitution, the 20 seats being contested by 74 candidates. The electoral law was prepared by the Joint Council, which had been formed by the co-optation of 10 leading merchants to the Supreme Council, hitherto composed entirely of members of the ruling Sabah family. The vote was confined to literate males who were over 21 and born in Kuwait, and candidates were required to be over 30; as about half the population are non-Kuwaitis, and soldiers and police were not allowed to vote, the electorate numbered about 40,000 out of a total population of some 321,000. The Constituent Assembly was officially opened on January 20, 1962.

A provisional Constitution came into force on Jan. 7, 1962, pending the introduction of a permanent Constitution drawn up by the Assembly. The Ruler, who became Head of State, was declared head of the executive and legislative branches of the Government, presiding over the Council of Ministers and with power to appoint and dismiss its members and to ratify legislation. The Assembly, consisting of the Ministers as well as elected members, was given the right to legislate and watch over Government activities in addition to drawing up the Constitution. Freedom of speech, the press, religion, and association, and the independence of the judiciary, were guaranteed.

The Ruler, Sheikh Sir Abdullah es-Salem es-Sabah, formed his first Cabinet on Jan. 17, 1962. All its 14 members were drawn from the ruling family except the Ministers of Justice, Social Affairs and Labour, and Public Health, who were members of the Assembly. It was announced on Jan. 28 that a Ministry of Foreign Affairs would be set up and a diplomatic corps formed to represent Kuwait in the principal foreign countries.

Other recent political and economic developments in Kuwait are summarized below under cross-headings.

Withdrawal of British and U.A.R. Forces. The last British troops were withdrawn from Kuwait on Oct. 19, 1961. In a telegram to the Ruler published on the previous day, however, President Nasser stated that he would withdraw the U.A.R. contingent from the Arab League Force in Kuwait, as he had information that "attempts were to take place to make the U.A.R. force, or some of its members, appear to you as if they were interfering in the internal affairs of Kuwait. . . . Some officers and U.A.R. troops were to be provoked, which could have resulted in undesirable complications." He had therefore decided to withdraw them to frustrate "imperialists capable of forgery and fabrications in order to disunite the Arab people." According to unofficial sources, the decision was believed to arise from friction between Egyptian troops on the one hand and Syrians and Jordanians on the other caused by the Syrian coup of Sept. 28, 1961.

The Arab Economic Development Fund. Sheikh Jaber al-Ahmed el-Jaber es-Sabah (Minister of Finance and National Economy) announced on Jan. 6, 1962, the Kuwaiti Government's decision to establish a fund for Arab economic development, with an initial capital of £50,000,000, earmarked from Kuwait's current investments abroad. The fund, which in some aspects would function like the World Bank, would issue short, intermediate, and long-term loans at low rates of interest to finance Arab countries' development programmes. Most loans would be to Governments, but the fund might also finance individual projects. Sheikh Jaber, who had toured the Arab countries during the previous autumn to study their economic needs, became chairman of the board for the administration of the fund. The first loans granted were one of £7,000,000, repayable in 15 years at 4 per cent interest, to the Sudan for railway development on March 26, and one of £7,500,000 to Jordan for economic development projects on April 3.

Establishment of Petrochemical Industry. It was announced on June 7, 1961, that an agreement for the establishment of a petrochemical industry in Kuwait had been signed between the Milan firm Oronzio de Nora, which would import plant and machinery from Italy, the Kuwaiti National Petroleum Company, and the Kuwaiti National Industries Company. Under the agreement a new company, the Kuwaiti Petrochemical Company, was formed with a capital of £16,000,000, the Kuwait Government and Oronzio de Nora each holding 40 per cent of the shares.

Following renewed declarations by General Kassam (Prime Minister of Iraq) of his Government's intention to "liberate" Kuwait, the British Ministry of Defence announced on Dec. 26, 1961, that it had taken "small-scale precautionary measures . . . because tension had been stirred up in the Middle East during the Christmas season." On the following day it was reported that the aircraft carrier *Centaur* had sailed from Mombasa (Kenya) for an undisclosed destination in the Middle East, accompanied by the frigates *Plymouth* and *Loch Alvie* and

three fleet auxiliaries, and that 200 officers and men of the Army and R.A.F., including 170 of R.A.F. Transport Command, had left Britain for the Middle East. The Iraqi Foreign Minister, Dr. Jawad, protested against these measures on Dec. 28 to the Security Council, alleging that they had "created a state of high tension endangering peace and security in the region and threatening the freedom and security of Iraq." Reports in the British Press on Dec. 27 said that the British precautionary measures had been due to intelligence reports of a movement of Iraqi tanks across the desert towards Kuwait, but on the following day it was reported that no further developments suggesting an imminent threat to Kuwait had occurred.

The Foreign Minister of Kuwait, Dr. Sabah es-Salem es-Sabah, protested to the Security Council on Dec. 29 against Iraqi threats, press and radio campaigns, and concentration of military forces; he declared that Kuwait would take all measures to preserve its rights and the security of its people, and asked the Council to "take such measures as would restore the peace and the feeling of security in the area." The Iraqi delegation at the United Nations described the cable from "the so-called Foreign Minister of Kuwait" as "distortions and fabrications," and expressed "the strongest reservations" at the circulation of a message from "an individual with no recognized status at the United Nations."

Kuwait lodged a strong protest with the Arab League on Dec. 31, 1961, against the Iraqi Government's "continued pressure, military concentrations, and continued threats to Kuwait." Kuwait had previously complained to the League on Dec. 17 that Iraq had frozen the money of Kuwaiti nationals in Iraqi banks and had seized 10 Kuwaiti ships in Basra harbour. Dr. Sabah again protested to the Security Council on March 19, 1962, against "provocative declarations" by General Kassam, who, he said, had stated that Kuwait "has become a ripe fruit and we shall gather it at the proper time."

Dr. Jawad had announced in December last that Iraq would reconsider her relations with any State which established diplomatic relations with "the Kuwait Sheikdom," and reaffirmed this position on Jan. 31, 1962. In accordance with this policy, Iraq broke off diplomatic relations on Jan. 18 with Jordan, on March 17 with Japan, on March 18 with Persia, on May 10 with Lebanon, on June 2 with the United States, and on Aug. 8 with Tunisia, because these countries had established diplomatic relations with Kuwait. Iraq's relations with Britain were not affected, as the exchange of Ambassadors between Britain and Kuwait had taken place before Dr. Jawad gave his warning. (Times - Daily Telegraph - Guardian - New York Times) (Prev. rep. Kuwait, 18355 A.)

August 18-25, 1962

A. KUWAIT. — First Elections to National Assembly under New Constitution. — New Cabinet. — Withdrawal of Major Part of Arab League Force.

Elections took place in Kuwait on Jan. 23 to the first National Assembly, under a new Constitution promulgated on Nov. 16, 1962, which replaced the provisional Constitution in force since Jan. 7, 1962 [see 18934 A]. The principal provisions of the new Constitution were as follows:

Sovereignty and the Throne. Kuwait was an independent sovereign Arab State; her sovereignty might not be surrendered, and no part of her territory might be relinquished. Any offensive war was prohibited by the Constitution.

Succession as Ruler would be restricted to descendants of the late Mubarak es-Sabah, and an Heir Apparent must be appointed within one year of the succession of a new Ruler.

Executive. Executive power would be vested in the Ruler, who would exercise it through a Council of Ministers. The Ruler would appoint a Prime Minister "after the traditional consultations," and would appoint and dismiss Ministers on the Prime Minister's recommendation. Ministers need not be drawn from among elected members of the Assembly.

Legislature. A National Assembly of 50 members would be elected by all natural-born literate Kuwait males over the age of 21, except Servicemen and police who would not be permitted to vote. Candidates for election must possess the franchise and be over the age of 30. Certain restrictions were placed on the commercial activities of Ministers and members of the Assembly, including a prohibition on selling property owned by them to the Government.

The Assembly would normally have a life of four years and would sit for at least eight months each year. A new election would take place within two months of any dissolution of the Assembly.

The Ruler might ask for reconsideration of a Bill which had been passed by the Assembly and sent to him for ratification, but the Bill would automatically become law if it was thereupon passed either by a two-thirds majority, or by a simple majority in a subsequent session. The Ruler might declare martial law; but his decree would have to be approved by the Assembly.

The Assembly might pass a vote of no confidence in a Minister, in which case the Minister must resign. In the case of the Prime Minister such a vote was not permissible, but the Assembly might approach the Ruler on the matter and the Ruler must then either dismiss the Prime Minister or dissolve the Assembly.

An annual Budget must be presented, and there would be an independent finance control commission.

Civil Service. Only Kuwait citizens might be admitted to the Civil Service, and only natural-born citizens might attain the most senior posts.

Civil Rights. Islam was the State religion, but all religious ceremonies would be permitted so long as they did not violate public order or morality. Freedom of opinion and of the Press were guaranteed "within the limits of the law," and censorship prohibited "except in cases and in a manner provided by the law." Trade unions would be allowed, and private property and individual liberties guaranteed. The State would help citizens incapacitated by old age, sickness, or inability to work.

In the elections a total of over 200 candidates were nominated for the 50 seats—five in each of 10 districts. There were no political parties, the candidates standing as individuals. Two-thirds of the electorate went to the polls.

Dr. Sabah es-Salem es-Sabah, brother of the Ruler and Heir Apparent and Foreign Minister, was appointed Prime Minister on Jan. 27 (the post having previously been held by the Ruler himself) and the Assembly was formally opened on Jan. 29. The Council of Ministers comprised the Prime Minister and 15 other Ministers, all from outside the Assembly—10 from the ruling family and five commoners. Sheikh Sabah el-Ahmed el-Jaber es-Sabah, formerly Minister of Guidance and Information, was appointed Foreign Minister, and Sayyid Khalifa Khalid al-Ghunaim, Ambassador to Britain, became Minister for Trade.

Withdrawal of Jordanian and Saudi Arabian Contingents.

The Arab League military force stationed in Kuwait under the agreement of Aug. 12, 1961 [see 18355 A] was depleted during January-February 1963 by the withdrawal of the Jordanian contingent of 800 troops which took place during the last week of January, and that of the Saudi Arabian contingent of 1,200, which was completed by February 4.

The Secretary-General of the Arab League, Dr. Hassouna, stated on Feb. 5 that Tunisia had agreed in principle to provide a token force and that in view of this offer he had requested the Sudanese Government to reconsider its decision, announced the previous day, to withdraw its force of about 100 men. He added that consultations were continuing with the Algerian and Libyan Governments on the possibility of their sending troops to Kuwait.

Although no reason was given for the Jordanian and Saudi Arabian withdrawals, it was reported in the Press that Kuwait had approached the Arab League in December 1962 with a view to their removal since she was embarrassed by the political implications of their presence.

In Iraq, General Kassem had told a Syrian press delegation on Dec. 9, 1962, that Kuwait was "under my thumb," that he could "occupy it militarily in half an hour," and that "no power on earth can prevent me doing so." He added, however, that he wished to treat the Kuwait issue "by diplomacy and with reason" to avoid shedding Arab blood.

Turkish Recognition of Kuwait.

It was announced in Ankara on Jan. 28 that the Turkish Government had recognized Kuwait as an independent State. (Times - Daily Telegraph - Le Monde, Paris - Neue Zürcher Zeitung) (Prev. rep. Kuwait, 18934 A; 18355 A; Heir Apparent, 19077 D.)

February 16-23, 1963

Kuwait, relations with Iraq

Kuwait. The Sheikh of Kuwait recognized the new Government immediately after its establishment, and sent a message of greetings to President Aref. The members of the new Iraqi Government, however, remained non-committal in their references to the question of General Kassem's claim to sovereignty over Kuwait, Mr. Shabib declaring on Feb. 13 that a "satisfactory compromise" between Kuwait and Iraq was "possible." When asked at his first press conference on Feb. 13 whether his Government recognized Kuwait's independence, President Aref said: "The Kuwait affair is a purely Arab question. It concerns only the Arabs. Besides, there is only one Arab nation, not several." In an interview with *Al Ahran* on Feb. 19 he said that the people of Iraq and Kuwait were one, and that "if Kuwait does not wish to join us then we will join her."

Communications with Kuwait, which had been suspended since June 1961, were reopened on Feb. 19 to enable the unemployed from Basra to find work in the Kuwait oil refineries. A Kuwaiti delegation, led by the Foreign Minister, arrived in Baghdad on March 21 for discussions with President Aref and Mr. Shabib.

A Government delegation headed by Mr. Saadi and including Colonel Ammash, Mr. Shabib, Brigadier Aref, and Mr. Talabani visited Cairo on Feb. 21-23 for the celebrations of the fifth anniversary of the union of Egypt and Syria. At the conclusion of the visit Mr. Saadi said that their talks with President Nasser had been extremely successful, and that a basis had been found for "positive effective co-operation between the U.A.R. and Iraq in such a way as to lead ultimately to the realization of unity in the Arab nation." Mr. Shabib added that there would soon be contacts between Iraq, the U.A.R., Algeria, and Yemen in preparation for "an important joint meeting of the four liberated Arab countries to discuss Arab problems and co-ordinate work between them." The delegation afterwards visited Algiers on Feb. 23-25 for talks with the Algerian Government.

A delegation from the Syrian *Baath* Party, led by Mr. Aslaq, had talks with Mr. Saadi and Mr. Shabib in Baghdad on Feb. 19-21; Mr. Aslaq had been received by President Nasser in Cairo earlier in the month. It was stated in Baghdad that the talks had revealed the "unity of doctrine" between the Iraqi Government, the U.A.R., and the Syrian *Baath* Party.

March 30-April 6, 1963

B. KUWAIT. — Admission to United Nations.

Kuwait was admitted as the 111th member of the United Nations by the General Assembly on May 14, following a unanimous recommendation to that effect by the Security Council on May 7. The Kuwaiti Foreign Minister, Sabah Al-Ahmed Al-Sabah, took his seat in the Assembly after his country's admission.

A draft resolution supporting Kuwait's membership of the U.N. was jointly submitted to the Assembly by Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guinea, Hungary, India, Irish Republic, Jordan, Liberia, Malaya, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, and Tunisia. The resolution was adopted by acclamation.

Kuwait had unsuccessfully applied for membership in 1961 at the time of the late General Kassem's announcement of Iraq's claim to sovereignty over Kuwait, but her application had been defeated by a Soviet veto in the Security Council on Nov. 30 of that year.—(U.N. Information Centre, London) (Prev. rep. Kuwait, 18462 A ; U.N. Membership, 19145 A, page 19155 ; 19033 A.)

May 18-25, 1963

A. KUWAIT. — Iraqi Recognition of Independence. - Loan to Iraq.

The Iraqi Government announced on Oct. 4 that it had decided to recognize Kuwait's complete independence and sovereignty in her present borders and that an agreement to that effect had been signed earlier that day in Baghdad by Major-General Ahmed Hassan Bakr, the Iraqi Prime Minister, and Dr. Sabah es-Salem es-Sabah, the Kuwaiti Heir-Apparent and Prime Minister.

The preamble of the agreement said that Iraq wanted to clear her relations with Kuwait from the atmosphere created by the former Kassem regime [which had claimed sovereignty over Kuwait], and that she had become aware of the Kuwait Government's statement before the Kuwait National Assembly on April 9 last that it would abrogate its treaty with Britain in due course. The agreement also provided that the two countries would exchange Ambassadors forthwith and pledged themselves to strengthen their relations in the economic, cultural, and commercial fields.

A Kuwaiti loan to Iraq of 30,000,000 dinars (£30,000,000) had been approved by the Kuwait National Assembly on Sept. 24.—(Times - Daily Telegraph) (Prev. rep. 19323 A, page 19326 ; 19252 A.)

October 5-12, 1963

A. KUWAIT. — Creation of Supreme Defence Council.
- Diplomatic Representation.

A Supreme Defence Council was set up in Kuwait on Nov. 18, its members being the Prime Minister, the Foreign Minister, the Minister of Defence, the Minister of Finance and Industry, the Minister of Information and Guidance, the Minister of Posts, Telegraphs, and Telephones, the Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs, the C.-in-C. of the Armed Forces, and the Under-Secretary of the Ministry of Defence. The creation of a Supreme Defence Council had been laid down in the country's new Constitution.

Opening a new session of the National Assembly on Oct. 29, the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, Prime Minister of Kuwait, stated that the Government would exert every effort to ensure Kuwait's security by maintaining up-to-date armed forces, that their size would be increased, and that officers would be sent abroad for training.

As regards domestic policy, the Prime Minister said that the Planning Board set up in 1962 would plan and co-ordinate State policy in all major fields of activity. In order not to rely exclusively on petroleum as its source of revenue, the Government would conduct a general survey of Kuwait's natural and mineral resources, including fisheries, and develop those likely to be profitable. In the sphere of social welfare, the Prime Minister announced that the Government had completed the health registration of, and was providing medical services for, the entire population.

It was stated during November that Kuwait had established diplomatic missions in ten countries—Japan, Jordan, Lebanon, Persia, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Tunisia, the U.A.R., the United Kingdom, and the United States—in addition to her mission at the United Nations.—(Kuwait Embassy, London)

(Prev. rep. 19252 A.)

December 7-14, 1963

A. IRAQ - KUWAIT. — Water Supply Agreement.

At the end of a four-day visit to Baghdad by the Foreign Minister of Kuwait, Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmed Al-Sabah, a 99-year agreement was signed on Feb. 11 between the Governments of Kuwait and Iraq under which the latter will permit Kuwait to draw up to 120,000,000 gallons of water daily from a point to be selected on one of Iraq's rivers. Kuwait will build a pipeline or channel to convey the water, which Iraq may tap for irrigation or other purposes at not more than 15 points, drawing up to 500,000 gallons daily from each.—(Kuwait Embassy Press Department, London)

(Prev. rep. 19668 A.)

March 14-21, 1964

B. IRAQ - KUWAIT. — Trade and Economic Agreement. - Virtual Abolition of Customs Duties.

A trade and economic agreement was signed between Iraq and Kuwait on Oct. 24, under which Customs duties on agricultural produce and industrial goods exchanged between the two countries were to be abolished with the exception of certain items to be specified and reviewed annually. The agreement also covered the facilitation of transit trade and land transport; the granting of full freedom of travel, residence, employment, and business practice to citizens of either country in the other; and mutual encouragement of tourism. A financial protocol provided facilities for the investment of capital by either country in the other and contained regulations for the transfer of profits and, in the event of nationalization, of capital funds and compensation.— (Kuwait Embassy, London) (Prev. rep. 19953 A.)

Nov. 28-Dec. 5, 1964

B. KUWAIT. — Ending of Defence Pact with Britain.

In pursuance of the British Government's policy of withdrawing from the Persian Gulf, Kuwait and the United Kingdom exchanged Notes on May 13 annulling the Anglo-Kuwaiti agreement of June 19, 1961 [see 18159 B], under which Britain undertook *inter alia* to give military assistance to Kuwait if the latter country requested it. The 1961 agreement required three years' notice of termination by either party, and as a result of the Note exchange of May 13 Britain will have no obligation to aid Kuwait militarily after the British withdrawal from the Persian Gulf by 1971.—(Times - Daily Telegraph - Guardian) (Prev. rep. Persian Gulf, British Withdrawal, page 22490; U.K.-Kuwait 1961 Agreement, 18159 B.)

May 11-18, 1968

A. PERSIAN GULF. — United Kingdom Proposals for Political and Defence Arrangements after Withdrawal of British Armed Forces. — Discussions between Rulers on Proposed Union.

The British Government's policy in the Persian Gulf and details of political and defence arrangements after the withdrawal of the British military presence were set out by Sir Alec Douglas-Home, the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary, in a statement in the House of Commons on March 1, immediately prior to the opening of the debate on the Defence White Paper [see 24492 A]. In reply to a question Sir Alec stated that the position would be reconsidered if the Rulers in the Gulf had not formed a Union among themselves by the end of 1971, when the withdrawal was still due to take place.

After recalling the Labour Government's decision in January 1968 to terminate the treaties with Bahrain, Qatar and the seven Trucial States (Abu Dhabi, Ajman, Dubai, Fujairah, Ras al Khaimah, Sharjah and Umm al Quwain) by the end of 1971 and to withdraw British forces from the region [see 22489 A], and referring to representations which the announcement had had in the Gulf area, Sir Alec said that the Conservative Government had given "very careful consideration" to the future relationship between Britain and the Gulf States and had held consultations with the Rulers to consider how best Britain could contribute to the stability of the area in the future.

The Rulers of the nine States were continuing discussions among themselves about how an acceptable Union of Arab Emirates could be formed [see below], and the Saudi Arabian and Kuwaiti Governments were also involved. In view of uncertainty as to what decisions would be taken, however, the current statement "must be related solely to the situation as it stands at present".

The British Government, Sir Alec continued, strongly supported the development of a Union of Arab Emirates, and the Rulers had recently been told what the Government was prepared to offer to a Union in the way of continuing links and assistance. These arrangements, which contained provision for review where relevant, comprised: (a) a treaty of friendship containing an undertaking to consult together in time of need; (b) the handing over of the Trucial Oman Scouts to form the nucleus of a Union Army, the provision of British officers and other personnel on loan to the Union's forces, and assistance in the supply of equipment, with the Union itself assuming full financial responsibility for its own forces; (c) the stationing, if the Union wished, of elements of British forces on a continuing basis to act in a liaison and training role, including the training of Union security forces; (d) regular training exercises involving British Army and R.A.F. units; and (e) regular visits to the area by Royal Navy ships. Britain was also ready to consider ways of assisting local police forces if so requested, and to help the Union in development and other appropriate fields.

The British Government, for its part, would expect the Union Government to continue to permit the over-flying and staging of British military aircraft through Union territory on the lines of present arrangements.

As regards political arrangements, the Rulers had been told that the treaty of friendship and the new proposals would replace the existing treaties with the U.K., which were the present basis of the protected status of the nine States and of the British Government's right to conduct their international relations, and which would cease by the end of 1971.

Discussions on Formation of Union of Arab Emirates.

The decision in principle by the Rulers of the nine States to set up a Union of Arab Emirates had originally been taken in February 1968 [see 22592 B], but in the course of the ensuing three years no concrete agreement had been reached on definite arrangements for the creation of the Union. Following the February 1968 meeting of Rulers, further meetings were held on May 25-26, 1968, on July 6-7, 1968, in late October 1968, on May 10-14, 1969, and on Oct. 21-25, 1969, but conferences called for November 1969 and October 1970 failed to take place after serious differences had arisen at meetings of Deputy Rulers.

Positive steps taken at these meetings of Rulers included the following: (i) the establishment of a Supreme Council of the nine Rulers; (ii) the appointment of a temporary Federal Council comprising one representative from each State and under the initial chairmanship of Shaikh Khalifa bin Hamad al-Thani, Deputy Ruler of Qatar, whose decisions should be on the basis of a two-thirds majority; (iii) the appointment of Shaikh Zaid bin Sultan al-Nahayni, the Ruler of Abu Dhabi, as first President of the Federation for a period of two years from October 1969, and of Shaikh Rashid bin Said al-Maktoum, the Ruler of Dubai, as Vice-President; and (iv) the choice of the town of Abu Dhabi as the temporary capital, pending the building of a new capital on the border of Dubai and Abu Dhabi. It was further agreed in principle to establish a unified federal army, and a team led by Major-General Sir John Willoughby was invited to advise on the defence forces [see page 23255].

During 1970 disagreement was reported in the Press to have arisen principally on the questions of representation in the proposed national assembly after an initial four-year period; the site of the capital; and the distribution of Cabinet posts. In particular, Bahrain, with about one-half of the total population of some 450,000, was under-

stood to have pressed for proportional representation in the national assembly rather than an equal number of representatives for each State, and to have proposed that for reasons of economy the capital should be in Bahrain rather than at a new site.

The question of the formation of a Union of Arab Emirates and the allied matter of the withdrawal of British forces from the Gulf were considered during the three years following the original announcement not only by the nine States directly concerned but also by the four major surrounding countries—Iran, Iraq, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

The Iranian Government, in a statement on April 1, 1968, had said that it would "reserve all its rights in the Persian Gulf" and would in no way tolerate the "historic inequity and injustice" of the proposed Union. Iran's attitude was subsequently modified, however, particularly after the settlement in May 1970 of her claim to Bahrain [see 23998 A], although she still maintained her claim to the islands of the Tumbs and Abu Musa off the coasts of Ras al Khaimah and Sharjah respectively. At the same time, her opposition to Britain retaining a military presence in the Gulf after 1971 was reaffirmed by Mr. Ardeshir Zahedi, the Foreign Minister, on July 12, 1970, following a private meeting in Brussels on July 10 between the Shah and Sir Alec Douglas-Home. Mr. Zahedi added that the views of Iran, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia were identical in this respect and that all the States of the Gulf maintained the view that Gulf affairs must be handled by the countries of the region without outside interference.

The Kuwaiti Government issued a statement on the same day (July 12) similarly stressing its strong opposition to British forces remaining in the area, and called for their withdrawal within the specified period.

Saudi Arabia's position was complicated by her continuing claim to the Buraimi Oasis on the border of Abu Dhabi and Oman, which had during the 1950s been the subject of a dispute between Saudi Arabia and the United Kingdom [see 14534 A; 12890 A]; at the end of discussions in London from Dec. 8 to 14, 1970, between a Saudi delegation and British Ministers, however, it was stated that both sides agreed that "the rapid development of the Union of Arab Emirates would make a significant contribution to peace and stability in the area".

A proposal to create a joint defence organization among the Arab countries of the Gulf was made on July 16, 1970, by President Bakr of Iraq, who in addition called for the withdrawal of British troops not only from the Emirates but also from the Sultanate of Muscat and Oman (now renamed Oman).

In order to carry out consultations with the Gulf Rulers, the British Government in July 1970 appointed Sir William Luce as its special representative [see 24128 C]. Sir William spent nearly two months in the area in August-September and again visited the area for discussions in October and in January-February 1971, when, as stated by Sir Alec Douglas-Home on March 1, he informed the Rulers of the British Government's intentions.

Constitutional Changes in Qatar and Bahrain.

A provisional Constitution for Qatar was announced by the Ruler, Shaikh Ahmad bin Ali bin Abdullah al-Thani, on April 2, 1970, providing for a 33-member consultative assembly comprising 10 Ministers and 20 elected and three nominated members. On May 29 Shaikh Khalifa bin Hamad al-Thani was appointed Prime Minister.

In Bahrain, which has had a Council of State since January 1970 [see 23808 C], the Ruler, Shaikh Isa bin Sulman al-Khalifa, announced on Dec. 16, 1970, that work would begin immediately on the drawing up of a new Constitution for the State.—(Times-Daily Telegraph - Guardian - Financial Times - Hansard - Bahrain Information Service - Le Monde) (Prev. rep. Announcement of British Withdrawal, 22489 A; Union of Arab Emirates, 22592 B; Sir William Luce, 24128 C; Bahrain, 23998 A; 23808 C; Anglo-Kuwaiti Relations, 22690 B; Abu Dhabi and Sharjah, 21573 A.)

March 13-20, 1971

KUWAIT

HISTORIA. Año 1973. Siguiendo la misma política de años anteriores, KUWAIT mantuvo su línea de independencia entre los estados árabes y sus relaciones cordiales con Arabia Saudí, Bahrein y los Emiratos Arabes Unidos, con quienes firmó sendos acuerdos culturales y económicos. Fueron asimismo buenas sus relaciones con Egipto y Siria, aunque el Gobierno de KUWAIT rehusó aceptar el alto el fuego que siguió a la guerra árabe-israelí de octubre. Como miembro de la OPAEP (Organización de los Países Árabes Exportadores de Petróleo), participó también en el programa de embargo de petróleos crudos a Occidente y Japón.

En marzo surgió una grave crisis con Irak, cuando varias unidades iraquíes ocuparon un puesto de policía en Sameta, territorio de KUWAIT. A pesar de que pudo evitarse un enfrentamiento armado, las relaciones entre ambos países se deterioraron considerablemente.

La economía, fundada en las exportaciones de petróleo, fue muy favorable, pues se estiman éstas en 589 millones de dinares, un 7 % más que en 1972. A finales de año, el Gobierno introdujo una nueva ley para la total nacionalización de la industria petrolífera.

IRAK

HISTORIA. Año 1973. El acontecimiento interno más importante fue un intento de golpe de Estado perpetrado a finales de junio y dirigido por el jefe de la Seguridad Nacional, Nazem Kazzar.

El ministro de Defensa, Hamad Shihab, y el del Interior, Sadoun Ghaidan, junto con otros oficiales de la Armada y de las Fuerzas de Seguridad, fueron hechos prisioneros en un banquete celebrado en Bagdad, el 30 de junio, al que habían sido invitados por Nazem Kazzar. Los prisioneros fueron llevados a Zarbatiya, en la frontera IRAK-Irán, donde se les liberó, al día siguiente, por las Fuerzas de Seguridad, arrojándose a Kazzar y otros conspiradores. Se acusó a Kazzar de haber matado a Shihab y herido a Ghaidan, y, asimismo, de intentar asesinar al presidente Bakr y al vicepresidente Sadam Hussein al-Takriti, como primer paso para tomar el poder. El 7 de julio, tras un juicio ante un tribunal especial, fueron ejecutados Kazzar y 35 miembros más del complot, hasta elevarse a 150 el número de personas ejecutadas por conspirar contra el régimen desde 1968.

El 13 de julio se reformó la Constitución de manera que concedía virtualmente una autoridad ilimitada al presidente Bakr. Estas reformas le convirtieron en jefe de Estado, primer ministro y comandante en jefe de las fuerzas armadas. Se anunció, además, la formación de un Frente Nacionalista con un Comité Supremo, compuesto por ocho miembros del Partido Baath, tres comunistas, tres miembros del Partido Democrático Kurdo, uno del Partido Nacional Progresista y otro del Partido Demócrata Independiente.

Siguió el descontento en la minoría kurda, que acusaba al Gobierno de no respetar el acuerdo firmado en 1970. El 28 de septiembre se cerró el aeropuerto de Bagdad, imponiéndose el toque de queda en la capital, después de una serie de brutales y misteriosos asesinatos.

Tras varios meses de negociaciones, se llegó a un acuerdo entre el Gobierno y la Compañía Iraquí de Petróleo, que IRAK había nacionalizado en 1972. La compañía pagaría a IRAK 350 millones de dólares en concepto de royalties, gastos e impuestos. Por su parte, el Gobierno iraquí facilitaría 15 millones de toneladas de petróleo crudo a las terminales mediterráneas.

El 10 de febrero se produjo una crisis con Pakistán, al descubrirse un depósito de armas en la embajada iraquí de Islamabad. El embajador iraquí fue expulsado de Pakistán, y se notificó, más tarde, que las armas iban destinadas a los rebeldes fronterizos de Beluchi. Las relaciones entre ambos países se restablecieron el 25 de abril. Siguió los choques fronterizos con Kuwait, no llegándose a ningún acuerdo, pese a la mediación de otros países árabes. El establecimiento de relaciones diplomáticas con Irán, en octubre, no disminuyó la hostilidad entre ambos países. Las sospechas iraquíes de que Irán facilitaba armas a los rebeldes kurdos fueron confirmadas por el jefe kurdo Mustafá al-Barzani en una conferencia de prensa.

IRAK se unió a la guerra árabe-israelí enviando 18.000 soldados al frente sirio del Golán. En octubre, como represalia por la ayuda estadounidense a Israel, nacionalizó dos firmas petrolíferas norteamericanas, Mobil y Exxon, uniéndose a los otros países árabes en el embargo de petróleos crudos a Estados Unidos y a Holanda, pero no al resto de los países.

El presidente Bakr no asistió a la Conferencia árabe celebrada en Argelia, en noviembre, por objetar, al igual que Libia, el acuerdo árabe para llegar a un alto el fuego con Israel.

KUWAIT

Año 1974. El enorme desarrollo económico, debido a las grandes reservas petrolíferas, siguió siendo el principal acontecimiento de este país lo que permitió al Gobierno del emir Sabah-as-Salem as-Sabah la concesión de grandes créditos y ayuda a otras naciones, especialmente a Egipto, Siria, Túnez y Yemen, a través del Fondo de KUWAIT para el Desarrollo Económico Árabe.

Al comenzar el año, la Compañía Petrolífera de KUWAIT adquirió el 60 % de las acciones de la compañía británica Gulf Oil; pero, debido a las presiones por parte de varios miembros de la Asamblea Nacional, apoyados por algunos sindicatos y asociaciones estudiantiles, se llegó, a finales de año, a la total nacionalización de esta compañía. Asimismo, y a consecuencia de estas mismas presiones, el Gobierno decidió reducir la producción de petróleo de 2,8 a dos millones de barriles diarios como medida preventiva de conservación.

En este país, donde la población tiene prácticamente todos los servicios sociales cubiertos, las ganancias de la exportación petrolífera se destinaron, en gran parte, a la subvención de la industria petroquímica, a engrandecer la flota transportadora de petróleos crudos y a la adquisición de armas, tanto francesas como estadounidenses.

KUWAIT se vio envuelto, a principios de febrero, en una acción terrorista protagonizada por el Frente Popular para la Liberación de Palestina y el Ejército Rojo japonés, que ocuparon la Embajada japonesa a fin de presionar al Gobierno de aquel país para que se dieran facilidades a unos compañeros de ambas organizaciones revolucionarias sitiados en un *ferry* de la Shell, ocupado tras un sabotaje a la refinería que dicha compañía posee en la isla de Bukom (Singapur). Después de un día de ocupación, los militantes palestinos y japoneses responsables de las acciones de Singapur y KUWAIT pudieron desembarcar en Aden (Yemen del Sur), desde donde se dirigieron a un lugar no hecho público. — R. L.

IRAK

Año 1974. A lo largo de todo el año, el Gobierno tuvo que enfrentarse a las crecientes oposición y violencia kurdas. Los kurdos, que constituyen del 15 al 20 % de la población total iraquí, viven principalmente en la región nordeste de IRAK. En Irán y en Turquía se encuentran en proporciones semejantes, formando una nación sin país. El Tratado de Sévres, en 1920, proclamó que deberían tener su propio territorio, del que no disponen todavía. De todas formas, la coexistencia kurda siempre fue mucho más difícil en IRAK que en Irán y Turquía. Las relaciones entre el Gobierno iraquí y la minoría kurda se deterioraron notablemente en 1971, época en que sucedieron, intermitentemente, actos de violencia y guerrillas. Comenzaron nuevas negociaciones en enero de 1974. El Gobierno deseaba excluir la zona de Kirkuk, muy rica en petróleo, de la región de Kurdistán, deseo al que se oponían los kurdos. El Partido Democrático Kurdo reclamaba igualdad de derechos entre los kurdos y el resto de los iraquíes, pero el Gobierno tachó estas reclamaciones de separatistas, por lo que las negociaciones se rompieron a finales de febrero. El Gobierno anunció unas propuestas para la autonomía kurda, que no fueron aceptadas. Como consecuencia tuvo lugar una revuelta armada y una emigración masiva de kurdos hacia la región norteña de Kurdistán. Siguió las luchas a lo largo de todo el año, pese a la intervención de las fuerzas gubernamentales, y a finales de él, unos 100.000 kurdos se habían refugiado en Irán.

Pareció esclarecerse que la Unión Soviética había ayudado al Gobierno iraquí en su lucha contra los kurdos. Por su parte, IRAK protestó porque la resistencia kurda recibía ayuda de Turquía, Israel, Irán y Estados Unidos.

Siguieron las luchas fronterizas con Irán, exacerbadas por la simpatía del sah hacia los kurdos, lo cual ocasionó varias protestas a la O. N. U. por parte de ambos países. En mayo, el secretario general de las Naciones Unidas, Kurt Waldheim, designó al embajador mejicano en Bonn, Luis Muñoz, para que investigara la situación.

Siguió el aislamiento de IRAK respecto a los otros países árabes, a tal punto que el presidente Bakr rehusó asistir a la Conferencia árabe celebrada, en octubre, en Rabat.

Las relaciones con la U. R. S. S. fueron buenas, como lo demuestra el acuerdo por el que técnicos soviéticos construirían un oleoducto entre Basora y Bagdad. Por su parte, la Unión Soviética obtendría petróleo a un precio especial.

Cuando el ministro francés Chirac visitó Bagdad, en diciembre, se firmaron contratos por un valor de 1.350 millones de libras, que incluían la construcción de una planta de acero. Se firmaron también acuerdos económicos con la República Federal de Alemania y Japón. — R. L.

A. IRAQ. — Dispute with Syria over River Euphrates.
- Progress towards Settlement of Border Dispute with
Kuwait. - Frontier Agreement with Saudi Arabia. -
Signature of Iraq-Iran Agreement.

A serious deterioration in relations between Syria and Iraq began in April 1975, caused primarily by a dispute over the use of the waters of the River Euphrates. Other factors contributing to the tension included Syrian distrust of Iraqi intentions following the Iraq-Iran agreement of March 1975 and the end of the Kurdish war [see below], and Iraq's strong opposition to a further partial Middle East agreement, which it accused the Syrian Government of being prepared to accept. Underlying these immediate issues, rivalry continued between the two opposing wings of the pan-Arab *Baath* party, as represented in the Syrian and Iraqi Governments respectively, with each regime suspecting the other of plotting its overthrow.

In the same period substantial progress was made towards the settlement of Iraq's long-standing border dispute with Kuwait and towards a delimitation of the neutral zone between Iraq and Saudi Arabia.

Syria-Iraq Dispute.

It was announced on April 7 that Iraq had requested an emergency meeting of Arab League Foreign Ministers to discuss its claim that Syria was using its new Soviet-constructed dam at Tabqa to divert excessive quantities of water from the Euphrates, thereby endangering the lives of 3,000,000 Iraqi farmers who were dependent on the river's waters for irrigation. Reporting the request, the Iraqi News Agency said it came "as a result of the lack of response by the Syrian Government to all efforts exerted by the Iraqi Government for years to reach an agreement necessitated by considerations of national responsibility, justice, humanity and the provisions of international law".

The Tabqa dam had been built on the Syrian portion of the Euphrates (which crosses northern Syria after rising in southern Turkey, and then flows into Iraq's "fertile crescent" to join the Tigris at Basra) under an agreement signed by Syria and the Soviet Union in April 1966 [see 21403 A] and it had come into operation at the end of 1974. It was estimated that when completed the overall Tabqa project would irrigate about 1,500,000 acres of land and be capable of generating 800,000 kilowatts of hydroelectric power for industrial and development projects.

The Iraqi complaint about the Euphrates waters was accompanied by charges and counter-charges from each Government concerning the other's character and policies, and by reports of repressive action in each country against alleged supporters of the other's regime.

In a statement issued on April 9 the Iraqi Government said it would take whatever steps it deemed necessary to ensure the free flow of the Euphrates and would "hold Syria responsible for the serious results which harnessing its waters have on Iraqi farmers". On the same day the sixth congress of the Syrian *Baath*, meeting in Damascus, condemned the "rightist Iraqi clique" for its alleged collusion with Iran and its "betrayal of the causes of the Arab nation".

It was reported that the congress had been preceded by the arrest of about 200 military and civilian members of the Syrian *Baath* (including the director of the Sana news agency, M. Marouan Hamamouli, and a former director of Syrian television, M. Khadour Chuat) on charges of plotting against the Government. Most of those arrested were understood to be supporters of the "historic" leadership of the *Baath*, many of whose Syrian members were currently living in Baghdad, notably the founder of the party, M. Michel Aflaq [see 26856 B].

In an official statement issued on April 19, the Syrian Government claimed that it had been seeking a definitive agreement with Iraq and Turkey on sharing the waters of the Euphrates "for many years" but had met with "rejection and evasion" by Iraq, which had conducted bilateral negotiations with Turkey without informing Syria of what was discussed. In October 1973, the statement continued, Syria had reached a provisional agreement with Iraq on the flow of water for the 1973-74 winter season, stipulating that the figures would be revised when Turkey began filling its own dam at Koban. However, when it had been established in late January 1974 that the filling of the Koban dam had begun, Iraq had "pre-empted" about revising the agreement.

The statement went on to claim that, although Turkey had during that season severely reduced, and on occasion completely cut off, the water flow, Syria had nevertheless allowed 71 per cent of water received from Turkey to flow through to Iraq on the personal instruction of President Hafez al Assad. The latter had also, in response to an Iraqi request made in mid-1974, authorized the release of an additional 200,000,000 cubic metres from the Tabqa reservoir. "Despite the difficulties that the country was facing as a result of the destruction of electric installations during the October liberation war" [i.e. the October 1973 Arab-Israeli war]. Moreover, Syria had allowed 75 per cent of water received from Turkey in the 1974-75 water season to flow into Iraq. The statement also alleged that the

Baghdad Government had failed to take steps to modernize irrigation methods used in Iraq so as to utilize the actual water flow more effectively.

Notwithstanding the percentage flows mentioned in the Syrian statement, the Iraqi Government maintained earlier claims that only about half of the water to which it was entitled had reached Iraq in the 1974-75 season and that the Tabqa reservoir had been filled above the level necessary to generate electricity.

After the Syrian Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister, Mr. Abdel Halim Khaddam, had on April 10 rejected the Iraqi call for a meeting at the level of Foreign Ministers, the Arab League Council, meeting in Cairo on April 22, unanimously approved the establishment of a "technical committee" to mediate on the dispute, comprising the two interested parties and seven other Arab states. However, after representatives of the nine countries had convened in Cairo on April 26, Syria on May 1 announced its withdrawal from the committee and requested its suspension "because of the continued Iraqi propaganda campaign against Syria".

A parallel mediation attempt by Saudi Arabia ended inconclusively on May 3 after tripartite talks in Riyadh under the chairmanship of the Saudi Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources, Shaikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani. Although the Saudi Arabian News Agency had on May 2 announced that an agreement in principle had been reached by the two sides the previous day, a further announcement on May 3 said that a settlement of the dispute had been deferred after the Iraqi and Syrian representatives had decided to return home for consultations, in preparation for a further meeting.

Following the breakdown of these mediation efforts, Syria on May 7 accused Iraq of resorting to mass executions and assassinations of "nationalist and progressive forces" opposed to the Iraq-Iran agreement of March 1975, which in a commentary published the same day in the Damascus daily *Al Baath* was described as the "ugliest crime against Arab nationalism", committed by the "treasonous and fascist right" in Baghdad. Western press reports stated, however, that most of those on a "first list" of 50 alleged victims referred to in the Syrian accusations (who included religious leaders, army officers and civil servants) had been killed before the March agreement.

The dispute intensified on May 13 when Syria closed its airspace to all Iraqi aircraft and suspended its own air services to Baghdad, in protest against "the barbarous, inhuman treatment of Syrian and Iraqi air transport workers employed by Syrian Arab Airlines in Baghdad" and "unethical conduct" towards passengers aboard a Syrian aircraft. In further developments, the Syrian Government on May 25 ordered the immediate closure of the Iraqi consulate in Aleppo (in northern Syria), while on June 2 it was reported that Syrian armoured units had been transferred from the southern front with Israel to the Iraq border, where Iraqi forces were said by the Syrians to be grouping (although Iraq later denied this allegation).

Meanwhile, an official of the Syrian military mission in Baghdad was stabbed and wounded on May 28 by an assailant whom the Syrians claimed to be an Iraqi intelligence agent, and the following day (May 29) Syria accused Iraq of executing a further 81 opponents of government policy.

With relations between the two countries rapidly worsening and amid reports that Iraq had threatened to bomb the Tabqa dam, Saudi Arabia renewed its mediation efforts in early June, with the result that on June 3 a limited agreement was reached under which Syria agreed to release more water from the Tabqa reservoir as a "gesture of goodwill" towards Iraq.

A statement released by the Syrian Government in Damascus on June 3 said: "In the light of the good offices made available by the fraternal Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and in view of the fraternal Iraqi people's needs, particularly during this period in which Euphrates river water is scarce, the Syrian Government has decided to supply from its own share the requirements of the fraternal Iraqi region regardless of the Iraqi regime's attitude. The Syrian Government expects this to be helpful in promoting a permanent agreement before long on sharing the waters of the Euphrates." No indication was given of the quantities of water that Syria had agreed to release.

Although it led to a temporary moderation in the tone of each side's verbal attacks on the other, the June 3 agreement did not produce a basic improvement in relations between the two countries.

On June 9 the Iraqi Irrigation Minister, Mr. Makram al Talabani, rejected the Syrian claim that the now water to be released was part of its own share and stated that the Syrian decision had come too late to meet the needs of the current summer crop in the river basin. In response, the Syrian Euphrates Dam Minister, M. Sobhi Khablé, said on June 15 that the Iraqi Irrigation Minister had based himself on "erroneous figures" and had cited a total for recent Syrian consumption of Euphrates water which was in fact greater than the overall volume received by Syria from Turkey.

A further deterioration in relations occurred on July 7 when Syria ordered the closure of the Iraqi military mission in

Damascus and withdrew its own military attaché from Baghdad. The following day Iraq submitted a note to the Arab League complaining of "continuous Syrian encroachments" along the Iraqi border.

In its note, the Iraqi Government claimed that during June Syrian aircraft had repeatedly violated Iraqi airspace and that Syrian armoured units and intelligence forces had harassed and ambushed Iraqi patrols and civilian workers on the northern Iraq border. The note further claimed that members of the Syrian Camel Corps and intelligence service had laid ambushes along a section of the border to intimidate Iraqi shopkeepers.

In the following month, the two sides fully resumed their propaganda warfare, with the Iraqis in particular alleging that the Syrian authorities were mounting a ruthless campaign of repression against internal opposition elements.

It was announced in Ankara on July 10 that Iraq and Turkey had agreed in principle that problems arising from the use of the Euphrates waters should be settled in tripartite talks with Syria.

→ Agreement between Iraq and Kuwait on Border Dispute.

It was reported on June 25 that Iraq and Kuwait had reached an agreement settling their long-standing border dispute. No details were given of the agreement, which, diplomatic sources said, still had to be given "legal form".

With only a short coast-line on the Persian Gulf, Iraq had for many years maintained territorial claims against Kuwait, particularly in respect of the two islands of Bubiyan and Warba, and its recognition of Kuwait in October 1963 [see 19668 A] was subsequently stated not to imply acceptance of existing borders. The dispute had remained unsettled over the next decade, until in March 1973 Iraqi troops had occupied part of the disputed territory, although they were quickly obliged to withdraw in the face of general Arab disapproval. Despite this setback, a satisfactory settlement of the dispute remained a prime objective of Iraqi policy in view of the development of the north Rumaila oilfield and the expansion of the Iraqi port of Umm Qasr on the estuary dominated by the two islands at issue [see map on right].

The Iraqi Information Minister, Mr. Tariq Aziz, had announced on May 1, 1975, that following contacts between Mr. Saddam Hussein Takriti (Vice-President of the Iraqi Revolutionary Command Council) and Shaikh Sabah as Salim as Sabah (the ruling Amir of Kuwait), Iraq had made concrete proposals with a view to settling the dispute. These were, he had added, that Kuwait should lease half the island of Bubiyan to Iraq for 99 years and cede sovereignty over Warba, in return for Iraqi recognition of Kuwait's land borders.

Further impetus towards a settlement had been provided by President Sadat of Egypt during his visits to Kuwait and Baghdad on May 12-16 [see page 27235], following which it had been reported that Kuwait was prepared to lease certain territory to Iraq in return for water-bearing Iraqi territory adjacent to its dry interior.

A meeting of the Kuwaiti National Assembly held *in camera* on July 12 to discuss the country's foreign policy unanimously adopted a resolution which expressed support for "the positive steps which the Government has taken at all levels designed to reach full mutual understanding" with Iraq, but which at the same time stressed "Kuwait's sovereignty over all its territory within the borders which have been approved in accordance with international and bilateral agreements between Kuwait and its neighbours".

Agreement on Division of Iraqi-Saudi Neutral Zone.

It was announced in Riyadh on July 2 that an agreement had been reached by Saudi Arabian and Iraqi representatives providing for the division of the neutral zone which separated the two countries for a distance of some 250 miles to the west of Kuwaiti territory. Under the agreement the zone was to be divided equally by a line drawn as straight as possible, which would entail modifications to the existing border. It was stated that the agreement, which had been reached after a series of meetings at the level of government officials, was subject to the ratification of both Governments.

[Note. The Saudi Arabian frontier with Iraq was defined in the Treaty of Mohammara in May 1922. Later a neutral zone of about 2,500 square miles was established adjacent to the western tip of the frontier with Kuwait. No military or permanent buildings were to be erected in the zone and the nomads of both countries were to have unimpeded access to its pastures and wells. A further agreement concerning the administration of the zone was signed between the two countries in May 1938.]

Signature of Iraq-Iran "Reconciliation" Treaty.

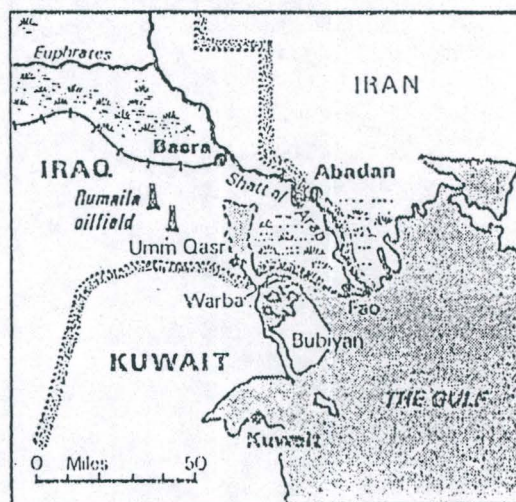
Meeting in Baghdad on June 13, the Foreign Ministers of Iraq and Iran, respectively Dr. Sa'adun Hammadi and Mr. Abbas Ali Khalafbari, signed a "reconciliation" treaty settling all outstanding differences between the two countries. Agreement on the contents of the treaty, which was to be submitted to the two Governments for ratification, had been

reached during three months of detailed negotiations on the basis of the Algiers Agreement of March 6 in which the two countries had undertaken to settle their border and other disputes and which had quickly led to the collapse of the Kurdish rebellion in northern Iraq [see 27053 A]. The Algerian Foreign Minister, M. Abdel Aziz Bouteflika, also signed the Baghdad Treaty.

The treaty expressed the desire of the two countries "to establish a new era of friendly relations . . . on the basis of full respect for national independence and the equality of the states in their sovereignty", "to consolidate the ties of friendship and good neighbourliness between them", and "to deepen their economic and cultural relations".

Three attached protocols (i) established that the border between the two countries in the disputed Shatt-al-Arab waterways should be drawn according to the Thalweg Line (i.e. on the middle of the main navigable channel at low water, instead of, as hitherto, along the eastern bank); (ii) delineated some 670 positions on the land border between the two countries on the basis of the Protocol of Constantinople of 1913; and (iii) provided for the establishment of border security arrangements to prevent the infiltration of undesirable elements in either direction.

The treaty also stated that Iraq would set up a commission to consider the granting of compensation for the property of about 65,000 Iranians expelled from Iraq in recent years, and that Iran would establish a rehabilitation programme for Kurdish refugees who refused to return to Iraq.



(Economist)

The Iraq-Iran rapprochement was strongly condemned by Syria, which, in the context of its dispute with Iraq over the River Euphrates [see above], saw the agreement as increasing the potential military threat posed to Syria by Iraqi forces, and also condemned Iraq's territorial concessions to Iran as a surrender of Arab lands to a non-Arab state.

Tehran Execution of Hijackers of Iraqi Airliner.

Two supporters of the Kurdish cause who had hijacked an Iraq Airways airliner to Iran on March 1 were executed by firing squad in Tehran on April 7 after conviction by a military court.

A third hijacker and three passengers had been killed in the incident when Iranian police had opened fire on the airliner after it crash-landed in a field near Tehran airport. The Iranian authorities had refused to entertain the hijackers' demand for the release of 85 Kurdish prisoners held in Iraq and for the payment of \$4,500,000 as ransom, and had closed the airport and blocked its runways.

August 18-24, 1975

"ANTECEDENTES SOBRE EL CONFLICTO DEL GOLFO PERSICO"

3.- ANÁLISIS GLOBALES IRAK Y KUWAIT.

- THE EUROPA WORLD YEAR BOOK 1989.
- NUEVA ENCICLOPEDIA LAROUSSE, 1984.

HUSSEIN, SADDAM (1937-). Político iraquí, n. en Takrit. En 1955 abandonó su pueblo para ir a una escuela de Bagdad. En contacto con la corriente nacionalista que se desarrollaba en la capital, ingresó en el partido socialista Baas. En 1958 formó parte del grupo que intentó asesinar al dictador Abdel Karim Kassen y tuvo que huir a Egipto. Tras la toma del poder por el partido Baas en 1968, Hussein inició su carrera hacia el poder que culminó en 1979 al asumir los títulos de jefe del Estado, presidente del Consejo de la Revolución, primer ministro, comandante de las Fuerzas Armadas y secretario general del Baas. El 23 de septiembre de 1980 ordenó la invasión del territorio iraní, con lo que provocó la Guerra del Golfo o Irano-Iraquí, que le forzó a buscar el apoyo de los países árabes moderados (grandes aliados de Estados Unidos) y a variar, por tanto, su anterior orientación prosoviética.

IRAQ

Introductory Survey

Location, Climate, Language, Religion, Flag, Capital

The Republic of Iraq is an almost land-locked state in western Asia, with a narrow outlet to the sea on the Persian (Arabian) Gulf. Its neighbours are Iran to the east, Turkey to the north, Syria and Jordan to the west, and Saudi Arabia and Kuwait to the south. The climate is extreme, with hot, dry summers, when temperatures may exceed 43°C (109°F), and cold winters, especially in the highlands. Summers are humid near the Persian Gulf. The official language is Arabic, spoken by about 80% of the population. About 15% speak Kurdish, while there is a small Turkoman-speaking minority. About 95% of the population are Muslims, of whom more than 50% belong to the Shi'i sect. However, the regime that came to power in 1968 has been dominated by members of the Sunni sect. The national flag (proportions 3 by 2) has three equal horizontal stripes, of red, white and black, with three five-pointed green stars on the central white stripe. The capital is Baghdad.

Recent History

Iraq was formerly part of Turkey's Ottoman Empire. During the First World War (1914-18), when Turkey was allied with Germany, the territory was captured by British forces. In 1920 Iraq was placed under a League of Nations mandate, administered by the United Kingdom (UK). In 1921 Amir Faisal ibn Hussain, a member of the Hashimi (Hashemite) dynasty of Arabia, was proclaimed King of Iraq, and his brother, Abdullah, was proclaimed Amir (Emir) of neighbouring Transjordan (later renamed Jordan), also administered by the UK under a League of Nations mandate. The two new monarchs were sons of Hussain (Hussein) ibn Ali, the Sharif of Mecca, who had proclaimed himself King of the Hijaz (now part of Saudi Arabia) in 1916. The British decision to nominate Hashemite princes to be rulers of Iraq and Transjordan was a reward for Hussain's co-operation in the wartime campaign against Turkey.

During its early years the new kingdom was faced by Kurdish revolts (1922-32) and by border disputes in the south. The leading personality in Iraqi political life under the monarchy was Gen. Nuri as-Said, who became Prime Minister in 1930 and held the office for seven terms, over a period of 28 years. He strongly supported Iraq's friendship with the UK and with the West in general. After prolonged negotiations, a 25-year Anglo-Iraqi Treaty of Alliance was signed in 1930. The British mandate ended on 3 October 1932, when Iraq became fully independent.

King Faisal I died in 1933 and was succeeded by his son, Ghazi. In 1939, however, King Ghazi was killed in a motor accident. The new king, Faisal II, was only three years old at the time of his accession, and his uncle, Prince Abd al-Ilah, acted as regent until 1953, when the king assumed full powers. Like Gen. Nuri, Prince Abd al-Ilah was pro-Western in outlook. An attempted pro-Nazi coup in May 1941 was thwarted by the intervention of British forces. Despite nationalist opposition, Iraq declared war on Germany and Italy in January 1943. British troops were withdrawn in October 1947, although a British air base remained until 1959. Iraqi forces participated in the Arab-Israeli war of 1948-49. The Constitutional Union Party, founded by Gen. Nuri in 1949, became the sole legal party in 1953, after all opposition groups were banned. In 1955 Iraq signed the Baghdad Pact, an agreement on collective regional security against a possible threat from the USSR.

In February 1958 Iraq and Jordan formed an Arab Federation, with King Faisal of Iraq as its Head of State. In March Gen. Nuri resigned as Iraqi Prime Minister to become Prime Minister of the new union. On 14 July, however, a military revolution overthrew the Iraqi monarchy. King Faisal, Prince Abd al-Ilah and Gen. Nuri were all killed. The victorious rebels abolished the 1925 Constitution, dissolved the legislature and proclaimed a republic, with Brig. (later Lt-Gen.) Abd al-Karim Kassam at the head of a left-wing nationalist regime. Iraq withdrew from the Baghdad Pact in March 1959. For more than four years, Kassam maintained a precarious and increasingly isolated position, opposed by Pan-Arabs, Kurds and other

groups. In February 1963 the Pan-Arab element in the armed forces staged a coup in which Kassam was killed. A new government was formed under Col (later Field Marshal) Abd as-Salem Muhammad Aref, who had briefly held office as Deputy Prime Minister after the 1958 revolution. President Aref initiated a policy of closer relations with the United Arab Republic (Egypt). Martial law, in force since 1958, was ended in January 1965, and a civilian government was inaugurated in September 1965. President Aref was killed in an air accident in March 1966, and was succeeded by his brother, Major-Gen. Abd ar-Rahman Muhammad Aref. Iraq declared war on Israel at the outbreak of the Six-Day War in June 1967, but Iraqi forces were not involved in the conflict. The second President Aref was ousted by members of the Arab Socialist Renaissance (Baath) Party on 17 July 1968. Major-Gen. (later Field Marshal) Ahmad Hassan al-Bakr, a former Prime Minister, became President and Prime Minister, and supreme authority was vested in the Revolutionary Command Council (RCC), of which President al-Bakr was also Chairman. Provisional constitutions, proclaiming socialist principles, were introduced in September 1968 and July 1970. A National Charter, to be the basis of a permanent constitution, was issued in November 1971. This envisaged an elected National Assembly but, until the Assembly's formation, power remained with the RCC.

Relations with the Syrian Government deteriorated after a younger generation of Baathists seized power in Syria in 1970. A bitter rivalry has since existed between Syrian and Iraqi Baathists. Relations with Syria dramatically improved in October 1978, when President Assad of Syria visited Baghdad. Plans were announced for eventual complete political and economic union of the two countries. Economic difficulties, such as the dispute over water from the Euphrates river, were soon settled but progress on political union was slow. On 16 July 1979 the Vice-Chairman of the RCC, Saddam Hussain, who had long been the real power in Iraq, replaced Bakr as Chairman, and as President of Iraq. A few days later, an attempted coup was reported and several members of the RCC were executed for their alleged part in the plot. The suspicion of Syrian implication put an end to all further talk of political union between Iraq and Syria, but economic co-operation continued.

During 1979 the National Progressive Front, an alliance of Baathists and Communists, broke up amid accusations that the Baathists were conducting a 'reign of terror'. In February 1980 President Hussain announced his 'National Charter', reaffirming the principles of non-alignment. In June elections, the first since the 1958 revolution, were held for a 250-member, legislative National Assembly, followed in September by elections for a 50-member Kurdish Legislative Council.

Relations with Iran, precarious for many years, developed into full-scale war in September 1980. Prior to 1975, Iran had been supporting a rebellion by Kurds in northern Iraq. An agreement between Iran and Iraq, signed in 1975, defined the southern border between the two countries as a line along the middle of the Shatt al-Arab waterway, and also virtually ended the Kurdish rebellion by depriving it of Iranian support. In the years after 1975, however, Iraq grew increasingly dissatisfied with the 1975 agreement. Iraq also wanted the withdrawal of Iranian forces from Abu Musa and Tumb islands, which Iran occupied in 1971.

The Iranian revolution of 1979 exacerbated these grievances. Conflict soon developed over Arab demands for autonomy in Iran's Khuzestan region (named 'Arabistan' by Arabs), which Iran accused Iraq of encouraging. Iraq's Sunni leadership was suspicious of Shi'ite Iran, and feared that trouble might arise from its own Shi'ites, who form more than 50% of the population. Border squabbling took place between Iraq and Iran in the summer of 1980, and more extensive fighting began after Iran ignored Iraqi diplomatic efforts, demanding the withdrawal of Iranian forces from the border area of Zain ul-Qos in Diali province. Iraq maintained that this area should have been returned under the 1975 agreement, which Iraq then abrogated on 16 September 1980. Iraqi advances into Iran

began on 22 September along a front of 500 km (300 miles). Fierce Iranian resistance brought about a stalemate, which lasted until the spring of 1982, when Iranian counter-offensives led to the retaking of the port of Khorramshahr in May and the withdrawal of Iraqi troops from the territory which they had taken in 1980. In July 1982 the Iranian army crossed into Iraq.

The Gulf War, as it was known, degenerated into a conflict of attrition, with Iraq holding an advantage in terms of the quantity and sophistication of its armaments, and Iran having a greater supply of manpower, without being able to stage a decisive offensive. While Iran launched a series of attacks across its northern border with Iraq in October 1983, threatening the last outlet for Iraqi exports of petroleum through the Kirkuk pipeline, Iraq intensified missile attacks and bombing raids against Iranian towns and petroleum installations. During the autumn of 1983 Iraq took delivery of five French-built Super Etendard fighter aircraft. With these and with the Exocet missiles which it already possessed, Iraq threatened to destroy Iran's oil industry, centred on Kharg Island in the Gulf. Iran, in turn, said that it would block the Gulf at the Straits of Hormuz to all traffic (including exports of one-sixth of the West's petroleum requirements) if Iraqi military action made it impossible to export its oil by that route.

In February 1984 a further Iranian offensive resulted in the capture of marshlands around the Majnoon Islands in southern Iraq, the site of rich petroleum deposits. Iraq failed to recapture all the lost territory, and a long hiatus ensued, during which Iraq constructed a formidable defensive network, including dams and a huge artificial lake, along the southern front. In 1984 the balance of military power moved in Iraq's favour, and its financial position improved as the USA and the USSR, both officially neutral in the war with Iran, provided aid. The USSR increased its military aid following a *rapprochement* in March, precipitated by Iran's anti-Soviet stance. (At the end of 1987 it was estimated that the USSR had supplied Iraq with military aid worth \$10,000m. since lifting a ban on arms sales in 1982.) The USA assisted Iraq with the financing of crucial oil export pipeline projects and an increasing allocation of commodity credits, which totalled \$2,500m. between 1981 and 1985. (Iraq and the USA re-established full diplomatic relations on 26 November 1984, more than 17 years after they had been broken off by Iraq following the Arab-Israeli war of 1967.) Egypt was estimated to have provided military supplies worth more than US \$2,000m., and Brazil, Chile and the People's Republic of China also sold arms to Iraq. The delivery of eight French Mirage F-1 EQ5 fighter aircraft in October 1984 brought the Iranian Levan Island oil terminal within Iraq's range and underlined its superiority in the air.

Although it had declared a maritime exclusion zone at the north-east end of the Persian Gulf, enclosing Kharg Island, in August 1982 and made spasmodic attacks against shipping (not only tankers but, in some cases, ships well outside the zone), Iraq refrained from attacking tankers using the Kharg Island oil terminal until May 1984. After the first series of attacks on some dozen vessels, regardless of nationality, Iran retaliated by attacking Saudi Arabian and Kuwaiti tankers in the Gulf. A sporadic series of Iraqi attacks on Gulf tanker traffic, and on the Kharg Island terminal itself, continued, with limited success. The attacks were not sufficiently intensive or destructive to starve Iran of vital oil revenues.

Saddam Hussain retained his positions as Chairman of the RCC and Regional Secretary of the Baath Party, following its regional Congress in June 1982. In fact, a subsequent purge throughout the administration left him more firmly in control than before. Kurdish rebels became active again in northern Iraq, occasionally supporting Iranian forces. Another threat was posed by the Supreme Council of Iraqi Opposition Groups, formed in Teheran in November 1982 by the exiled Shi'ite leader, Hojatolislam Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim.

An attempted coup was believed to have taken place in Baghdad in October 1983, led by the recently dismissed head of intelligence, Barzan Takriti (the President's half-brother), and a number of senior army officers, who were later reported to have been executed. Iraq's Shi'ite community (about 55% of the total population) was not attracted by Khomeini's brand of fundamentalism and has remained loyal to Iraq and its Sunni President, while the opposition of Iranian-backed terrorist groups (such as the Shi'ite fundamentalist Dawa group, which has repeatedly attempted to assassinate Hussain) has had no significant effect. While the cease-fire in the Gulf War of

August 1988, which was precipitated by Iraqi military successes, strengthened Hussain's position, it also allowed domestic conflicts to find expression again. Hussain's regime is widely regarded as one of the most autocratic in the Arab world, and in February 1989 there were reports of a further attempt by senior army officers to stage a coup. In November 1988 Hussain announced a programme of political reforms, including the introduction of a multi-party political system, and in January 1989 he declared that these would be incorporated into a new constitution. This development was regarded as an attempt to retain the loyalty of Iraq's Shi'ite community, which sought a liberalization of Iraqi society as a reward for its role in the war against Iran.

Meanwhile, the problem of autonomy for Iraq's 2.5m.-3m. Kurds (currently in limited operation in three provinces) remained unresolved. Resources were repeatedly diverted from the war with Iran to control Kurdish rebellion in the north-east of the country. Hussain sought an accommodation with the Kurds, and a series of discussions began in December 1983, after a cease-fire had been agreed with Jalal Talibani, the leader of the main Kurdish opposition party in Iraq, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK). These discussions did not include the other main Kurdish group, the Democratic Party of Kurdistan (DPK), led by Masoud Barzani. The breakdown of the talks in May 1984 frustrated hopes for a government of national unity, including the PUK and the Communist Party of Iraq. However, it was reported that Hussain persisted, informally, in trying to persuade the PUK to join the National Progressive Front. Negotiations on Kurdish autonomy collapsed again in January 1985. After a cease-fire lasting 14 months, fighting broke out in Kurdistan between PUK guerrillas and government troops. The PUK blamed the Government's continued persecution and execution of Kurds; its refusal to permit consideration in autonomy talks of the one-third of Kurdistan which, in Kirkuk province, contains some of Iraq's main oilfields; and an agreement with Turkey to act jointly to quell Kurdish resistance, which had been made in October 1984. Then, in February 1985, the PUK rejected the offer of an amnesty for President Hussain's political opponents, at home and abroad, and fighting has continued, with Kurdish and Iranian forces repeatedly collaborating in raids against Iraqi military and industrial targets.

Since 1987, when the Iranian military threat began to recede, Iraq had concentrated more resources in the north of the country to counter the activities of the Kurdish separatist movement, which claimed to control a 'liberated zone' of 10,000 sq km. In May 1988 the DPK and the PUK announced the formation of a coalition of six organizations to continue the struggle for Kurdish self-determination and to co-operate militarily with Iran. The introduction of a cease-fire in the Gulf War in August 1988 allowed Iraq to divert more troops and equipment to Kurdistan, and to launch a new offensive to overrun guerrilla bases near the borders with Iran and Turkey, during which chemical weapons were allegedly used, forcing Kurdish civilians and fighters to escape into Iran and Turkey. By mid-September, more than 100,000 Kurdish refugees were believed to have escaped into Turkey, while Iraqi Kurds seeking refuge in Iran joined an estimated 100,000 of their countrymen, 40,000 of whom had escaped from Halabja, after attacks with chemical weapons on the city in March.

On 26 September 1988 the UN Security Council adopted a resolution (No. 620) unanimously condemning the use of chemical weapons in the Gulf War. However, Iraq continued to deny that it was using chemical weapons against the Kurds, despite what the USA described as compelling evidence to the contrary. On 6 September, with its army effectively in control of the border with Turkey, the Iraqi Government offered a full amnesty to all Iraqi Kurds inside and outside the country, excluding only Jalal Talibani, the leader of the PUK. However, the offer was generally dismissed by Kurds as a propaganda ploy. An attempt by the US Senate to impose trade sanctions on Iraq, because of its use of chemical weapons, was defeated in October.

In June 1984 the UN had engineered an agreement between Iran and Iraq, suspending attacks on civilian targets. However, in March 1985, with the war on the ground in a state of deadlock, Iraq resorted to air raids on Iranian towns and declared Iranian airspace a war zone. Thousands of civilians were killed in attacks on more than 30 Iranian towns and cities, including Teheran, between March and May. Iran retaliated with shelling and air raids on Iraqi cities, including

Basra and Baghdad (which was struck by ground-launched missiles).

In March 1985 King Hussein of Jordan and President Mubarak of Egypt made an unexpected visit to Baghdad to demonstrate their support for Saddam Hussain, despite the fact that full diplomatic relations had not existed between Egypt and Iraq since Egypt's signing of the peace treaty with Israel in 1979.

In April 1985 the UN Secretary-General, Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, visited both Teheran and Baghdad, in an attempt to establish a basis on which peace negotiations could begin. Iraq made it clear that it was interested only in a permanent cease-fire and immediate, direct negotiations with Iran; while Iran continued to insist on the removal of Saddam Hussain, an Iraqi admission of responsibility for starting the war, and the payment of reparations.

In response to an Irano-Libyan strategic alliance which was becoming more open in character, Iraq withdrew its diplomatic mission from Tripoli in June 1985, and asked the Libyans to withdraw theirs from Baghdad. A partial *rapprochement* between Libya and Iraq took place in September 1987.

Between August 1985 and January 1986 Iraq made a concentrated series of some 60 air raids on Iran's main oil terminal at Kharg Island. Exports from the terminal were reduced to a trickle by the beginning of 1986, by which time Iraq had already turned its attention to attacks on tankers shuttling oil from Kharg to the makeshift floating terminal at Sirri Island, 450 km to the south-east, for transhipment.

In February 1986 Iraq announced an expansion of the area of the Gulf from which it would try to exclude Iranian shipping. Previously confined to the waters around Iran's Gulf ports, the area was extended to include the coast of Kuwait. Attacks on tankers and other commercial vessels in the Gulf were increased by both sides during 1986, when they numbered 80, compared with the 46 recorded in 1985. In August 1986 an Iraqi air raid demonstrated that the Sirri oil export facility was vulnerable to attack, and Iran was forced to transfer more of its export operations to the floating terminal at Larak Island (250 km east of Sirri, at the mouth of the Strait of Hormuz), which had been established in June. However, even the Larak facility proved to be within the range of Iraqi aircraft, and was itself attacked in November. Further Iraqi attacks on Kharg Island in September and October left only three out of 16 oil-loading berths at the terminal operational.

In February 1986 Iran began the Wal-Fajr (Dawn) 8 offensive. Some 85,000 Iranian troops crossed the Shatt al-Arab waterway and occupied the disused Iraqi oil port of Faw, on the Persian Gulf, and, according to Iran, about 800 sq km of the Faw peninsula. From this position, within sight of the Kuwaiti island of Bubiyan (commanding the Khor Abdullah channel between the Faw peninsula and the island), Iran threatened Iraq's only access to the Gulf and Iraq's Umm Qasr naval base, to the north-west. To divert Iraqi forces, Iran had begun a complementary assault along the Faw-Basra road. When Iraq mounted a counter-offensive on Faw in mid-February, Iran opened up a second front with the Wal-Fajr 9 offensive in Iraqi Kurdistan, several hundred kilometres to the north. At the beginning of 1988 Iran retained its foothold on the Faw peninsula.

The next major Iranian offensive (Karbala-4) was launched in December 1986 in the region of Basra, and was directed against Iraqi positions on islands in the Shatt al-Arab waterway. However, the attack was repulsed by the Iraqis, and the Iranians suffered heavy casualties. In January 1987 a two-pronged offensive, Karbala-5, was launched by Iran towards Basra. Iranian forces, attacking from the east, established a bridgehead inside Iraq, between the Shatt al-Arab and the artificial Fish Lake, and advanced gradually towards Basra, sustaining heavy casualties, while an attack from the south-east secured a group of islands in the Shatt al-Arab. By mid-February, Iranian forces from the east had advanced to within about 10 km of Basra, but, confronted by the city's main network of defensive fortifications, no further gains were made.

In July 1986 the ruling Arab Baath Socialist Party held an extraordinary regional conference, the first since June 1982. Three new members were elected to the party's Regional Command (RC), increasing its number to 17. Naim Haddad, who had been a member of the RC and of the ruling Revolutionary Command Council (RCC) since their formation in 1968, was not re-elected to the RC, and was subsequently removed from the RCC, on which he was replaced by Sa'adoun Ham-

madi, the Chairman, or Speaker, of the National Assembly. These changes effectively strengthened Saddam Hussain's position as leader of the party.

Iraq continued to attack tankers shuttling Iranian oil from Kharg Island to the floating terminals at Sirri and Larak Islands during 1987, while Iran intensified its attacks on Kuwaiti shipping and on neutral vessels suspected of carrying cargoes destined for Iraq, via Kuwait, or tankers carrying oil to be sold on Iraq's behalf. In April 1987 the USSR allowed Kuwait to charter three Soviet tankers, and in May the USA agreed to re-register 11 Kuwaiti tankers under the American flag, entitling them to US naval protection. The US decision followed the apparently accidental attack on the *USS Stark* by an Iraqi Mirage jet aircraft on 17 May. The USA progressively reinforced its naval presence in the Gulf during the second half of 1987, a policy which Iran considered to be provocative.

The escalation of tension in the Gulf resulted in the adoption by the UN Security Council, on 20 July 1987, of Resolution 598, urging an immediate cease-fire in the Gulf War, the withdrawal of all forces to internationally recognized boundaries, and the co-operation of Iran and Iraq in mediation efforts to achieve a peace settlement. Iraq agreed to abide by the resolution if Iran would also do so. Iran criticized the resolution for failing to identify Iraq as the aggressor in the war, and claimed that the belligerent US naval presence in the Gulf rendered it null and void, but failed to deliver a definitive response. During his visit to Teheran, the UN Secretary-General, Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, was informed by Iranian leaders that they supported the provision in Resolution 598 for the establishment of an 'impartial body' to apportion responsibility for the war, but that a report establishing Iraq's guilt would have to be published before Iran would observe a cease-fire. Iraq refused to countenance any deviation from the original terms of the resolution, and echoed the view of the Western powers on the Security Council in accusing Iran of temporizing. An extraordinary meeting of the League of Arab States in Amman, Jordan, in November unanimously condemned Iran for prolonging the Gulf War, deplored its occupation of Arab (i.e. Iraqi) territory, and urged it to implement Resolution 598.

Following the Arab League 'summit' in Amman, the Iraqi Government, in common with eight other Arab countries, re-established diplomatic relations with Egypt. Meanwhile, during the 'summit', a meeting between President Hussain and President Assad revived speculation of a *rapprochement* between Iraq and Syria, which has supported Iran in the Gulf War. President Assad, however, had obstructed the League's adoption of an Iraqi proposal that member states should sever their diplomatic links with Iran, and Syria subsequently averred that the good relations between Syria and Iran were unchanged.

On 24 July 1987 the re-registered Kuwaiti tanker *USS Bridgeton* struck a mine while under US naval escort in the Gulf. In August the UK and France sent minesweepers to the Gulf region, to be followed in September by vessels from the Netherlands, Belgium and Italy. At the end of the year the US naval force in and just outside the Gulf numbered more than 30 ships, and the Soviet fleet totalled an estimated 23 vessels. The increased presence of US and European naval forces in the Gulf failed to deter attacks on shipping, in particular oil tankers, by Iran and Iraq. In 1987 at least 178 attacks were recorded, compared with 80, the previous highest total, in 1986.

At the end of December 1987, the USSR, which had resisted attempts by the Western powers among the five permanent members of the UN Security Council to initiate discussions on the procedure for imposing an arms embargo against Iran, agreed that such discussions should proceed, on condition that they ran parallel with talks on the withdrawal of national naval forces from the Gulf and their replacement by a UN force. However, the USSR's insistence on the withdrawal of foreign navies from the Gulf, together with the USA's growing military involvement in the area in 1988, prevented the adoption of an arms embargo.

During 1987/88, for the first time in six years, owing to disorganization and a shortage of volunteers, Iran was unable to launch a major winter offensive. Iraqi forces advanced along the length of the war front, but not before Kurdish guerrillas had, in February 1988, made inroads into government-controlled territory in Iraqi Kurdistan, where Iranian forces, with Kurdish assistance, had earlier established bridgeheads. This was the largest Kurdish offensive since

1988 Iraq retaliated, using chemical weapons against the captured town of Halabja.

In mid-April 1988 Iraqi forces regained control of the Faw peninsula, and in May they recaptured the Shalamech area, driving the Iranians across the Shatt al-Arab. In mid-June they recaptured Majnoon Island, and at the end of the month expelled Iranian forces from Iraqi territory in Kurdistan. On 13 July Iraqi forces crossed into Iranian territory for the first time since 1986. Remaining pockets of Iranian resistance in southern Iraq had collapsed by mid-July, and on 18 July, to universal surprise, Iran officially announced its unconditional acceptance of Resolution 598. However, the implementation of a cease-fire was delayed by Iraq's demand for the initiation of direct peace talks with Iran, under UN auspices, prior to the cessation of hostilities. Iraq eventually withdrew this demand, and on 20 August a cease-fire came into force, monitored by a specially-created UN observer force of 350 officers, the UN Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIMOG).

Negotiations between Iran and Iraq for a comprehensive peace settlement, based on the full implementation of Resolution 598, began at ministerial level in Geneva on 25 August 1988, under the aegis of the UN. However, deadlock soon arose over the question of the location of frontiers, in particular the southern border through the Shatt al-Arab waterway. This and other disputes, mostly concerning issues for which there was no provision in Resolution 598, delayed the implementation of the resolution beyond the introduction of a cease-fire. Clause Three, for example, urged the repatriation of prisoners of war. In November Iran and Iraq agreed to exchange all sick and wounded prisoners of war. The first exchanges took place in the same month, but the arrangements collapsed shortly afterwards, following a dispute over the number of prisoners involved. Resolution 598 also envisaged the creation of an impartial judicial body to determine who was responsible for starting the war. Its conclusions, when reached, seemed likely to prove to be a major obstacle to a peace settlement. While it was generally accepted that Iraq had initiated the conflict by invading Iran on 22 September 1980, Iraq maintained that the war began on 4 September with Iranian shelling of Iraqi border posts.

In February 1989 the negotiations for a peace settlement, which had been in suspension since November 1988, were renewed.

Government

Power rests with the President and a Revolutionary Command Council (RCC), which in early 1989 comprised nine members (including the Chairman and Vice-Chairman). Considerable influence is wielded by the Iraq Regional Command of the Baath Party, while the routine administration of the country is carried out by an appointed Council of Ministers. Legislative responsibility is shared between the RCC and the National Assembly, with 250 members elected by universal adult suffrage for four years. The country is divided into 15 Provinces and three Autonomous Regions. A Kurdish autonomous area has been set up, and elections to a 50-member Kurdish Legislative Council were held in September 1980 and August 1986.

Defence

Military service is compulsory for all men at the age of 18 years, and lasts between 21 months and two years, extendable in wartime. In June 1988 the armed forces totalled 1m. regular members; the army had a total strength of 955,000 (including an estimated 480,000 active reserves); the air force had a strength of 40,000, and the navy 5,000. In order to wage the Gulf War, these forces were supplemented by a 650,000-strong popular army and possibly 10,000 volunteers from Arab countries. Estimated defence expenditure in 1987 was ID 4,350m. (US \$13,990m.).

Economic Affairs

Prior to the discovery of petroleum in Iraq, agriculture was the dominant sector of the economy, and dates were the most lucrative export commodity. Dates remain Iraq's second most valuable exports but petroleum is now the most important sector of the economy, providing more than half of the country's earnings of foreign exchange. In 1979 Iraq achieved a record annual output of 170.5m. metric tons of crude petroleum. In 1980, when the Gulf War with Iran began, production declined to 130.1m. tons, but Iraq was briefly the second

largest oil producer in the world. Thereafter, output declined sharply. As a result of the fall in production and prices of petroleum, Iraq has experienced economic decline in recent years. In 1985, according to UN estimates, the country's gross domestic product (GDP), at current prices, was US \$16,774m., equivalent to \$2,942 per head. Between 1980 and 1985, it was estimated, GDP declined, in real terms, at an average rate of 2.1% per year, with real GDP per head falling by 4.8% annually.

Iraq was one of the founder-members of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), whose first conference was held in Baghdad in 1960. Iraq officially assessed its total reserves of crude petroleum at 160,000m. barrels in 1986, placing Iraq second only to Saudi Arabia in the extent of its reserves. Discovered and proven reserves were reported to total 72,000m. barrels. An independent estimate evaluated Iraq's proven reserves at 100,000m. barrels at 1 January 1988, more than double their total one year earlier. Owing to the outbreak of the Gulf War, which caused a reduction of refinery capacity and export facilities, and to a decline in international demand for oil, production of crude petroleum in 1980 fell by 23.7%, to an average of 2.64m. barrels per day (b/d), but, as a result of a rise in prices, government revenues from the petroleum industry increased from US \$21,200m. in 1979 to \$26,500m. in 1980. Production of crude petroleum declined to only 43.9m. metric tons, an average of about 900,000 b/d, in 1981. Iraq's exports of petroleum reached a record 3.2m. b/d in 1980, and by July 1985 the country's production of crude oil had returned to pre-war levels of 4m. b/d. However, because of the Gulf War, Iraq could export only about 650,000 b/d in 1983 through the 980-km (610-mile) pipeline across Turkey, its only remaining normal outlet for oil exports, plus 50,000-60,000 b/d by road. Revenues were in the range \$9,000m.-\$11,000m. per year in 1981-85, and declined to \$6,813m. in 1986.

The country's main port, Basra, was closed in 1980 because of the war, and by 1988 no attempt had been made to restore it. The 1981-85 Five-Year Development Plan had to be abandoned, although a 1986-90 Plan was instituted with the aim of improving the country's social services and infrastructure. Countries that had been eager to invest in Iraq and to bid for lucrative construction contracts even after the war with Iran had begun, when Iraq was an oil-rich country committed to an ambitious programme of development, experienced difficulty in obtaining payment. Foreign contractors have been asked to defer receipt of payments, to refinance the foreign currency portion of outstanding payments, or to accept part-payment in petroleum, owing to a shortage of convertible currency in Iraq. The country's reserves of foreign exchange, which had been about \$35,000m. at the beginning of the war in 1980, declined to less than \$5,000m. by mid-1983. Estimates in 1987 assessed the level of reserves as ranging between zero and \$2,000m. The value of exports declined from \$26,278m. in 1980 to \$9,220m. in 1984, rising to \$10,357m. in 1985. Exports were only \$7,538m. in 1986 but reached \$9,014m. in 1987. Import costs increased from \$13,942m. in 1980 to \$21,534m. in 1982. As a result of efforts to restrict purchases, the cost of imports was reduced to \$12,166m. in 1983, and declined further in subsequent years. Imports fell from \$10,190m. in 1986 to only \$7,415m. in 1987.

Measured in constant prices, Iraq's GDP declined marginally in 1985, although there were substantial increases in agricultural and industrial productivity. In 1986, however, the precipitate fall in oil prices during the first half of the year and the decline in the value of the dollar frustrated hopes that the economy would make a significant recovery. Although the Government was able to reduce public spending in most sectors, severe fighting in the Gulf War necessitated an increase in expenditure on weapons and military equipment. Iraq's total foreign debt was estimated at up to \$70,000m. in February 1989. Of this total, \$25,000m.-\$30,000m. was in the form of loans from neighbouring Gulf states; about \$12,800m. was civil debt guaranteed by export credit agencies for payment during 1985-90; and a further \$6,000m. owing to Western companies and not covered by export credit guarantees. Japan is the largest creditor (with more than \$3,000m. in civil debt owing in mid-1988, \$2,400m. of which was covered by export credits), followed by Italy, the Federal Republic of Germany, France and Turkey. Some \$3,000m. per year is required merely to service the Western portion of the foreign debt. In October 1985 the Raifalain Bank raised a \$500m. Euroloan. Iraq has

also been forced to reschedule payments due on two \$500m. Euroloans raised in 1983 and 1985 to finance foreign trade and development projects. Saudi Arabia and Kuwait loaned about \$26,000m. to Iraq in the first year of the war, and, through the Arabian Oil Co (which operates in the Neutral Zone), subsequently provided some \$3,000m. per year in revenues from up to 310,000 b/d of oil (250,000 b/d from the Neutral Zone and the remainder from Saudi Arabia), sold on Iraq's behalf to compensate it for lost export capacity. In mid-1987 Saudi Arabia assured Iraq that it was selling a negligible amount of oil on Iraq's behalf. Kuwait continued to sell about 100,000 b/d until the end of August, when the arrangement was reportedly terminated by both countries, although sales appear to have continued.

The Euroloan that Iraq secured in 1983 was used to finance the expansion of its sole functioning oil pipeline from Kirkuk to Cayhan in Turkey. The pipeline was pumping about 1m. b/d in 1987. In addition, Iraq has two new pipeline projects under way. Construction work on a new pipeline, 980 km in length, running parallel to the existing line from Kirkuk to the Mediterranean port of Yumurtalik in Turkey was completed in mid-1987. The new pipeline has a capacity of 500,000 b/d, giving a combined capacity for the two lines of 1.5m. b/d, since it became operational at the end of July 1987. There are also plans to double the capacity of this line. In April 1987 Turkey and Iraq finalized plans to construct a third trans-Turkish pipeline. The line, with a capacity of 70,000 b/d, will run from oilfields at Ain Zalah, near Mosul, to the Batman oil refinery in Turkey, a distance of 240 km, and is expected to take one year to construct. The construction of another refinery in Turkey to process Iraqi crude oil was suspended in July 1988. A two-stage oil pipeline project, agreed with Saudi Arabia in November 1983, aimed to increase Iraq's export capacity by 1.6m. b/d by 1988. The first stage, of 640 km (398 miles), was opened in September 1985 and links Iraq's southern oilfields with the Saudi Petroline to the terminal at Yanbu. The line's capacity is 500,000 b/d, but through-put has been limited to 350,000 b/d-400,000 b/d by the Saudi Arabian Government. In March 1987, however, Saudi Arabia agreed to allow Iraq to export oil through Yanbu at the spur-line's full capacity of 500,000 b/d, on condition that it charged official OPEC prices for its crude. Work on the second stage, for which a contract was awarded in September 1987, involves the laying of a 970-km independent Iraqi pipeline parallel to the Saudi line, terminating at Yanbu, on the Red Sea, and providing a total through-put of 1.65m. b/d by September 1989. Another project, a joint venture with Jordan to build a pipeline, with a capacity of 1m. b/d, 1,650 km long, from western Iraq to Aqaba on Jordan's Red Sea coast, was suspended in 1984, as Iraq could secure no guarantee of compensation from the US Bechtel Corporation, the project's managing contractor, for Israeli sabotage of the pipeline, which would have terminated close to Jordan's border with Israel.

When the new lines across Turkey and the two phases of the trans-Saudi Arabia development are in full operation, Iraq's pipeline export capacity will total about 3.2m. b/d, making it the second largest exporter in OPEC, after Saudi Arabia. The facilities in the south, which were put out of action by the war, could provide another 3m. b/d in exports once they have been rehabilitated, and to this can be added the 100,000 b/d-250,000 b/d of petroleum products that are transported by road through Jordan and Turkey. Iraq's production quota of 1.2m. b/d, allocated to it by OPEC in March 1982, was not reduced when OPEC cut production by 1.5m. b/d in October 1984, in order to prevent a further fall in prices on the world market, which was over-supplied with oil. With new export outlets becoming available, Iraq campaigned for an increase in its OPEC production quota, although it had already consistently exceeded its allocation. Overproduction led to further falls in prices: in July 1986 the international price of crude petroleum declined to less than \$10 per barrel. When, in August, at Iran's suggestion, OPEC agreed to reduce its members' aggregate production to a maximum of 16.7m. b/d for two months (effectively reverting to the quota restrictions that had been imposed in October 1984), Iraq refused to participate in the agreement. Iran asserted that Iraqi production would be curtailed by military action in the Gulf War. The effect of the two months of production restraint was to stabilize oil prices at about \$15 per barrel, and in October OPEC agreed to raise production by 200,000 b/d. Iraq renewed its demand for a production quota equivalent to that allotted

to Iran when OPEC met to set its members output levels for 1987 in December. Alone of the organization's 13 members, Iraq refused to accept a 7.25% reduction in its quota (a notional 1.8m. b/d) for the first half of 1987, which was intended to enable OPEC to support a fixed price of \$18 per barrel during that period. Under the new arrangement, Iraq was asked to observe a quota of 1.47m. b/d, compared with 2.26m. b/d for Iran (and Iraq's actual production rate of about 1.7m. b/d in December 1986). In June 1987 Iraq declined to participate in the OPEC agreement covering production in the second half of the year, in which it was allocated a notional quota of 1.54m. b/d, compared with actual export capacity of about 2.7m. b/d in August, and the 2.37m. b/d allocated to Iran. At OPEC's meeting in December 1987 Iraq declined to participate in the agreement covering production in the first half of 1988, whereby its notional quota was unchanged. In December 1987 Iraq was producing oil at a rate of about 2.7m. b/d. In May 1988 OPEC decided to retain the existing quota and reference price for the second half of the year.

The cease-fire in the Gulf War, which took effect in August 1988, prompted preliminary attempts by OPEC to bring Iraq back into future production agreements by raising its quota to take account of increased export capacity. If Iraq were not to rejoin the OPEC quota system, Iraqi production was expected to rise to as much as 3.8m. b/d by August 1989, assuming that the cease-fire in the Gulf War could be maintained. In November 1987 Iraqi production reached 2.8m. b/d, and was maintained at the 2.5m. b/d level for several months. Production rose again in August 1988, to 2.7m. b/d, and exports to 2.3m. b/d. Iraq refused to accept an OPEC quota unless it were given parity with Iran. In November 1988, however, the OPEC quotas for both Iraq and Iran for the first half of 1989 were set at 2.64m. b/d.

Even before the re-establishment of diplomatic relations with the USA in November 1984, trade between the USA and Iraq had been increasing. The value of commodity credits granted to Iraq by the US Department of Agriculture was a record \$633m. in the year to September 1984, and totalled \$573m. in 1987. US exports to Iraq totalled \$683.3m. in 1987, compared with \$527.5m. in 1986. Total Iraqi exports to the USA rose from \$39.3m. in 1982 to \$526m. in 1987, when the USA resumed purchase of oil from Iraq. Trade with the USSR consists mainly of Soviet military supplies. In accordance with its political support for Iraq in the Gulf War, the USSR virtually ceased purchases of oil from Iran and approached Iraq and Saudi Arabia for its main Gulf supplies, after the signing of an accord with Iraq in April 1984 to increase co-operation in oil production. In July Iraq obtained a \$2,000m. credit from the USSR for a number of development projects, including oil exploration and production, dam construction and energy use.

During 1987 extensive changes were made in the country's economic structure. Many state organizations, which were responsible for administering parts of the economy, were abolished, or merged, and more private companies were created, with the intention of reducing state control and securing greater efficiency in the industrial and agricultural sectors. Iraq has introduced more liberal import regulations to enable private companies to become more involved in foreign trade. The import programme for 1988 increased the private sector's share to 14%, compared with 6% for the co-operative sector. The campaign for economic reform also resulted in ministerial changes. In 1987 the Ministry of Light Industries was reconstituted as the Ministry of Industry, while the former Ministry of Industry and Minerals became the Ministry of Heavy Industries; and in August it was announced that four ministries (including those of Irrigation and of Agriculture) were to be merged, and others reorganized. In March 1988 the two industry ministries were merged to form the Ministry of Industry and Minerals, and the Military Industries Commission (MIC) was granted the status of a ministry. In July responsibility for civilian and military industries was united under a single ministry. The larger role which is envisaged for the private industrial sector is emphasized by the 1986-90 Development Plan, which proposes the initiation of 229 private schemes.

Social Welfare

A limited Social Security Scheme was introduced in 1957 and extended in 1976. Benefits are given for old age, sickness, unemployment, maternity, marriage and death. Health services are free. Many of the new health facilities that were scheduled

under the 1981-85 Five-Year Plan have been completed in spite of the war. More than \$1,500m. has been spent on building more than 30 new hospitals, which will provide about 11,500 beds. These additions meant that at the end of 1986 Iraq had 228 hospital establishments, with a total of 32,166 beds. There were reportedly 6,074 physicians working in the country at the end of 1986.

Education

Education is free, and primary education, beginning at six years of age and lasting for six years, has been made compulsory in an effort to reduce illiteracy. Enrolment at primary schools of children in the relevant age-group reached 100% in 1978, but the proportion had fallen to 86% by 1985. Secondary education begins at 12 years of age and lasts for up to six years, divided into two cycles of three years each. An estimated 43% of children in the appropriate age-group (53% of boys; 32% of girls) attended secondary schools in 1986. There are 47 teacher-training institutes, 19 technical institutes and six universities.

Public Holidays

1989: 1 January (New Year's Day), 6 January (Army Day), 8 February (14 Ramadan Revolution, anniversary of the 1963 coup), 5 March* (Leilat al-Meiraj, ascension of Muhammad), 7 May* (Id al-Fitr, end of Ramadan), 14 July (Republic Day, anniversary of the 1968 coup, and Id al-Adha*, Feast of the Sacrifice), 4 August* (Islamic New Year), 13 August* (Ashoura), 13 October* (Mouloud, Birth of Muhammad).

1990: 1 January (New Year's Day), 6 January (Army Day), 8 February (14 Ramadan Revolution, anniversary of the 1963 coup), 23 February* (Leilat al-Meiraj), 27 April* (Id al-Fitr), 4 July (Id al-Adha*), 14 July (Republic Day, anniversary of the 1968 coup), 24 July* (Islamic New Year), 2 August* (Ashoura), 2 October* (Mouloud).

* These holidays are dependent on the Islamic lunar calendar and may vary by one or two days from the dates given.

Weights and Measures

The metric system is in force. Some local measurements are also used, e.g. 1 meshara or dunum = 2,500 sq metres (0.62 acre).

Statistical Survey

Source: Central Statistical Organization, Ministry of Planning, Karradat Mariam, ash-Shawaf Sq., Baghdad; tel. 537-0071; telex 212218.

Area and Population

AREA, POPULATION AND DENSITY

Area (sq km)	438,317*
Population (census results)†	
17 October 1977	12,000,497
17 October 1987	
Males	8,364,873
Females	7,913,443
Total	16,278,316
Population (official estimates at October)†	
1984	15,077,000
1985	15,585,000
1986	16,110,000
Density (per sq km) at October 1987	37.1

* 169,235 sq miles. This figure includes 924 sq km (357 sq miles) of territorial waters but excludes the Neutral Zone, of which Iraq's share is 3,522 sq km (1,360 sq miles). The Zone lies between Iraq and Saudi Arabia, and is administered jointly by the two countries. Nomads move freely through it but there are no permanent inhabitants.

† Figures exclude Iraqis abroad, estimated at 129,000 in 1977. Estimates have not been adjusted to take account of the results of the 1987 census.

GOVERNORATES (estimated population at October 1986)

	Area* (sq km)	Popu- lation ('000)	Density (per sq km)
Nineveh	37,698	1,393	37.0
Salah ad-Din	29,004	454	15.7
Al-Ta'meem	10,391	674	64.9
Diala	19,292	706	36.6
Baghdad	5,159	4,868	943.6
Al-Anbar	137,723	598	4.3
Babylon	5,258	759	144.4
Karbala	5,034	337	66.9
An-Najaf	27,844	484	17.4
Al-Qadisiya	8,507	524	61.6
Al-Muthanna	51,029	259	5.1
Thi-Qar	13,626	741	54.4
Wasit	17,308	491	28.5
Maysan	14,103	417	29.6
Basrah (Basra)	19,070	1,346	70.6
<i>Autonomous Regions:</i>			
D'kok	6,120	343	56.0
Arbil	14,471	774	53.5
As-Sulaimaniya	15,756	939	59.6
Total	437,393†	16,110	36.8

* Excluding territorial waters (924 sq km).

† Total area, including territorial waters: 438,317 sq km.

Population (at census of 17 October 1987): 1,507,926 in Nineveh governorate; 1,108,773 in Babylon governorate; more than 750,000 in five other governorates (Diala, al-Anbar, Thi-Qar, Basrah and as-Sulaimaniya).

PRINCIPAL TOWNS (population at 1977 census)

Baghdad (capital)	3,236,000*	Mosul	1,220,000
Basrah (Basra)	1,540,000	Kirkuk	535,000

* The population of Baghdad at the 17 October 1987 census was 3,844,608.

BIRTHS AND DEATHS

Average annual birth rate 47.4 per 1,000 in 1970-75, 47.0 per 1,000 in 1975-80; death rate 14.6 per 1,000 in 1970-75, 13.0 per 1,000 in 1975-80 (UN estimates).

KUWAIT

Introductory Survey

Location, Climate, Language, Religion, Flag, Capital

The State of Kuwait lies at the north-west extreme of the Persian (Arabian) Gulf, bordered to the north-west by Iraq and to the south by Saudi Arabia. The State comprises a mainland region and nine small islands. The largest Kuwaiti island is Bubyah, although the most populous is Failaka. Immediately to the south of Kuwait, along the Gulf, lies a Neutral (Partitioned) Zone of 5,700 sq km, which is shared between Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. Much of the country is arid desert, and the climate is generally hot and humid. Summer temperatures may exceed 50°C (122°F), and in January, the coldest month, temperatures range between -2.8°C and 28.3°C (27°F to 85°F). Annual rainfall varies from 10mm (0.4 in) to 370mm (14.6 in). The official language is Arabic, which is spoken by virtually all Kuwaiti nationals (42.6% of Kuwait's population in 1983) and by many of the non-Kuwaiti residents of the country. English is also used in commercial circles. Apart from other Arabs, the non-Kuwaitis are mainly Iranians, Indians and Pakistanis. At the 1975 census 95.0% of the population were Muslims (of whom about 70% are now thought to belong to the Sunni sect), while 4.5% were Christians, Hindus or adherents of other faiths. The national flag (proportions 2 by 1) has three equal horizontal stripes, of green, white and red, with a superimposed black trapezoid at the hoist. The capital is Kuwait City.

Recent History

Kuwait became part of Turkey's Ottoman Empire in the 16th century. During the later years of Ottoman rule, Kuwait became a semi-autonomous Arab monarchy, with local administration controlled by a Sheikh of the Sabah family, which continues to be the ruling dynasty. In 1899, fearing an extension of Turkish control, the ruler of Kuwait made a treaty with the United Kingdom, accepting British protection while surrendering control over external relations. In 1918, at the end of the First World War, the Ottoman Empire was dissolved, and nominal Turkish suzerainty over Kuwait ended. The sheikhdom remained a self-governing British protectorate until 1961.

During the reign of Sheikh Ahmed, who ruled Kuwait from 1921 to 1950, work began on the development of the country's petroleum industry, the basis of Kuwait's modern prosperity. Petroleum was first discovered in 1938, when the Burgan oilfield was located, but exploration was interrupted by the Second World War (1939-45). After the war, drilling resumed on a large scale and extensive deposits of petroleum were discovered. Supported by revenues from petroleum exploitation, Kuwait City developed from a small dhow port into a thriving modern commercial centre. Sheikh Ahmad died in 1950 and was succeeded by his cousin, Sheikh Abdullah as-Salim as-Sabah. With a policy of using petroleum revenues substantially for the welfare of his people, he inaugurated a programme of public works and educational development in 1951. This transformed Kuwait into a planned and well-equipped country, with one of the world's most comprehensive systems of welfare services.

Kuwait became fully independent on 19 June 1961, when the United Kingdom and Kuwait terminated the 1899 treaty by mutual agreement. The ruler took the title of Amir and assumed full executive power. Kuwait was admitted to the Arab League in July 1961, despite opposition from Iraq. Kuwait's first election took place in December 1961, when voters chose 20 members of a Constituent Assembly (the other members being appointed Cabinet ministers). This Assembly drafted a new constitution for Kuwait, adopted in December 1962. Under the provisions of the constitution, a National Assembly of 50 members was elected, under a limited franchise (see Government, below), in January 1963. In the absence of political parties (which remain illegal), candidates contested the poll as independents, although some opponents of the Government were elected. Also in January 1963, Amir Abdullah appointed his brother, Sheikh Sabah as-Salem as-Sabah (the heir apparent), to be Prime Minister.

In January 1965, as a result of conflict between the paternalistic ruling family and the democratically-inclined National Assembly, the Council of Ministers was strengthened. The Amir died in November 1965, and Sheikh Sabah succeeded to the throne. He was replaced as Prime Minister by his cousin, Sheikh Jaber al-Ahmad as-Sabah, who was also named heir apparent in May 1966. The Neutral Zone (also known as the Partitioned Zone) between Kuwait and Saudi Arabia was formally divided between the two countries in 1969, although revenues from petroleum production in the area are shared equally.

During the 1960s, as Kuwait's output of petroleum increased, the country became increasingly wealthy. The Kuwaiti leadership's policies resulted in extensive redistribution of income, through the use of public expenditure and a land compensation scheme, but there was some popular discontent concerning corruption and official manipulation of the media and the National Assembly. In response to public opinion, a more representative Assembly was elected in January 1971, on the basis of a free vote (though women, illiterates and non-Kuwaitis had no voting rights), and an extensive ministerial reshuffle took place. In January 1975 another general election was held, but in August 1976 Amir Sabah dissolved the National Assembly on the grounds that it was acting against the best interests of the State. The Amir died on 31 December 1977 and was succeeded by Crown Prince Jaber. In January 1978 the new Amir appointed Sheikh Saad al-Abdullah as-Salim as-Sabah to be his heir apparent. The new Crown Prince, formerly the Minister of Defence and the Interior, became Prime Minister in February 1978. In accordance with an Amiri decree of August 1980, a new National Assembly was elected in February 1981, although only about 3% of the population, out of the 6% who were eligible, registered to vote. The proportion of resident non-Kuwaitis in the population increased from about 52% in 1975 to 60% at the time of the 1985 census.

The collapse of the Souk al-Manakh, an unofficial stock exchange, in September 1982 led to a prolonged financial crisis (see under Economic Affairs) and to the resignation of the Minister of Finance in September 1983; in May 1985 the Minister of Justice also resigned, following allegations that he had been involved in illegal transactions connected with the collapse. The National Assembly subsequently opposed a number of government measures, including proposed price increases for public services, educational reforms, and legislation restricting the press, and in June 1986 criticized certain ministers for their handling of affairs, particularly security matters and the consequences of the Souk al-Manakh crisis. In July the Council of Ministers submitted its resignation to the Amir, who then dissolved the National Assembly and suspended some articles of the Constitution, declaring his intention to rule by decree. Crown Prince Sheikh Saad al-Abdullah as-Salim as-Sabah was immediately reappointed to the post of Prime Minister and formed a 22-man Council of Ministers in which there were seven newly-appointed ministers, although the principal ministers retained their posts. A decree was issued giving the Government greater powers of censorship, including the right to close newspapers for up to two years.

Of all the Gulf states, Kuwait has been most vulnerable to regional disruption. Immediately after independence, British troops (soon replaced by an Arab League force) were called in to support the country against a territorial claim by Iraq. The force remained until 1963, and relations between the countries were stable until 1973, when Iraqi troops occupied a Kuwaiti outpost on their joint border. Substantial donations to Iraq subsequently ensured Kuwait's territorial security. Kuwait has been active in its support of the Arab cause since the Arab-Israeli war of June 1967, giving financial assistance to 'front-line' Arab countries and major Palestinian organizations. This protected the country from active involvement in the struggle until the Arab-Israeli war of October 1973, when Kuwaiti troops, stationed along the Suez Canal, were involved in fighting. During 1973 and 1974 Kuwait played a leading role in

moves to use control of petroleum supplies as an economic weapon against pro-Israeli Western countries, by reducing production, by introducing embargoes on supplies to the USA and the Netherlands, and by implementing a unilateral price increase of 70%. At the Baghdad summit conference of the Arab League in November 1978, Kuwait called for Arab solidarity in condemning the Camp David agreements between Egypt and Israel, and began to impose sanctions against Egypt. The country has also been an active mediator in regional disputes, helping to bring about the cease-fire between the Yemen Arab Republic and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen (PDRY) in 1979, and assisting with the 'normalization' agreements between Oman and the PDRY in May 1982.

In May 1981 Kuwait joined five other Gulf states in establishing the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC, see p. 122), aiming to encourage economic co-operation and to co-ordinate defence policy for the region, independent of any super-power; in 1983 and 1984 Kuwait took part in the organization's joint military manoeuvres.

After the outbreak of war between Iran and Iraq in September 1980, Kuwait gave substantial aid to Iraq, causing frequent tension in relations with Iran. Iran bombed Kuwaiti oil installations in September 1981, and in May 1984 Iran was blamed for attacks on Kuwaiti shipping in the Gulf. Between 1983 and 1987 militant pro-Iranian groups claimed responsibility for a number of bomb attacks within Kuwait, including explosions at the main petroleum refinery. In June 1987 six Kuwaiti Shi'a Muslims were sentenced to death for their part in sabotaging oil installations and plotting against the Government. In 1985 and 1986 almost 27,000 expatriates, many of whom were Iranian, were deported. In August 1987 the Government initiated a five-year plan to reduce the number of expatriates in the Kuwaiti work-force.

Between October 1986 and April 1987, 15 merchant ships sailing to or from Kuwait were attacked in the Gulf by Iranian forces, and several Kuwaiti cargoes were seized, as a result of the use of Kuwaiti ports as a transit point for goods destined for Iraq, and for loading tankers with petroleum sold on Iraq's behalf. In July 1987 Iran was also reported to have deployed missiles at the entrance to the Strait of Hormuz (between Iran and Oman) and on the Faw peninsula (in Iraq), at the northern end of the Gulf, thus creating a further threat to shipping in the area. During 1987, in an attempt to deter Iranian attacks in the Gulf, Kuwait re-registered most of its fleet of oil tankers under the flags of the USA, Liberia and the United Kingdom. The USSR also allowed Kuwait to charter three Soviet-registered tankers in April 1987. The USA and the United Kingdom provided naval escorts for the ships registered under their respective flags, and Kuwait received help from Saudi Arabia, the USA and several European countries in clearing mines from the channel leading to its main oil-loading facilities at Mina al-Ahmadi. Kuwait's main offshore oil-loading terminal, at Sea Island, was closed between October and December, following an Iranian missile attack. In November Kuwait resumed full diplomatic relations with Egypt, and President Mubarak offered to provide Kuwait with military support in return for economic aid. The GCC held a 'summit' meeting in December, when a pact to increase security co-operation between the member states was approved. In January 1988 a number of government changes were made, including the exchange of portfolios by the Ministers of Defence and of the Interior.

In April 1988 a group of hijackers, believed to belong to pro-Iranian Shi'a Muslim groups in Lebanon, took control of a Kuwaiti airliner and forced it to land in Iran, demanding the release of 17 Shi'a Muslims who had been imprisoned in Kuwait for terrorist activities. The airliner subsequently flew to Cyprus, where two hostages were killed by the hijackers, and then to Algiers, where the 15-day hijack ended when the Algerian Government negotiated the release of the hostages and the safe passage of the hijackers to an unknown destination in the Middle East. In May it was reported that a hitherto unknown group, calling itself 'Kuwaiti Hezbollah', had announced that it intended to commence a 'holy war' against Kuwait's ruling family and other pro-Western rulers in the Gulf region. Several further bomb explosions took place in 1988.

In June 1988 Kuwait signed an agreement with Egypt for the purchase of 100 Egyptian-made armoured personnel carriers and an integrated air-defence system. In the following month Kuwait also signed an agreement with the USSR for

the purchase of 245 armoured personnel carriers, with an estimated value of US \$300m. In August Kuwait and the USA signed a contract for the supply of fighter aircraft and missiles to Kuwait. Delivery of the aircraft was scheduled to take place in 1994. The contract, valued at \$1,900m., was to be financed from a budget of \$5,000m. to be spent on defence over the following six years. In December Kuwait and France held discussions concerning the proposed Kuwaiti purchase of fighter aircraft.

The escalation of tension in the Gulf, exacerbated by the presence of US and Soviet naval forces, resulted in the adoption, in July 1987, of Resolution 598 by the UN Security Council, which urged an immediate cease-fire. Kuwait joined other members of the GCC in supporting Resolution 598, and in November members of the Arab League, including Kuwait, unanimously condemned Iran for prolonging the Gulf War, deplored its occupation of Arab (i.e. Iraqi) territory, and urged it to accept Resolution 598 without preconditions. Following the cease-fire between Iran and Iraq in August 1988, the US Government announced in September that it would no longer provide protection for US-flagged vessels in the Gulf, as Iran had posed no naval threat to commercial shipping interests in the region since the cease-fire was agreed; and later in the year Kuwait announced its intention of re-registering under its own flag ships that had been registered in Liberia and the USA.

Government

Under the 1962 Constitution, executive power is vested in the Amir, the Head of State who is chosen by and from members of the ruling family, and is exercised through a Council of Ministers. The Amir appoints the Prime Minister and, on the latter's recommendation, other Ministers. Legislative power is vested in a unicameral National Assembly, with 50 elected members who serve for four years (subject to dissolution). Only literate adult male Kuwaiti citizens, excluding members of the armed forces, may vote. This sector comprised only 6.4% of the population in 1981. Political parties are not legally permitted. The country is divided administratively into four districts. In July 1986 the Amir dissolved the National Assembly, and announced the suspension of certain articles of the Constitution (including the stipulation that elections should be held within two months of dissolving the legislature). He declared that he would henceforth rule by decree. In August municipal councils were also dissolved.

Defence

In June 1988 Kuwait had an army of 16,000 men, an air force of 2,200 men (excluding expatriate personnel), and a navy of 2,100 men. The defence budget for 1988 was estimated at KD 425m. There is an 18-month period of compulsory military service.

Economic Affairs

Kuwait (which means 'little fortress') developed initially because it includes an area of slightly higher, firmer ground, giving access from the Gulf inland to Iraq, and because its coastline is indented to provide a reasonably good and sheltered harbour. Kuwait's modern economic prosperity is based on extremely rich deposits of petroleum. The country's proven reserves of petroleum are the third largest in the world, after those of Saudi Arabia and the USSR. At 1 January 1988 it was estimated that proven reserves totalled 91,900m. barrels, and represented 15% of world reserves. At current levels of production, these reserves would not be exhausted for at least 233 years. Petroleum provided about 70% of Kuwait's gross domestic product (GDP) in 1980, but, as a result of the decline in petroleum prices in the mid-1980s, the petroleum sector's contribution to GDP fell to an estimated 37% in 1986. The vast revenues which the Kuwaiti Government derives from the petroleum industry have enabled it to establish a highly developed welfare state, with free education and generally low charges for medical services, while imposing no personal income taxes. The population increased by an annual average of 4.2% during 1980-87, and during this period GNP per head decreased, in real terms, at an average rate of 3% per year. According to estimates by the World Bank, gross national product (GNP) per head, measured at average 1985-87 prices, was US \$14,870 in 1987. Kuwait's overall GDP, in real terms, declined by 2.3% per year in 1970-80 and by 0.9% per year in 1980-86. In 1986 GDP was estimated to have fallen by 16.7%,

but in 1987 GDP was reported to have increased by 5.4%, as a result of a rise in petroleum revenues, and the increase in 1988 was estimated at 3.5%.

Kuwait began commercial production of petroleum in 1948, and the peak level of output was achieved in 1972, when 1,201.6m. barrels of crude oil were produced. The Arab embargo on Western countries, and a desire to restrict production for conservation reasons, resulted in a decline in output to 718.1m. barrels in 1977. The total increased to 911.2m. barrels, about 4.5% of world production, in 1979. Owing to the accumulation of large surplus stocks of petroleum on the international market, Kuwait's annual output fell to only 300.2m. barrels, about 1.5% of world production, in 1982. As a member of OPEC (see p. 196), Kuwait is subject to restrictions on production levels and prices. Government revenue from the petroleum sector (in the form of royalties and taxes) declined from KD 4,251m. in the year ending 30 June 1981 to KD 2,230m. in 1982/83, rising to KD 2,799m. in 1983/84. In 1984 and 1985 increased activity in the Iran-Iraq war weakened the market for Kuwaiti petroleum, and a production and pricing crisis led, in October 1984, to the imposition of a lower production quota for many OPEC members. As a result of the world oil glut, Kuwait's production declined from an average of 1.16m. barrels per day (b/d) in 1984 to 1.06m. b/d in 1985. In July 1986 international prices for crude petroleum declined to less than US \$10 per barrel. In August OPEC agreed to support prices by reducing aggregate members' production to 16.8m. b/d, and reverted to the quota levels that had been allocated in October 1984; Kuwait accepted a temporary limit of 900,000 b/d. OPEC thus succeeded in raising prices to about \$15 per barrel by October, when the agreement was renewed until the end of the year, although Kuwait insisted that its production limit should rise to 999,000 b/d by December. In December OPEC announced a total production 'ceiling' of 15.8m. b/d (of which Kuwait's share would be 948,000 b/d), to apply from the beginning of 1987, in an attempt to return to a fixed price for petroleum of \$18 per barrel by February of that year. The success of the programme enabled OPEC to increase collective production by 800,000 b/d, to 16.6m. b/d, for the second half of 1987 (a notional total, as Iraqi production was not included, and neither was output of some 260,000 b/d from the Neutral Zone by Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, which they sold on Iraq's behalf), giving Kuwait a quota of 996,000 b/d. However, in August Kuwait was reported to be producing more than 2m. b/d, probably as a result of the foreign protection afforded to its tankers in the Gulf. In December OPEC agreed to maintain its collective production at 16.6m. b/d (including a notional quota of 1.54m. b/d from Iraq), with the same quota distribution, and to maintain the reference price of \$18 per barrel, for the first half of 1988. In 1987 Kuwait's production (excluding output from the Neutral/Partitioned Zone) averaged 0.97m. b/d, compared with 1.2m. b/d in 1986. In early 1988 Kuwait's production levels were only marginally above its quota. In June OPEC agreed to preserve the output 'ceiling' of 16.6m. b/d and to maintain the reference price of \$18 per barrel for a further six months. As a result of the cease-fire in the Gulf War (agreed in August 1988), competition increased among Gulf oil producers for larger production quotas, as a result of which prices for petroleum declined to their lowest level since mid-1986. In November OPEC agreed to limit its collective production to 18.5m. b/d, of which Kuwait's share would be 1,037,000 b/d, for the first six months of 1989.

Refined petroleum products accounted for an estimated 88% of total petroleum exports in 1987. At the end of 1988 Kuwait's three refineries had the capacity to process about 700,000 b/d, and this was to be increased by 100,000 b/d in 1989, with the projected expansion of the Mina Abdullah refinery. Actual output of refined products during 1988 was, however, only about 75% of capacity. In 1981 the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) began to expand the petroleum sector by investing overseas. Interests were acquired in a number of concessions for petroleum exploration abroad. In 1983 Kuwait acquired petroleum refineries in Denmark and the Netherlands, with a combined capacity of 135,000 b/d, and in March 1988 a KPC subsidiary purchased the lubricants division of an Italian company. Facilities for the distribution, marketing and retail of refined products have also been expanded, particularly through the acquisition of retail petrol stations in western Europe, numbering 4,800 in September 1988.

Natural gas, which provided 99% of Kuwait's energy consumption in 1976, subsequently became a less important source of energy than petroleum, representing about 25% of the country's total supply by 1983. Kuwait's production of gas is limited by the fact that there are no known reserves independent of petroleum, and in order to utilize the natural gas which is associated with crude petroleum, a three-train gas-gathering system and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) gathering plant was brought into operation in 1979. Gross gas production (including gas flared, to enable rapid oil production, or reinjected, to maximize the production of petroleum by maintaining pressure in the reservoir) increased in 1987 to 7,200m. cu m, of which commercial production was 6,450m. cu m. A gas-gathering grid to produce 2,500m. cu m per year from the Neutral Zone was planned for completion by 1989. Production of LPG is, however, dependent on levels of petroleum production: plants operated at levels substantially below capacity in 1982-85. In 1985 it was reported that Kuwait intended to begin importing associated gas from Iraq. The first two phases of a project to construct two pipelines between Iraq and Kuwait, which were intended to supply one-third of Kuwait's gas requirements, were completed by April 1987, and the pipeline capacity was being doubled, to 4,000m. cu m per year, in 1988. In view of the fluctuations in demand for both crude petroleum and natural gas, the Government has attempted to diversify its sources of revenue.

There is little drinking water within the country, and supplies are largely distilled from sea water. Deficient soil and water supplies limit the potential for agricultural development, and agriculture contributed only about 0.1% of GDP in 1986. The principal crops are melons, tomatoes, dates and onions. A five-year development plan for agriculture, initiated in 1982, was intended to increase vegetable production to meet 40% of projected demand, compared with about 20% self-sufficiency in 1983. In 1985 production of cows' milk rose to an estimated 50,000 tons, compared with 9,000 tons in 1980. Production was expected to reach 110,000 tons per year by 1992. By 1988 annual production of chickens increased to 30m., and egg production rose to 200m. In 1988 the Government established an agricultural development fund of KD 50m. to provide finance for farming projects. Fishing, particularly of prawns and shrimps, is important, and provided about 23% of domestic consumption, together with some export revenue, in 1983. A 20-year plan to develop the fishing industry, at an estimated cost of \$1m., was announced in 1987, when local production was sufficient to satisfy only 25% of domestic demand for fish.

To some extent, Kuwait's manufacturing sector is related to the production of petroleum. The country has three fertilizer plants, giving a total capacity of 1.65m. tons per year, mainly in the form of urea and ammonia products. Construction of a polypropylene plant, using propylene gas, was to begin in 1989. Other important products are cement, paper, packaging materials, melamine, asbestos and pre-fabricated building frames. Kuwait has been hesitant to undertake heavy industrial projects likely to increase its already considerable dependence on imported labour. Instead, it has undertaken joint projects with other Gulf states for the production of aluminium and petrochemicals, and with Tunisia for the production of phosphates. The significance of the manufacturing sector within the economy grew rapidly between 1981 (when it represented 4.9% of GDP) and 1986 (an estimated 11.1% of GDP), although in 1985 the output of the manufacturing sector declined by 4.2%. The construction industry was also affected by the economic recession of the mid-1980s, and in 1985 the number of projects to be implemented fell by 30.5% in comparison with 1984. The National Housing Authority's budget for 1988/89 was KD 142.3m., of which KD 124.3m. was allocated to construction and maintenance work.

Another important source of income is investment abroad, principally in the USA, Europe and the Far East. In 1983 (according to the Central Bank of Kuwait) total public investment income was US \$5,717m., falling to \$4,381m. in 1984 and to \$3,980m. in 1985. Investment income from abroad increased to \$8,074m. in 1986, overtaking income from petroleum for the first time. Most of the country's foreign investments are handled by a state organization, the Kuwait Investment Office (KIO), based in London. In late 1987 the KIO made a major investment in British Petroleum (BP), and by August 1988 its shareholding had increased to 21.68%. In January 1989 Kuwait announced its intention of selling the majority of its shares back to BP, following the issuing of an order from the British

Government to reduce its holding in the company to 9.9% within a period of three years. In June 1988 a three-member committee was formed by the Ministry of Finance to assess the country's future investment policy, and to deliver its reports directly to the Amir. A major feature of Kuwait's economy is the sizeable Reserve Fund for Future Generations (RFFG), to which 10% of petroleum revenues must, by law, be transferred annually, and which is not intended to be used until the year 2001. In the year ending June 1987 the RFFG's income was estimated at KD 859m.

In September 1982 the Souk al-Manakh, an unofficial stock exchange that had been dealing in post-dated cheques, collapsed, following a fall in share prices at a time when many investors were unable to honour their cheques; the total amount payable was thought to have reached US \$94,000m. The resultant crisis seriously affected confidence in Kuwait's financial system over the next four years. The Souk al-Manakh was officially closed in November 1984, and share-trading was thereafter to be confined to the official stock exchange, with additional restrictions imposed on brokers, to prevent a repetition of the crisis. In July 1986 a decree was issued laying down rules for the settlement of remaining debts by the end of the year, with financial support by the Government to prevent bankruptcies and to offset the losses incurred by the banks. At the end of 1987, however, 17% of the debts resulting from the collapse of the Souk al-Manakh remained outstanding. In May 1988 the Council of Ministers approved a measure allowing all citizens of GCC member states to purchase shares on the Kuwaiti stock exchange. (Previously only Kuwaiti citizens had been permitted to buy shares on the exchange.) In November it was announced that foreign companies were to be permitted to register on the Kuwaiti exchange.

The Government's budgetary policy and the implementation of development plans are directly affected by income from the petroleum sector. Total actual expenditure for 1985/86 was KD 2,871.5m., representing the first reduction in budgetary spending in Kuwait's recent history. Revenue from the petroleum industry also fell, to KD 2,102.7m. (accounting for 89.7% of total income), and a budget deficit of KD 528.3m., excluding investment income, was recorded for the year. Total actual expenditure for 1986/87 was KD 2,473m., and the budget deficit was KD 781m. Total revenue declined to KD 1,692m., of which revenue from the petroleum sector accounted for approximately 86% of the total. The budget proposals for 1987/88 envisaged total revenue of KD 1,979.4m., of which revenue from the petroleum sector was estimated at KD 1,726.4m. (87% of the total). Total expenditure was to increase to KD 3,158.0m., and the projected budget deficit was KD 1,377m. (including KD 197.9m. to be added to the RFFG); investment income, however, was expected to compensate for the deficit. For the second year in succession, no allocation was made to the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development, through which Kuwait provides assistance for Arab and other developing countries (amounting to \$276.5m. in 1986). In September 1987 the Council of Ministers approved legislation enabling the government to borrow up to KD 1,400m. to finance its budget deficit. The 1988/89 budget envisaged revenue of KD 2,054m. and expenditure of KD 3,195m., resulting in a deficit of KD 1,141m. (excluding KD 205.4m. to be allocated to the RFFG).

The surplus on the current account of the balance of payments narrowed from US \$15,302m. in 1980 to \$4,873m. in 1982. The current surplus increased to \$5,287m. in 1983, as exports improved, and to \$6,374m. in 1984. In 1985 the surplus was \$4,815m., and in 1986 it increased again, to \$5,337m., as a result of increased income from investments, although the collapse in world petroleum prices reduced the visible trade surplus from \$4,712m. in 1985 to \$1,910m. in 1986. In 1987 the current account surplus decreased to \$4,414m., while the trade

surplus increased to \$3,545m. In 1984 Kuwait's principal trading partner was Japan, which took 16.5% of exports and provided 23.8% of imports in that year; other major customers were the Netherlands, Italy and Taiwan, while the USA and the EEC countries were the other main suppliers of imports.

Directory

The Constitution

The principal provisions of the Constitution, promulgated on 16 November 1962, are set out below. On 29 August 1976 the Amir suspended four articles of the Constitution dealing with the National Assembly. In early 1980 a 35-member committee was appointed to debate a revised Constitution and presented its recommendation to the Amir. On 24 August 1980 an Amiri Decree was issued, calling for an elected National Assembly before the end of February 1981. The new Assembly was elected on 23 February 1981, and fresh legislative elections followed on 20 February 1985. The National Assembly was dissolved by Amiri decree in July 1986, and some sections of the Constitution, including the stipulation that new elections should be held within two months of dissolving the Assembly (see below), were suspended.

SOVEREIGNTY

Kuwait is an independent sovereign Arab State; her sovereignty may not be surrendered, and no part of her territory may be relinquished. Offensive war is prohibited by the Constitution.

Succession as Amir is restricted to heirs of the late MUBARAK AS-SABAH, and an Heir Apparent must be appointed within one year of the accession of a new Amir.

EXECUTIVE AUTHORITY

Executive power is vested in the Amir, who exercises it through a Council of Ministers. The Amir will appoint the Prime Minister 'after the traditional consultations', and will appoint and dismiss ministers on the recommendation of the Prime Minister. Ministers need not be members of the National Assembly, though all ministers who are not Assembly members assume membership *ex officio* in the Assembly for the duration of office. The Amir also lays down laws, which shall not be effective unless published in the

Official Gazette. The Amir sets up public institutions. All decrees issued in these respects shall be conveyed to the Assembly. No law is issued unless it is approved by the Assembly.

LEGISLATURE

A National Assembly of 50 members will be elected for a four-year term by all natural-born literate Kuwait males over the age of 21, except servicemen and police, who may not vote. Candidates for election must possess the franchise and be over 30 years of age. The Assembly will sit for at least eight months in any year, and new elections shall be held within two months of the last dissolution of the outgoing Assembly.

Restrictions on the commercial activities of ministers include an injunction forbidding them to sell property to the Government.

The Amir may ask for reconsideration of a Bill passed by the Assembly and sent to him for ratification, but the Bill would automatically become law if it were subsequently passed by a two-thirds majority at the next sitting, or by a simple majority at a subsequent sitting. The Amir may declare Martial Law, but only with the approval of the Assembly.

The Assembly may pass a vote of no confidence in a minister, in which case the Minister must resign. Such a vote is not permissible in the case of the Prime Minister, but the Assembly may approach the Amir on the matter, and the Amir shall then either dismiss the Prime Minister or dissolve the Assembly.

An annual budget shall be presented, and there shall be an independent finance control commission.

CIVIL SERVICE

Entry to the civil service is confined to Kuwait citizens.

PUBLIC LIBERTIES

Kuwaitis are equal before the law in prestige, rights and duties. Individual freedom is guaranteed. No one shall be seized, arrested or exiled except within the rules of law.

No punishment shall be administered except for an act or abstaining from an act considered a crime in accordance with a law applicable at the time of committing it, and no penalty shall be imposed more severe than that which could have been imposed at the time of committing the crime.

Freedom of opinion is guaranteed to everyone, and each has the right to express himself through speech, writing or other means within the limits of the law.

The Press is free within the limits of the law, and it should not be suppressed except in accordance with the dictates of law.

Freedom of performing religious rites is protected by the State according to prevailing customs, provided it does not violate the public order and morality.

Trade unions will be permitted and property must be respected. An owner is not banned from managing his property except within the boundaries of law. No property should be taken from anyone, except within the prerogatives of law, unless a just compensation be given.

Houses may not be entered, except in cases provided by law. Every Kuwaiti has freedom of movement and choice of place of residence within the state. This right shall not be controlled except in cases stipulated by law.

Every person has the right to education and freedom to choose his type of work. Freedom to form peaceful societies is guaranteed within the limits of law.

The Government

HEAD OF STATE

Amir of Kuwait: His Highness Sheikh JABER AL-AHMAD AS-SABAH (succeeded on the death of his cousin, 31 December 1977).

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

(March 1989)

Crown Prince and Prime Minister: Sheikh SAAD AL-ABDULLAH AS-SALIM AS-SABAH.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs: Sheikh SABAH AL-AHMAD AL-JABER AS-SABAH.

Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs: Sheikh KHALID AL-AHMAD AL-JABER.

Minister of Information: Sheikh JABER MUBARAK AL-HAMAD AS-SABAH.

Minister of the Interior: Sheikh SALIM AS-SABAH AS-SALIM AS-SABAH.

Minister of Defence: Sheikh NAWAF AL-AHMAD AL-JABER AS-SABAH.

Minister of Planning: Dr ABD AR-RAHMAN ABDULLAH AL-AWADI.

Minister of Public Health: Dr ABD AR-RAZZAK YOUSUF AL-ABD AR-RAZZAK.

Minister of Labour and Social Affairs: Sheikh NASSER MUHAMMAD AL-AHMAD AL-JABER AS-SABAH.

Minister of Public Works: ABD AR-RAHMAN IBRAHIM AL-HOUTI.

Minister of Justice and Legal and Administrative Affairs: DIHARI ABDULLAH AL-UTHMAN AR-RASHID.

Minister of Awqaf (Religious Endowments) and Islamic Affairs: KHALID AHMAD SAAD AL-JASSAR.

Minister of Electricity and Water: HUMUD ABDULLAH AR-RAQUBAIL.

Minister of Finance: JASSIM MUHAMMAD AL-KHARAFI.

Minister of Education: ANWAR ABDULLAH AN-NOURI.

Minister of Higher Education: Dr ALI ABDULLAH ASH-SHAMLAN.

Minister of Oil: Sheikh ALI AL-KHALIFA AL-ATHIBI AS-SABAH.

Minister of Commerce and Industry: FAISAL ABD AR-RAZZAQ AL-KHALID.

Minister of Communications: ABDULLAH ABD-AL MOHSIN ASH-SHARIHAN.

Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs: RASHID ABD AL-AZIZ AR-RASHID.

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs: SA'UD MUHAMMAD AL-USAYMI.

Minister of State for Municipal Affairs: MUHAMMAD AS-SAYED ABD AL-MOHSIN AR-RIFA'I.

Minister of State for Housing Affairs: NASSER ABDULLAH AR-RUDAN.

Minister of State for Services Affairs: Eng. ISA MUHAMMAD IBRAHIM AL-MAZIDI.

PROVINCIAL GOVERNORATES

Ahmadi: Sheikh JABER MUBARAK AL-HAMAD AS-SABAH.

Hawalli: Sheikh ABD AR-RAHMAN ABDULLAH AL-MIJHIM.

Jahra: Sheikh SALIM SABAH AN-NASSER AS-SABAH.

Kuwait: Sheikh JABER ABDULLAH AL-JABER AS-SABAH.

MINISTRIES

Ministry of Amiri Diwan Affairs: POB 799, 13008 Safat, Arabian Gulf St, Kuwait City; tel. 2439021; telex 22700.

Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs: POB 4, 13001 Safat, al-Morkab St, Ministries Complex, Kuwait City; tel. 2466300; telex 44735.

Ministry of Commerce and Industry: POB 2944, 13030 Safat, Kuwait City; tel. 2463600; telex 22682.

Ministry of Communications: POB 16, 13001 Safat, Kuwait City; tel. 4819033; telex 22197.

Ministry of Defence: POB 1170, Safat, Kuwait City; tel. 6848300; telex 22784.

Ministry of Education: POB 7, 13001 Safat, Hilali St, Kuwait City; tel. 2427041; telex 23166.

Ministry of Electricity and Water: POB 12, 13001 Safat, Kuwait City; tel. 4896000; telex 30062.

Ministry of Finance: POB 9, 13001 Safat, al-Morkab St, Ministries Complex, Kuwait City; tel. 2463600; telex 22582.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs: POB 3, 13001 Safat, Gulf St, Kuwait City; tel. 2425141; telex 22042.

Ministry of Housing: POB 2935, Safat, Kuwait City; tel. 2467300.

Ministry of Information: POB 193, 13002 Safat, as-Sour St, Kuwait City; tel. 2415300; telex 46151.

Ministry of the Interior: POB 11, 13001 Safat, Kuwait City; tel. 4816111; telex 22507.

Ministry of Justice: POB 6, 13001 Safat, al-Morkab St, Ministries Complex, Kuwait City; tel. 2465600; telex 44302.

Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs: POB 563, 13006 Safat, al-Morkab St, Ministries Complex, Kuwait City; tel. 2464500; telex 30329.

Ministry of Oil: POB 5077, 13051 Safat, Fahd as-Salem St, Kuwait City; tel. 2415201; telex 22363.

Ministry of Planning: POB 15, 13001 Safat, Kuwait City; tel. 2423100; telex 22468.

Ministry of Public Health: POB 5, 13001 Safat, Arabian Gulf St, Kuwait City; tel. 2462900; telex 22729.

Ministry of Public Works: POB 8, 13001 Safat, Mubarak al-Kabir St, Kuwait City; tel. 2449301; telex 22753.

Legislature

MAJLIS AL-UMMA
(National Assembly)

The National Assembly, suspended since August 1976, was reconstituted in 1981 after an Amiri Decree in August 1980 called for its restoration. In elections to the National Assembly on 20 February 1985, 28 of the 50 members were elected for the first time. As in the 1981 elections, several seats were won by Islamic fundamentalists. Five Arab nationalists were elected. In July 1986 the National Assembly was dissolved by Amiri decree.

Judicial System

Kuwait adopted a unified judicial system, covering all levels of courts, in 1960. Until then, a single Islamic court, applying the Shari'a (Islamic law), and committees in the public security departments had settled public disputes and commercial differences. In 1982 a total of 46 advisers, 82 judges and 65 prosecutors considered 11,000 felonies, misdemeanours and appeals and 11,000 penal offences (offences under the private labour law and the law of commerce and the municipality).

The different types of court operating in Kuwait are as follows:

Courts of Summary Justice: There is a Summary Court in each administrative district of Kuwait, comprising one or more divisions, each with one judge. These courts judge civil and commercial disputes (their verdict being final in cases where the amount involved does not exceed KD500), urgent cases, lease problems and misdemeanours where the penalty is not more than three years' imprisonment.

Court of the First Instance: This judges lawsuits worth more than KD1,000. Its seven divisions consider disputes related to personal, civil, commercial, labour and rent affairs, and also cases of felony and appeals concerning misdemeanours. Chief Judge **GHAZI OBAID AS-SAMMAR**.

High Court of Appeal: This hears appeals against rulings of the Court of the First Instance, and its verdicts are passed by three advisers. Chief Judge **MUHAMMAD YOUSUF AL-RIFA'I**.

Court of Cassation: This is an independent department in the High Court of Appeal, composed of five advisers. It considers cases of alleged discrimination, be they commercial, labour, civil, personal or criminal.

Constitutional Court: Composed of five advisers, this court interprets the articles of the constitution and judges disputes related to the constitutionality of laws, statutes, and by-laws, and challenges to the election and legitimate membership of deputies in the National Assembly. The verdict of this court is binding on all courts.

Traffic Court: This court investigates cases arising as a consequence of traffic accidents, and judgment is passed by one judge.

Ministry of Justice: POB 6, 13001 Safat, al-Morkab St, Ministries Complex; District Courts: tel. 2432131; High Court of Appeal: tel. 2432131.

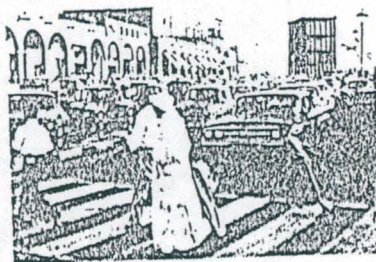
Attorney-General: **DHARI ABDULLAH AL-UTHMAN**.

Advocate-General: **MUHAMMAD ABD AL-HAHI AL-BANNAIY**.

• **Historia.** En 633, el ejército árabe que mandaba Jálid ibn Walid venció a los persas en la región de Kuwait. En el s. XVI, los portugueses abordaron la costa, donde dejaron una fortaleza actualmente en ruinas. La ciudad de Kuwait, fundada en el s. XVII, floreció rápidamente y cobró mayor importancia a raíz de la toma de Basora por los persas (1776), que desvió hacia Kuwait la ruta comercial de la India al Mediterráneo. Aunque el principado fue tributario del Imperio otomano, Gran Bretaña ejerció sobre él una fuerte influencia desde principios del s. XIX. Entre 1895 y 1897 el jeque de Kuwait, Mubárak ibn Şabbáh, apoyado por Gran Bretaña, ayudó al príncipe árabe Abd al-Rahmán ibn Sa'úd contra los rivales que le habían expulsado de Riyád y que habían llegado a un acuerdo con el gobierno turco. Cuando Gran Bretaña tuvo conocimiento de que se proyectaba la construcción de una vía férrea que uniría Constantinopla con el golfo Pérsico (v. *ferrocarril de BAGDAD*), lord Curzon, virrey de la India, envió a Kuwait como delegado suyo al coronel Meade, quien concertó con el jeque un acuerdo secreto: a cambio de una subvención y de apoyo militar, el jeque se comprometía a no ceder parte alguna de su territorio, salvo a Gran Bretaña, y a no recibir a ningún embajador sin el asentimiento británico. En 1913 se llegó a un compromiso entre los intereses británicos y germanoturcos: la sociedad del ferrocarril de Bagdad construiría la vía férrea hasta Basora, desde donde una sociedad británica establecería un enlace hasta Kuwait. La guerra anuló el proyecto. En 1914, Kuwait pasó a ser un principado bajo protectorado británico, situación que fue aceptada por Abd al-Aziz ibn Sa'úd desde 1915. Pero en 1934 entraron en juego los intereses económicos de E.U.A. que deseaba obtener reservas de petróleo en Oriente medio: la British petroleum company y la Gulf oil corporation of America, asociadas con el nombre de Kuwait oil company, obtuvieron la concesión para la búsqueda y la explotación petrolífera en el territorio de Kuwait y en sus aguas territoriales. El petróleo de Kuwait, descubierto en 1938, contribuyó grandemente a compensar en el mercado mundial la desaparición del petróleo iraní, al ser nacionalizado éste (1951-1953). En 1961, Kuwait

logró la independencia, tras finalizar el protectorado británico. El nuevo estado se enfrentó a graves dificultades: por una parte, Iraq reclamó la totalidad del territorio (hasta 1899 había formado parte del vilayato de Basora); por otra, Arabia Saudí reclamó la zona neutral del S de Kuwait. Este litigio no se solucionó hasta 1966. (V. ZONAS NEUTRALES.) En 1961 entró a formar parte de la Liga árabe, y en 1963 de la O.N.U. Pese a los intentos de modernización, los recursos petroleros, única fuente de ingresos del país, siguen estrechamente vinculados a la familia real y, a través de ella, a la British petroleum company y a la Gulf oil. El príncipe heredero fue nombrado presidente del gobierno en 1965, y la única oposición que ha tolerado desde entonces es la nacionalista. Fiel a la política de solidaridad árabe, Kuwait interrumpió por unos meses el envío de petróleo a los países anglosajones durante la guerra árabe-israelí de 1967, tras la cual incrementó su ayuda a los países árabes y a la guerrilla palestina. En 1971 terminó la estancia de tropas británicas, y, ante el malestar social y político, la familia real permitió elecciones parlamentarias (en 1971; en 1975) sin reconocer a los partidos políticos (excepto, tácitamente, a un *Movimiento nacionalista árabe*), manipulando el censo (beduinos residentes en Arabia e Iraq) y recortando los derechos electorales (mujeres, analfabetos y no kuwaitíes [éstos, un 53 % del total de población], exentos de voto). A raíz de la guerra de 1973, Kuwait se alineó decididamente en las filas árabes, no obstante su moderada colocación en el campo occidental a través de Arabia Saudí. En 1976 fue nacionalizada la *Kuwait oil co.*, con indemnización y asegurando el suministro para 1976-1980 a las grandes compañías; aquel mismo año, el fortalecimiento de la oposición y la crisis libanesa condujeron a la dimisión del gobierno (ag.), la disolución de la asamblea y la suspensión de garantías; en abril de 1977 se pospuso la decisión de crear un comité encargado de redactar una nueva constitución. Tras la muerte del emir Şabbáh al-Salim (dic. 1977), le sucedió Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir, primer ministro desde 1965 y heredero al trono desde 1966, quien nombró primer ministro y heredero a Sa'úd al-'Abd Alláh al-Salim, hasta entonces ministro del Interior y de Defensa.

• **Instituciones. Constitución y partidos políticos.** Promulgada en 1962, la constitución proclama a Kuwait monarquía constitucional, cuyo poder reside en el emir (familia reinante al-Şabbáh), quien nombra un primer ministro-príncipe heredero encargado del gobierno. En 1971 se creó una asamblea nacional (disuelta en 1976) que había de sancionar las leyes promulgadas por el emir. No se permiten los partidos políticos, aunque existe, desde 1950, el *Movimiento nacionalista árabe*, dirigido por el moderado A. Jabir. Tras la suspensión de cuatro artículos constitucionales (ag. 1976), un comité había de sugerir determinadas enmiendas a aprobar por referéndum al cabo de cuatro años. **Religión.** La población es musulmana, en su mayoría sunnita, a excepción de los iraníes, la mayor parte de los cuales son chiitas. El 94,9 % de la población es musulmana, y el 4,5 % son cristianos (católicos el 2,4 %). **Información. Prensa.** Aunque en constante incremento, la prensa muestra un escaso desarrollo. Se publican seis diarios, entre los cuales *ar Rai al-Amm* (*Opinión pública*, 35 000 ejemplares), fundado en 1961, y *al-Qabas* (30 000), en 1972. Destaca también el semanario *al-Nahdha* (*El renacimiento*, 45 000). **Radio y televisión.** El servicio de radio y televisión, que depende del estado, transmite programas en árabe e inglés.



KUWAIT
la vía Safoty

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4.- SET DE MAPAS DE LA REGIÓN EN DISTINAS ÉPOCAS.

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