

FROM BAHRAIN

1) A set of publications dealing with socio-economic development, recently issued by the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, listed as follows:

1 - **Social Indicators for Bahrain** June 1977, a publication, in both Arabic and English, presents statistical tables and reports on the population, housing, education, employment and social development. In introducing this study, Faiza al-Zayani, Social Development Section superintendent, says: "Comparing data of 1971 with those of 1976, the reader will realize the rapid social change and the dynamics of the different variables interacting in the process of change which the Bahraini society is going through at present."

2 - **Al-Nshrah al-Dawriyyah** (the Periodical), a quarterly reporting on the activities and achievements of the Directorate of Social Affairs in the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs of Bahrain, (no. 17, Oct. Nov. Dec. 1978.)

3 - **The Local Pioneer's Guide**, a booklet (in Arabic) intended to instruct women engaged in pioneering social service in Bahrain on the basic principles of their work and the various roles they should play as leaders, counselors and promoters of change in feminine groups and organizations.

4 - **Kindergarten Teachers Guide** (in Arabic) an illustrated booklet expounding the role of kindergarten and nursery school teachers, the needs and capacities of the preschool child, the organization and equipment of K.G.'s, the interaction between K.G. teachers and the children's families, also the main programs of work that may be used.

5 - **Social Workers' Guide**. This booklet (written in Arabic) gives the meaning and development of social work, its various stages and services, the qualification of a social worker, the various fields of social service: in the family, in rural and

urban areas, in medical work, among the delinquent and the handicapped.

2) **Al-Bahrain between political independence and international activity** by Amal Ibrahim Zayani, 2nd. Ed. 1977; an historical study in 392 pp. (Arabic), presented by the author for the master of arts degree in political science at Cairo University; a masterly work based on wide research and scientific methodology.

3) **Al-Bahrain Society: influence of migration on the change of its social structure**. A study in 363 pp. (in Arabic), Cairo 1977, by Faysal Ibrahim Zayani, a specialist in international law from Oxford University. The author of this systematic and well-documented work discusses the problem of migration into and out of Bahrain, its factors and influence. "The proportion of foreigners residing in Bahrain reaches 36.6% of the inhabitants. It is one of the highest in the world (p. 299).

Churches and States - The Religious Institution and Modernization -

Edited by K.H. Silvert
224 pp; N.Y., 1967

A collaborative study of Judaism, Catholicism and Islam, and the institutional processes of modernization, based on a conference on "The Religious Institution and Modernization," sponsored by the American Universities Field Staff and held at Indiana University, Oct. 1966.

In his foreword to the book, Dr. Kenneth W. Thompson says: "The collaborators have shown an unmistakably unified interest in bringing methodological order to the study of religion and national development."

The concept of "modernism" which dominated the said conference is expressed by the editor, Prof. Silvert, who has characterized it as "attitudes, social devices and traditions which permit orderly, institutionalized change... and which

assume that public decisions must be secular, pragmatically derived and subject to empirical change."

In his conclusions, Silvert reaffirms the principle of **separation of church and state** which.. promotes modernization by opening areas of civic freedom, thereby immediately fostering economic and other forms of development.

Ahd min al-Quds (A Covenant from Jerusalem) by Najwa Qawar Farah

This collection of short stories taken from real life reveal the author's flair for the choice of details that create the particular atmosphere of the story and bring out the personality of the characters. Imagery is sparingly and naturally used, the expression is rhythmic all through, thus giving the story an emotional tone which heightens its effect. Variety is another characteristic of the author's style. She moves from monologue to dialogue, from prose to verse, from describing people to depicting natural scenery. The stories are strongly permeated with local color, they faithfully reproduce the author's experiences, her concerns and those of Palestinian youth during the period of struggle which preceded the revolution of 1967. They relate the clash between old traditions and new ideals; characters are indirectly analyzed through their actions, their reflections, their flash-backs and their conversations.

In the younger group we sometimes detect a chivalrous attitude recalling Cyrano de Bergerac and other romantic heroes. The frustrated lover is led to act as a mediator between his beloved and the young man of her choice. Moved by pity, he decides to marry the girl who tried to commit suicide because of her failure in love. Another unsuccessful lover courageously accepts his fate and sublimates his passion by enrolling in the Resistance Movement where he suffered martyrdom. Love and loyalty to the Fatherland and to the Palestinian cause act as a binding covenant and a haunting image for each of the characters. It makes them triumph over the temptation of escape into another country. It helps them drown their petty conflicts in the higher struggle for national liberation.

"The Hosken Report: Genital and Sexual Mutilation of Females"

A voluminous report prepared by Fran P. Hosken, a philanthropist and militant against the degrading and harmful tradition of mutilating woman's genital organs. The report compiles case histories from five countries in East Africa and seven in West Africa, states the reasons given, compares between male and female circumcision, concludes by saying that "the politics of genital mutilation represents the conspiracy of silence. The conspiracy of silence must be broken. The shameful practices of concealment, of withholding the facts on genital mutilation that have allowed these practices to continue and spread for 2000 years, must stop. Women in Africa have a right to know about their own bodies and to make their own choice. Women all over the world have a right to health and a right to their own sexuality.

**Women's International Network News
187 Grant St. Lexington Mass. U.S.A.**

"From under the Debris" (English)

**A personal viewpoint
by Nuha Salib Salibi
Beirut 1978**

Dedicated "to our children who in spite of the hardship of war taught us the meaning of existence and gave us the impetus to survive", this booklet of 40 pp contains poignant descriptions and thoughtful reflections inspired by the Lebanese war which the author describes as "a war of decadent principles, of senseless, ceaseless fighting".

The tragic condition revealed by the war is treated in the article entitled "a bowed generation", where she says: "We are bowed with worry about the future, bent with the guilt of a pathetic living... The easiest route is escape and many of us have already taken that way... We sadly look around at the many monsters surrounding us: the monsters of political squabbling, of avaricious

gain, of religious disintegration... What war is it but an artificial one created by war-mongers, fanned into flames by the hatred of people for each other, a hatred so irrational and senseless that sooner or later it will lash out at every one around."

The Muslim Mind

**Waddy, Charis. (Eng.) 205 pp.
Longman, London and New York,
1976**

"The book provides a clear introductory explanation of Islam, especially but not exclusively presented for non-Muslims. It includes much material from personal interviews and correspondence with ordinary Muslims, as well as Muslim scholars."

With copious quotation from Islamic literature and modern Islamic writing, the book gives a symposium of Muslim attitudes and thought, especially on topics of immediate importance, from family life to internationalism.

**Women in the Arab
Lybian Republic:
A brief view of their economic
and social status (Arabic)
Research Center,
Benghazi University, 1975**

This booklet opens with a brief statement of the general rights and privileges granted to woman by the Islamic religion. The second chapter states her equality with man in the right to work and to equal salary for equal work, except that she is not legally allowed to perform strenuous tasks. This is followed by details about the number of her work hours per week, her maternity leave, her right to social security, comparative tables of women's working conditions in other Arab countries.

Statistics on woman's education show a marked increase in the number of elementary girl students between 1955 and 1975. From 11195 the number rose to 234360. The same proportion applies to their

number in normal training schools. In Benghazi University, the number of women students is also on the increase. From one student at the Law School in 1962, the number rose to 52 in 1975. In the same year, the number of women students at the School of Arts reached 550, those majoring in business were 107, in medicine 53, in science 18, in dentistry 8.

The Tripoli University, 5 years younger than Benghazi University and more specialized in science, counted in 1975, 12 women students in the sciences, 6 in engineering, 3 in agriculture, 27 in education.

The last chapter gives some statistics on the number of Lybian working women, which is still quite low: 2% of their whole number in 1975. The majority of them were employed in agriculture, where they formed about a fifth of the whole number of women in the country and 47% of the number of working women.

The booklet gives no definite laws concerning the personal status or family laws of Lybian women.

"Al-'Anbar no. 13"

**(The Compartment no. 13)
Edwick Y. Shayboub
Naufal Publishers
Beirut 1979**

A collection of short stories inspired by a series of old and new experiences, carrying a strong touch of realism.

Though many of them have been inspired by the Lebanese war, the tragic element is totally absent from them. They generally end with an optimistic, trustful note. The author does not fail to see the light through the darkness, and foresee the calm succeeding the storm. In one of these stories we read a touching description of little Samar's homesickness in Paris, where she spent a year as a refugee with her family during the Lebanese war. Samar is Edwick's four-year old granddaughter who was unable to adjust to the absorbing Parisian environment nor enjoy its wonderful amusements, because she kept thinking of her Lebanese home and friends. Only when she was back in

Lebanon, was she able to recover her peace and resume her normal activity.

The stories reveal a stage of maturity in style and thought. They reflect a period of struggle and serious meditation which, in the author's life, followed a period of painful recollections of frustrated hopes.

Child-to-Child Programme

Edited by Audrey Aarons
and Hugh Hawes with Juliet Gayton
Published by Macmillan Press Ltd 1979

Child-to-Child is an international programme designed to teach and encourage school children to concern themselves with the health of their younger brothers and sisters.

It publishes programmes of activities that help children to better understand their younger brothers and sisters and try to improve their standards of health and their quality of life.

Child-to-Child has been suggested by the International Year of the Child. It aims to bring a change in the health and development of the world's children not only in 1979 but as a continuing and growing improvement.

This issue ends Vol. II of *Al-Raida*. Beginning with Vol. III, No. 11, the yearly subscription will be raised from \$5 to \$10 including postage. The size of the publication will be increased in return.

Your generosity and financial support are urgently needed if you want us to continue with the publication. Do you know of friends who might be interested in receiving *Al-Raida*? Encourage them to subscribe or send us their names and addresses so we may contact them.

Pithy Sayings

"For myself I can say that, having had every good thing that money can buy.. I could part without a pang with every possession I have. We live in uncertain times and our all may yet be taken from us. With enough plain food to satisfy my small appetite, a room to myself, books from a public library, pens and paper, I should regret nothing."

Somerset Maugham
from "Personality Development"
by Henry Clay Smith,
N.Y. 1961,
p. 64.

"The criterion of development in people is their aspiration to creative knowledge in science, art and all other forms of culture. They believe that this aspiration is the means of self-realization, of personality development and integration. Material results of knowledge are of secondary importance. Utilizing knowledge for purely material or destructive aims is the greatest calamity that may befall mankind."

Anonymous

"Murder and suicide, like war and oppression, may be desperate attempts to compel the gods to come down to earth, to protest, to dispense even, some insane idea of justice. Individually and collectively, the oppressed rebels perpetrate acts of terror in the name of liberty, equality and fraternity. The crimes against them may have been monstrous, but theirs are monstrous too and, in a hundred years, the human situation is the same as it has always been."

Peter Gray
Introduction to "The Sun is Silent"
by Rima Alumuddin
p. 13

Copies from the study on May Ziadeh by Ms. Rose Ghurayyib, formerly advertised in *Al-Raida*, No. 6, nov. 1978 are available at the Institute or at Three Continents Press, 1346 Connecticut Ave., N.W. Suite 1131, Washington, D.C. 20036, U.S.A.

Looking forward to the coming publication of the English bibliography on Arab Women prepared by Mrs. Samira Meghdessian and published by Mansell Publishing, 3 Bloomsbury Place, London WC1A 2Qa, England.

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