

place, he sanctioned a recommendation made by the ANM leaders to give the Arab Nationalists a definite and precise name. Thus the Arab Nationalists who have been quite often mistaken for the followers of the Istiqlal Party in Iraq took the name of the "Arab Nationalists Movement" for the first time. This was the first concrete step that helped the emerging movement to establish itself as a political party. In the second place, al-Hindi was really the architect of al-tajamu' al-Qawmi [The National Gathering] which brought up an alliance between the unionist forces in Iraq, and precipitated a show-down with the Kassim regime. In the third place, al-Hindi sanctioned a recommendation made by the ANM leadership in Iraq calling for the infiltration of the Army. This by far was the most important step taken by the delegate of the national leadership. Henceforth, the Arab Nationalists would not refrain from recruiting members of the Armed Forces. On the contrary, they increasingly relied on their officer corps to bring about the desired change in government.<sup>20</sup>

It is interesting to note here that once the ANM won over a few army officers, the U.A.R. became more interested in its activities. Indeed, it was this added weight to the ANM, that made the organization all the more important. President Nasser himself began now to receive and discuss with the delegates of the national leadership of the ANM different aspects of the Arab national struggle.

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<sup>20</sup> Statement by Hamid al-Jibouri, personal interview, March 6, 1968.