

at a very early age, the ups and downs of the revolutionary movement. When his father was expelled from the Iraqi army following the abortive coup of 1941, Hani moved with his family to Damascus. Upon completion of his secondary school at the National College, Shwafat (Lebanon) he joined the American College at Aleppo, Syria. Though only a young man of 19, Hani distinguished himself as a serious and industrious student admired and respected by his fellow students. His friends were impressed by his former experiences in Iraq. Hani's knowledge of the Arab national movement in general and of Iraqi politics in particular was "just great", according to Dr. Nadim al-Bitar, then a fellow student at the American College.¹⁵ It is believed that Hani's "vivid reminiscence" of the Arab national movement in Iraq and the activities of the Arab officers there have induced many students who were excited by his stories to join his group of activists on campus. Jihad Dhahi, one of Hani's classmates admits that he among others was inspired by Hani's enthusiasm and devotion for the Arab cause. "We were undoubtedly indebted to Hani, whose faith, eloquence, and personal example cast a spell on us all."

It was only natural that a man of the above stature would not hesitate to interrupt his studies in order to serve his cause. Indeed Hani was the first among his group to volunteer

¹⁵ Statement by Dr. Nadim al-Bitar, personal interview, July 28, 1968.