

and Iraq. Thus the ANM switched its emphasis from Jordan to Lebanon. Again the move coincided with the shift in Nasser's strategies.

Phase III (1958-1961) -- The formation of the United Arab Republic (U.A.R.) in February 1958 initiated a new phase in the development of the Arab national movement. The emergence of a unitary state after many years of separate national existence was celebrated by all pan-Arab movements including the ANM. The latter hailed the event as a second Arab awakening and thus associated itself with the emerging unitary state.

The Arab Nationalists viewed the U.A.R. as the nucleus of a wider Arab national state that would create a better life for future generations. As such, they came to be the willing tools of the U.A.R. The national leadership of the ANM which moved its headquarters to Damascus early in 1958, found itself almost in complete harmony with the policies pursued by the unitary state.

The reorganization of the political institutions and the gradual extension of state control in the Northern Region (i.e., Syria) were favorably viewed by the Arab Nationalists as "measures designed to strengthen and pull together the new state".¹⁶ Moreover, they regarded the decree of March 12, 1958 which dissolved all political

¹⁶ANM, "al taqrir al-shahri" [The Monthly Report], June 1958, p. 2.