

a higher organ. This system has best served the Movement in its first years and would have continued to do so if the Movement had a comprehensive theory which could answer the fundamental questions that plagued the Movement in later years.

MEMBERSHIP

The Arab Nationalists Movement corresponds, more or less, to what Duverger calls devotee parties.²² It is more open than cadre parties which are restricted to a few notables or influential persons and more closed than mass parties which seeks to recruit an increasing number of people. The ANM, though aspires to be a mass party in the long run, is nevertheless very selective in its membership. The founding leaders envisaged the organization as a vanguard contingent of the Arab national movement. They demanded that members of the movement should be dedicated to the cause of the Arab revolution. To join the Arab Nationalists in those early years, a member had to carry on the day-to-day activity of the Movement. A member had no personal life apart from that of the Movement.²³

²²Duverger, op. cit., p. 70.

²³Statement by Hani al-Hindi, personal interview, June 22, 1970.