

parallel institution will serve our purpose best whenever the need arises to set up relevant relationships.

KATA'IB AL-FIDA' AL-'ARABI [PHALANGES
DE LA REDEMPTION ARABE]

Just as men bear all their lives the mark of their childhood, so parties are greatly influenced by their origins.¹ Hence it is essential to dig deep into the roots of the ANM to understand some present trends in the organization.

Although the ANM disclaims any relationship to the Kata'ib Al-Fida' Al-Arabi (henceforth Kata'ib) there is a reasonable evidence in the writings of former members of the ANM, and of political opponents to establish the relationship between the two organizations.² Indeed it is hardly possible to disavow the impact of the Kata'ib on the organizational structure and the ideology of the ANM especially during the formative years of the latter. It suffices to know that Hani al-Hindi and George Habash the

¹Maurice Duverger, Political Parties (New York: John Wiley, 1955), p. xxxii.

²It is significant to note that the documents and literature of the ANM make no mention whatsoever of the Kata'ib. However, Muhsin Ibrahim, a former member of the Political Bureau of the ANM reveals the well-kept secret in his edited work, Limatha Munathammat al-Ishtirakiyeen al-Lebnaniyeen? [What For is the Organization of the Lebanese Socialists?], (Beirut: Dar al-Tali'ah, 1970), p. 16. The Ba'th, too, believes that the kata'ib has provided the nucleus around which the ANM was organized, statement by Abdul Fatah al-Zalat, personal interview, November 5, 1968.