

# Hussein Mroweh

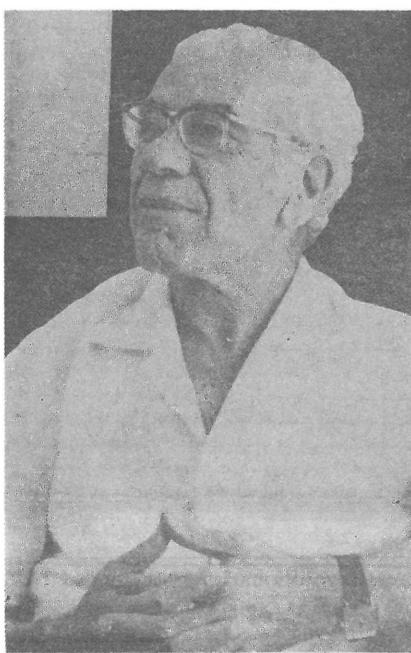
## Communist Philosopher Assassinated

On February 17th, as battles raged between the Lebanese progressive forces and the reactionary Amal movement, thugs entered the West Beirut apartment of Comrade Hussein Mroweh. Their weapons equipped with silencers, these criminals murdered the 77 year old communist philosopher in cold blood, in front of his wife and sons. The Lebanese Communist Party held Amal responsible for this assassination which follows other killings of communists and patriots.

With the assassination of Hussein Mroweh, a severe blow was dealt to Arab culture, thought and knowledge. A brief look at the life and works of Comrade Mroweh gives ample testimony to this.

Hussein Mroweh was born in 1910, in the town of Hadatha in the Bint Jbail district of South Lebanon, now part of the occupied border zone. His father was a prominent Shiite sheikh. In 1924, Hussein went to Al Najaf in Iraq, to study Islamic philosophy; he graduated in 1938. From the days of his youth, he wrote literary and philosophical articles for several magazines and newspapers. While in Iraq, he participated in the 1948 mass uprising against British colonialism and the monarchy. After the restoration of the treacherous government of Nouri Al Said, he was deported to Lebanon. Here he participated in establishing several progressive magazines and newspapers.

In the fifties, Hussein's nationalist sentiments developed further and he adopted communist thought. He joined the Lebanese Communist Party in 1956. Later, in 1964, he was elected a member of the party's central committee, a position he retained until his martyrdom. He wrote regularly for the party's theoretical journal, *Al Tariq (The Path)*, and became its chief manager, a position he held until his death. Hussein Mroweh was also one of the founders of the Lebanese Writers' Union and the Arab Writers' Union. He was a member of the Afro-Asian Writers' Union and the Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee. He was active in the World Peace Council, and one of the founders of the Lebanese-Soviet



Friendship Society. Through his writings, he played an active, militant role during the siege of Beirut.

### MAJOR WORKS

The literary, philosophical and analytical writings of Comrade Hussein Mroweh have made important contributions to Arab thinking. Among his writings are: *With the Caravan*, 1958, about literature and life; *The Iraqi Revolution*, 1958, a study; and *Literary Issues*, 1956, studies which contributed to the establishment of a new trend in Arab literary critique. Comrade Mroweh used the Marxist thinking he adopted in his works, such as *Critique Studies in the Light of the Objective Method*, 1965, and his contribution to *Studies of Islam*, 1979.

In 1948, he published *New Titles For*

*Old Issues*, a research in Arab and Islamic heritage, and in 1985, *Our Heritage and How To Know It*. His great work, *Material Trends in Arab and Islamic Philosophy*, two volumes of 2,000 pages, was published in 1978. This was a breakthrough in the field of modern research, that provided scientific understanding of the Arab and Islamic philosophical heritage in relation to the development of the society.

Comrade Hussein Mroweh was awarded numerous prizes for his works. Among these was the Friends of the Book Society prize in 1965 for his *Critique Study*, and the Lotus prize of the Afro-Asian Writers' Union in 1980. He was then elected as a member of the international committee that awards the latter prize. He was awarded a medal of literature and art by the Presidium of the People's Council of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen. In 1985, the Union of Arab Writers awarded him the Beirut prize for his intellectual role in the siege of Beirut. Upon his receiving the Beirut prize, the nationalist Education Minister of Lebanon, Dr. Selim Hoss, awarded Hussein Mroweh the Golden Medal of Knowledge of the first order.

### HUSSEIN MROWEH'S IDEAS LIVE ON

The Lebanese Communist Party has announced that it holds the Amal movement responsible for the assassination of Hussein Mroweh. In their heinous crime, the Amal gangsters made a serious miscalculation. While they succeeded in murdering one of the most distinguished figures of progressive Arab thought and a prominent Lebanese patriot, their bullets will not succeed in silencing Hussein Mroweh's ideas and principles. These will live on and be spread even more widely by all those who have read his books and witnessed his life of progressive struggle. As a martyr, as in life, Hussein Mroweh stands as an example of the growing progressive tradition in the Arab national liberation movement. His assassination serves to further accentuate the need for all progressive and nationalist forces to unite in opposing the reactionary project Amal is trying to impose in Lebanon.