

were organized in the same organizational structure of the Movement in Lebanon, but for strategic reasons (discussed elsewhere in this dissertation) the Palestinian members of the Movement were given their own organization set-up. However, the Palestinians remained to be very active in Lebanese politics.³⁰

In Syria, where the ANM had the Ba'th as a strong competitor on the campus of the Syrian University and other education institutions, it could make only little progress among students before 1961. Nevertheless, it embarked on a major offensive in the favorable political climate that was created after the dissolution of the union with Egypt in 1961. With a nucleus of hard-core cadre reserved from the days that preceded the establishment of the United Arab Republic, the Movement achieved no less spectacular results than its sister branch in Iraq. In a matter of two years engaged in fighting the separatist regime that seceded from the United Arab Republic, the ANM assumed a leading role in rallying the masses under the banner of Nasserism. When the Armed Forces overthrew the separatists in 1963, the ANM was rewarded with two cabinet posts in the revolutionary regime. In the ensuing days the Movement could manifest its strength especially in Damascus and Aleppo, where its militants took the streets in an effort to increase the pressure on the Ba'thists who were wavering on the question of reestablishing the union

³⁰ Statement by Wadi' Haddad, personal interview, June 21, 1970.