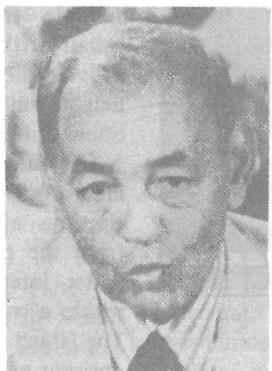




Ben Jeddid of Algeria



Hassan II of Morocco



Fahd of Saudi Arabia

Lebanon in accordance with UN resolutions. The statement also denounced any attempts to divide Lebanon which in essence contradicts Aoun's slogan of «liberation war,» and confirmed the legitimacy of the parliament and the need for reform before elections.

It was clear on the eve of the summit that Jordan's position was for sending

joint Arab forces to Lebanon, whereas Egypt called for «the withdrawal of all foreign troops». In a heated closed session, Iraq and Syria aired out their historical differences. Iraq, which has been supporting Aoun in Lebanon tried to resolve these differences to its interest in the summit, but failed. Actually the summit resolutions could be viewed as a victory for the Syrian and

The Arab Summit in session.



Lebanese nationalist forces viewpoint. This viewpoint asserts that the essence of the Lebanese crisis is in the sectarian political system and thus reform is a true necessity. Furthermore, the external factors of the crisis is embodied mainly in the Israeli occupation of parts of Lebanon.

Clearly, these resolutions were positive ones, however, very difficult to implement. The Arab summit does not have control over any of the parties involved, surely not Israel. Both Israel and the US have taken steps that indicate that they by no means welcome the summit's resolutions which ignore their interests. (See Lebanon article).

Once again, the summit resolutions in regards to the Lebanese crisis were generally positive, but what is more important is the ability to implement them. The previous painful experiences do not call for optimism. Solving Lebanon's dilemma is not possible without a comprehensive solution in the Middle East.

THE IRAQ-IRAN DISPUTE

The summit discussed the development of the Iraq-Iran conflict since the previous summit (Algeria, 1988). The summit expressed relief over the ceasefire and the beginning of negotiations in order to reach a final comprehensive solution to the conflict based on UN resolution number 598. The resolutions reiterated support to Iraq's sovereignty over its lands and waters and non-interference in its internal affairs. They also addressed the security of the gulf and freedom of navigation for all ships through the Hormuz Strait. The summit called upon both parties to immediately free all prisoners of war.

This Arab summit is considered another step of the current Arab regimes towards first, more subordination to capitalism in order to assume a better position in the capitalist market. Second, the summit was an indication that the Arab regimes accept the process of normalization with Israel as expressed through their acceptance of the return of Egypt. Strategically, this step is not in the interest of the Arab masses but tactically, the contradictions that still exist between Israel and the Arab regimes should be capitalized upon.