

us here. The important thing to know is that the activities of the Kata'ib came to a halt after the abortive attempt on the life of Col. Shishakli and the organization was altogether dissolved later in 1950.

With the disintegration of the Kata'ib, George Habash was all set for the organization of mass struggle. The campus of the American University of Beirut became once again his workshop. There he was known and respected for his deeds, and there were a number of old friends whom he could trust and depend on. Indeed in a matter of a few weeks he succeeded in establishing the desired contacts to enter one of the most heated campaigns for the election of the Executive Committee of Jam'iyat al-Urwah al-Wathqa (henceforth, al-Urwah).* To the surprise of everyone, George Habash and his team of Arab Nationalists outran both the Communists and the Syrian Nationalists. From there on Habash was to be watched for his iron-bound determination to build an effective political organization.

There were several important groups operating on the campus of the American University during the period the Arab Nationalists started their activities. First of all there were the Communist students, a well-organized and disciplined group. The Arab Nationalists entertained for some time the idea of making a common front with this group. They were impressed by the leading role played by the Iraqi Communists in the 1948 national uprising which forced the resignation

*Al-Urwah al-Wuthqa [The Firm Bond] was established in the early thirties as a literary association but was later turned into a national society.