

The ANM participated in the elections which were held in October 1956. Dr. George Habash and two other ANM candidates ran for the elections on a platform calling for the immediate abrogation of the Anglo-Jordanian Treaty and the elimination of all traces of foreign influence in Jordan. Their platform also called for total reform in economic and social life. In their election campaigns, they concentrated on the issue of Arab unity, which in their view was the panacea for all ills and problems confronting the small kingdom.¹²

The ANM did not fare well in the elections, as far as the results of the elections are concerned. But nevertheless, the occasion was a good opportunity to create new relations with the masses and make special effort to build up a grass root movement. This they did indeed demonstrate in the forthcoming days when unexpectedly the King dismissed the nationalist government of Sulaiman al-Nabulsi on April 10, 1957. Following the King's coup the ANM took the lead of the underground movement which stubbornly fought the King and his government for many months. To begin with, they participated in the national conference which was held in Nablus on April 22, 1957. Dr. George Habash was elected to the executive committee which included National Socialists, Ba'thists and Communists. The conference called

¹²Habash, loc. cit.