

## Chapter 4

### THE ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE ARAB NATIONALISTS MOVEMENT

It takes three component factors to make a political party: an organizational structure of some sort; members who play certain roles in the organization; and leaders who are mainly concerned with the making of decisions in the organization. The scheme of this chapter is to investigate each of the component parts which make up the Arab Nationalists Movement. This will give a precise view of the workings of the organization under investigation.

#### THE ORGANIZATION

According to the ANM statutes, "flexible centralism" is the guiding principle underlying the Movement's organization and its inner life.<sup>1</sup> The founders of the ANM believed that it was necessary for a movement which is destined to remold Arab society through revolutionary means to create a political organization of a new type, a movement ready to adopt itself to the most diverse and rapidly changing conditions of struggle. Hamad al-Farhan, an acknowledged leader of the ANM's branch

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<sup>1</sup>The Administration Committee, "al-Nizam al-Dakhili" [The Internal Rules], p. 2.