

single influence exerted by any "outsider" on the political development of the movement in its infancy stage. In Naser al-Din the Arab Nationalists saw a man of high intellectual honesty and intense moral austerity who practiced what he preached with effortless consistence and with the serenity of disinterested conviction. His preoccupation with the Arab cause in general and the Palestinian problem in particular made him their favorite politician. They listened to him earnestly and longed for his advice. In fact, this author is led to assume, on the basis of mounting evidence, that Naser al-Din acted as the "spiritual guide" to the Arab Nationalists in the early 1950's. It is believed that he incited the Arab Nationalists in those early years to support and endorse any plan for Arab unity irrespective of the forces working for such plans. Following Naser al-Din's counsel the Arab Nationalists did not object to the British sponsored "Greater Syria" and the "Fertile Crescent" plans on the assumption that should such plans materialize they would hasten the elimination of foreign influence by creating a formidable Arab state!⁴⁶ It is also believed that Naser al-Din was the original initiator of the movement's sponsored campaign to boycott

⁴⁶ See Akram Zu'ayter, "Fi Mawdou' al-Ittihad" [About the Unification Question], a series of articles published in al-Ra'i, April 26, May 17 and May 24, 1954.