

Likewise the Kata'ibists were impressed by the statesmanship of Cavour and Bismarck who gave clear priority to the issue of national unification over that of constitutional reforms and thus succeeded in combatting the forces that checked the national development of Italy and Germany. Doubtless the union issue which occupied the thinking of the founding leaders of the Kata'ib was substantially nourished by Pan-Germanism and Italian unification.⁹

Some of the leaders of the Kata'ib, especially the Egyptians among them, had prior experience with Ahmed Husayn's Green Shirts.¹⁰ It was, therefore, not unnatural that these leaders would introduce the ideological doctrines and organizational structure of their former paramilitary youth organization which was modelled after the S. A. and the Fascist phalanges. Indeed in choosing their strategy and tactics, the Kata'ib leaders have copied from Ahmed Husayn's program and fundamental principles. Beside other things the Kata'ib adopted the organizational framework of the Green Shirts apparatus which was particularly useful for clandestine combat. Following the footsteps of the Green Shirts the founding leaders of the Kata'ib started to build their own armed units based on a system of vertical links and very strict discipline.

⁹Ibid.

¹⁰Al-Hindi, loc. cit.