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Syria, The Green Isle of Freedom
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Chapter XV: The Unity of the Colonialists and their Servants

Caustic Defeat for the United States

The franticness of the Americans was escalating by the day because of the steadfastness of our National Front and the growing public support for it, besides its capability, for example, to firmly repel the colonialists in the Arab world and worldwide. Therefore, they brought their "task force" dedicated to overthrow the patriotic governments which oppose their aggressive colonial policy, the task force, which was led by the famous Kermit Roosevelt who worked on overthrowing Mossadegh's government in Iran and on the restoration of the rule of the Shah thereafter. They wanted to terminate the Syrian national governance and to destroy its leading school and scatter its ashes to the wind if possible. The task force and the likes in every corner of the world along with mercenaries of own homeland traitors, opportunists and reactionaries dissatisfied with progress, all forms the clutches of every system by which the U.S. maintains its relations with the world and shapes its first line of contact with the others. The second line of contact consists of the alliances of partners, followers and puppet reactionary governments, as well as the fleets and the aggressive military bases around the world. After that comes the third line that is made up of the reserve forces of different forms, military and non-military, stationed at the colonialists' homelands in America and Europe. The sabotage and destruction task force chose the former dictator Adib al-Shishakli and his assistant Ibrahim al-Husseini, who was then the military attaché at the Syrian embassy in Rome, to make a coup in Damascus along the lines of the Iranian General Zahedi's coup, who was also a military attaché at one of the embassies of Iran, then was brought by the Americans secretly to Tehran, where he hid in their embassy to come out on time and meet his criminal aides and carry out the coup that overthrew the Mossadegh's government. The U.S. embassies are the dens, from which the murderers, terrorists and other corrupters usually come out from. The murderers of the late martyr, Khalil al-Wazir came out of the U.S. embassy in Tunisia, for example, then afterward, they wiped out such filth on the Mossad and the likes. So they chose Shishakli and Husseini to try to recruit some mercenaries to replay the Zahedi's play on Damascus stage.

Shishakli contacted a lawyer friend of his, who was filling an important position in the Ministry of Interior in his days, and asked him to contact some army officers, who were of his supporters in the past, to work with him to overthrow the national governance. From their side, the Americans contacted Omar al-Qabbani and his clique of military officers for the same purpose. We kept abreast of the latest news by those who were linked to them, both military and civilians, in this case. Thus, we knew early that two leading figures would arrive secretly to Damascus and that one of them is the Military Attaché in Rome, Ibrahim al-

Husseini, to lead the execution of the plot being hatched. I guessed that the other person must be Shishakli. In fact, Husseini was able to arrive in Damascus easily because he was then still in service and was not wanted at all, while the other was convicted in absentia in the case of the great conspiracy foregoing in the context of this study¹, and he could not, therefore, sneak easily to Damascus. I have been informed recently by a retired Lebanese military officer, who had an important position in a political movement wing, which supported the U.S. policy in those days, that he received Shishakli and Husseini at Beirut airport when they arrived on an American plane and helped them pass the Syrian border. The Counselor at our Embassy in Rome, Dr. As'aad Homad, also confirmed to me the absence of the Military Attaché, Ibrahim al-Husseini, at that date. On the eleventh of August we were informed by those who were contacted by either the Military Attaché, Robert Molloy, the Deputy U.S. Consul, Francis Jeton, or the Second Secretary at the U.S. Embassy, Howard Stone, (who was an assistant to Kermit Roosevelt in the overthrow of the prime minister Mossadegh of Iran operation, and he apparently, was the head of Damascus operation, which was dubbed "Stone plot" later) that their meeting with the aforementioned two personalities would be on that night, the eleventh to twelfth of August night, and that the coup might be at the dawn of the next day. Then I issued an alert order to the army divisions around Damascus, as well as instructed Sarraj² to surround the houses of all the Americans officials residing in Damascus urban area by his men, and I stayed in the office throughout that day and night receiving the reports of Sarraj and the leaders of the divisions on the developments in the situation. In these army divisions nothing unusual was going on. With regard to the enemy movement in the buildings of the U.S. embassy and the homes of its employees, Stone and his gang were procrastinating the men who thought that they were working with them and postponing the time of the meeting with the two mentioned persons, Shishakli and Husseini, then they cut off the contact abruptly at around midnight with our mentioned personnel. I judged then that those Americans have felt then that their plot was exposed to us from the beginning, so they started from their side, procrastinating our men, whom they were deceived by at the beginning as they thought they were working for them, and postponed their meeting with Shishakli and Husseini hour after hour to gain time and return those two characters to Lebanon and then to Rome aboard a U.S. plane that brought them from there to Lebanon at the start of the execution of this failed aggressive attempt. As a result, a caustic overwhelming defeat hit this enemy of humanity, that builds its relations with other nations on conspiracy, aggression and harm with insolence, history has never ever seen like, when it claims unfairly and in disgusting persistence that its behaviour is the behaviour of the free, while the self defence of its victims is out of extremism, barbarism and violation of freedom.

On the morning of the following day, August 12, 1957, the Defence Minister with his entourage among which was Chief of General Staff, Major General Tawfiq Nizamuddin and

1 Refers to the British-Iraqi-Jordanian plot in conjunction with the Syrian People's Party

2 Head of the Syrian Military Intelligence

Colonel Amin al-Nufouri returned from Moscow, where talks were held between our delegation and the Soviet side regarding economic and military assistance provided to us. I presented everything that happened the night before and earlier in the attempt to overthrow the national governance; to the Parliament Speaker Akram Hourani, Prime Minister Sabri al-Asali, Defense Minister Khaled al-Azem and Foreign Minister Salah al-Din al-Bitar in their capacity as members of the leadership of the National Front. I requested the expulsion of the above-mentioned three Americans from Syria as diplomats non grata. The official communiqué issued by the Syrian Foreign Ministry on the same day by this command and the U.S. ambassador was summoned to the Foreign Ministry and informed the Syrian protest and requested the removal of those co-conspirators in his embassy and deporting them back to their country. Then presented a draft decree disbanding Omar Qabbani clique of the army and their number did not exceed eight officers and not tens or hundreds officers as claimed by the colonialists and their servants when they wrote about it. We then referred the members of this clique of conspirators to judiciary because of the lack of sufficient evidence against them. However, our suspicions was shown true later, when the news of their contacts with the enemy and their plotting stated in the memoirs of the CIA men from the likes of Crane³, referred to above, in his treatise "Ropes of Sand". But Maj. Gen. Nizamuddin, who was not convinced at the time of the necessity of getting rid of them and their intrigues among the operating army units, introduced his resignation so as not to sign the demobilization decree referred to. I urgently appealed to him to withdraw his resignation and to remain in the leadership of the army, because we considered him as an ideal of honest, patriotic officer, who has high qualities and generous morals, but he insisted on withdrawal of military service. I was appointed as his successor in the presidency of the General Staff and the General Command of the Armed Forces, which included military, police and internal and external security and the Popular Resistance forces.

The New York Times wrote about me on the seventh of August 1957 and described me as a communist and publicly pro-Soviet officer and that my new position meant a communist takeover of the Supreme Syrian leadership. These words were followed, in this newspaper on the twenty-second of the month, by an article-editorial stated: "It is a legitimate diplomacy for the United States to encourage all anticommunist states in the Middle East to use everything in their power of pressure and influence to rein in Syria". These words of the New York Times were just the tip of the iceberg of the colonialists' dramatization and what they said in their press and mass media in those days. On the twenty-fourth of the month the U.S. Secretary of State, Dulles, sent one of his top aides, Loy Henderson, to Turkey. This person was also a member of the U.S. team that led the overthrow of Mossadegh. He had in this operation the role of a political leader, who coordinated the various relationships between the various co-conspirators and managed at the end of this operation to transfer the sovereignty on the Iranian oil from the English colonialists to the American monopolists, after undermining the

3 Wilbur Crane Eveland

national rule that nationalized the Iranian oil. In Ankara, this American held the first meeting with the Prime Minister of Turkey, Menderes, with the participation of both, the king of Jordan and the king of Iraq. After that he went to Lebanon and met with President Camille Chamoun. He returned later to Ankara, where he met Menderes in the presence of the guardian of the throne of Iraq and the Iraqi Chief of Staff Wafiq Aref. After returning to Washington and submitting his report to the Secretary of State, Dulles, The US Department of State issued, on the fifth of September, a statement provides that: The situation in Syria is serious and that the U.S. government expresses deep concern to the fate of Syria and that this state might become a victim of communism and a threat to its Arab neighbours. On the same day, the U.S. government issued a warning to the Syrian government not to exceed its borders and carry out aggression against its neighbours. At the same time, a declaration about sending arms supplies to Iraq, Jordan and Lebanon was issued by the U.S. Government. Obviously, all this American hysteria and rabies against Syria were only the aftermath of the failure of the aforementioned U.S. conspiracy and not due to any change in the national governance in our combating country. The national school, which was leading the fight against the colonialists, remained as ever in the same line of struggle, since the collapse of the dictatorship and the collapse of the colonialists' plots one after the other. If there was a change, this was in the colonialists' camp as the Americans replaced the British. Claiming that change happened to the leadership of the armed forces by my arrival, this was a false argument. I was practically leading the school of military resistance and struggle against colonialism and its puppets since this school was established, and the Americans knew this very well.

Patrick Seale, who frequently visited Egypt's Ambassador, Mahmoud Riad, and Sarraj's circles in those days long time before writing "The Struggle for Syria"; benefited from being grown up in Damascus and its schools in the house of his father, the Protestant evangelist reverend, in serving the British intelligence and the western colonialists in general. He overturned in his above-mentioned book the arrangement and the sequence of events, the way Hassanein Heikal does, each time he became unable to distort these events and to put them in the shade for their clarity and publicity, so as to serve his purpose in putting the readers in the atmosphere he wanted not in the context of the facts that have really occurred. In section 21 of his mentioned book "The Struggle for Syria" in the chapter titled "King Saud's mediation"; Patrick Seale introduced events in a way as if there was a conflict between Nasser and Saud where Syria in this conflict moved out of Abdel Nasser's "pocket" to fall into King Saud's "lap", Abdel Nasser then recovered it back to his "pocket"! While the simple fact that was missed from or concealed by Patrick Seale in his book is that Syria was present and leading its role at that time and its people were determined on the resistance until martyrdom. In a speech I gave to the Popular Resistance men and women who were preparing the ground for the resistance in Damascus Ghouta⁴, I said that we will not let them pass and we will fight from street to street, house to house and room to room and will never give up. The

4 A green agricultural belt and grove gardens surrounding the city of Damascus

Popular Resistance spread all over the country and reached every corner, it had enough weapons, means of street fighting and an excellent training. In every city there were tens of Resistance Brigades, as well as in the villages and farms, in the mountains and ravines... In one of those days, an Austrian journalist came to me with a verbal message from the Turkish Prime Minister Menderes accusing me of being a dictator and using the army to impose my will on the Syrian people and their civil government. I said to this reporter: I will not reply to this allegation unless you, by your own, make a tour in the country to observe closely our situation. I recommend you to see the masses of our armed people in particular, and we are ready to put a car at your disposal with a guide implements your instructions strictly, except in what affects our security. He thanked me warmly and responded to my request immediately. When he returned, after his tour, he thanked me again and showed me the photos of the grassroots resisters in different parts of the country. I asked him whether he would stop in Ankara on his way back to his country; he said he was ready to do so if necessary. I said to him: I want you to tell Menderes my answer to his oral message to me, say to him: Arm the Turkish masses of people as we do and let's see how many days you can stay in power. That good journalist was enthusiastic about the idea and promised to carry it out. He made this message to Menderes a banner headline for the story of his trip to Syria in an issue of his newspaper he graciously sent a copy of it to me.

We expected, since the American frenzy started escalating in the impact of the failure of their plot against our country, that the U.S. government will not authorize Israel to enter into "the game" so as not to expose the true relationship between them, allowing people to clearly see that the Zionists were nothing but servants to the neo-colonialists and that the "Jewish state" was nothing but a base for the neo-colonialists' global slavery system in our region. Exposing the role of Israel would have embarrassed America's puppets of the Arab rulers who showed hostility to Israel at the same time when they succumbed shamelessly to their neo-colonial masters. This would have led to the destabilization of their chairs and thrones at the time, when the masses were inflamed with enthusiasm from the raging ocean to the revolting Gulf, shouting: O freedom! We will fight for you. As for our Arab neighbours, in particular the Government of Iraq that we had close contact with its civilian and military masses especially with the leader of the fourteenth of July, Abdul Karim Kassem, could have never then stood openly alongside the defeated America in its shameful plot against a brother country in front of their own people whether civilian or military masses. Only Menderes and his government, where there was enough impudence (that later brought them to prisons and gallows) remained to speak out their alliance with these neo-colonialists under the pretext of defence and communism resistance. But this choice might have sparked a global nuclear war. Indeed, the Bulgarian army was mobilized on the western border of Turkey, as the Soviet troops were mobilized on the north-eastern border of Turkey in the Caucasus, while the Soviet government warned Turkey against interference in Syrian affairs when the army of the latter was mobilized on our border. On the fourth of October, the Soviet Union launched the first satellite sent by man into the outer space, which froze the blood in the veins of those

aggressors and their servants in the world. The American colonialists fell in the fire of evils they set when they didn't entrust their servants of Arabs or Zionists to confront us instead while they worked from behind scenes as they used to do later. In the meantime, the Zionists tried our patience and they occupied a site in the demilitarized zone. I summoned the commander of the international emergency forces and gave him an ultimatum to convey to the Zionists, said: I will order to open fire along the front in the case of non-withdrawal from the mentioned site within five hours. They withdrew before the end of the ultimatum, which was a proof of the validity of our, above-mentioned, expectation.

To strengthen our position, and to raise the level of public vigilance in the Arab world, I saw that it would be useful to move the Egyptian army to Sinai to monitor the borders of the Zionist state. I travelled to Cairo accompanied by some aides. There we met once we arrived to Alahera Palace, where we stayed, with Field Marshal Amer, the general commander of the Egyptian-Syrian Joint Command. I explained our understanding of the general status quo and ultimately requested that the Egyptian army that was withdrawn from Sinai according to the settlement imposed by the Americans in the wake of the tripartite aggression against Egypt should returned back to Sinai. Field Marshal replied that it was difficult and required long preparations. I expressed my surprise at this answer and I felt that the Egyptian brothers were not ready to abandon that settlement and return their forces to Sinai and Gaza Strip so as not to escalate the crisis to the point of confrontation with America. My opinion however, which has been confirmed in my mind since, was that we Arabs should have faced this fierce state and uprooted it along with Israel from our region in a comprehensive Arab revolution before its neo-colonialism took root in the old world starting from our Arabic region. As for threatening to provoke a nuclear war in order to reach its wicked goals, the U.S. was, and still is in fear more than the rest of the world of such war. Achieving an effective confrontation with the U.S. by the Arab masses, civil and military was needed then; and still is, as the Koreans, the Chinese and the Vietnamese wonderfully did, where it was impossible to use nuclear weapons. Thus, the initial meeting with Field Marshal Amer was suspended to be resumed that evening with the presence of President Abdel Nasser. I repeated in this meeting, my evaluation of the situation. Amer repeated also what he said before about the difficulty of the issue in respect to Egypt's material preparations and added: The first of these difficulties is the absence of the Egyptian army supply bases in Sinai and Gaza, due to the sabotage these bases subjected to by the Zionists when they occupied the territory of the two regions in the war of 1956. I was stunned by the naivety of this Marshal, who led the armies of Syria and Egypt and I said to him: Supply bases don't precede armies when advancing in enemy territories, but follow them. Sinai and Gaza are Egyptian territories from which the enemy has withdrawn after failing in the tripartite aggression and the rule of Egypt has restored in them therefore there is no obstacle that could ever prevent the return of the Egyptian army there. I asked; suppose that we are carrying out a military manoeuvre to test our ability of redeployment in those areas and to rebuild bases of all kinds there, what would prevent us from doing so on a land where our sovereignty is recognized? At that point,

President Abdel Nasser interfered. He seemed to be annoyed by the naivety of his Field Marshal and said to him: "Early tomorrow morning, you will send the army to Sinai and Gaza!". However, I wasn't satisfied with that order given by Abdel Nasser to the Field Marshal thus I put forward a proposal that occupied my mind for long and I always hoped to be given the opportunity to fulfil. It was as follows: "In our geographical location and means available in the present days, we can exchange military assistance between two Arab countries or more without the need to move large armies from one country to another to extend a helping hand. Cadres and technicians instead, can be transferred instantly, for example by aviation from Egypt to Syria and vice versa, once we prepared weapons, equipments, soldiers, secondary cadres and technicians and all that is necessary at the front intended to be helped and rescued. It is possible, for example, to transfer three hundred or four hundred officers and gun technicians aboard three aircrafts from Egypt to Syria within hours to form an artillery division that has more than hundred heavy guns, once we stack in Syria all the needed weapons of this division and its equipment and prepare locally non-professional soldiers and secondary technicians, instead of moving the division with all its weights of at least five thousand troops. This would need a fleet of ships and several days to be accomplished under the gaze of the enemy, who will not stand idly watching this long and complex operation.

To complete this manoeuvre each of the parties that share assistance does the following matters:

- Providing semi-skilled cadres, technicians and others who are usually available in abundance.
- Stockpiling and storage of weapons, ammunition, equipments and all heavy means necessary in areas where a combat unit is being formed.
- Stockpiling of clothing, rations and subsistence items and other.
- Many military exercises must be performed in time of peace by those who would be deployed from one country to another in order to know their positions and the units they will lead and work with when their assistant is required to repel the enemy aggression. As Syria is the party subjected to threat then it is Egypt that should take initiative, by this way, to complete deficiencies of Staff and units of the Syrian army and help in the formation of new units, which their arms and the rest of their equipments are already available in our warehouses"; the end of my suggestion.

President Abdel Nasser immediately agreed to this proposal. He found it an excellent way out for his government status in the Arab world and internationally and he asked me to give an estimate of our needs. I prepared with my assistants a list of cadres and technicians needed to compensate our deficiencies and the number of these individuals were seven hundred and fifty officers and technicians. It was agreed to move this number by airplanes within few days, so to completely surprise the enemies by lifting our military capacity by about twenty percent. Then I returned to Damascus waiting for the implementation of this

agreement. On the twelfth of October, the Egyptian military attaché, Abdul Mohsen Abu Noor informed me that an Egyptian Navy cruiser about to dock in the port of Latakia carrying the Egyptian officers and technicians who we agreed to receive successively by airplanes in Damascus! I went quickly to Latakia to receive the Egyptian troops. On the thirteenth of the month, the cruiser entered the harbour. I ascended it accompanied by the Governor of Latakia Mr. Othman Al-Hourani and it was a very moving meeting with the brothers coming to the rescue. This is the story of the arrival of the Egyptian troops to Latakia harbour, which was distorted to keep in the shade the efforts of tens of millions of Arab masses for the benefit of foolish individual idols⁵, helpless on all cases.

The United States was behind the motives of King Saud mediation because its politicians felt that they had committed a fatal mistake when played the main role and presided over the campaign against the Syrian Arab Republic rather than remaining behind the scene, as they do now, demonstrating the neutrality of "Janabizah"⁶ who punch the heads of the "Arab sellers" by their fists to force them to cede to the Zionists and sell them cheaply the last of what left of their chivalry and honour. On the twenty fifth of September 1957, King Saud visited Damascus and was followed the next day by the Prime Minister of Iraq Ali Jawdat Ayoubi. It was announced by the king of Saudi Arabia and the Prime Minister of Iraq at a banquet held in their honour at the parliament hall; that they stood with the Arab Syria and its national government against any attack from any party whatsoever. They said that Syria did not threaten any Arab country or Turkey. Similar words had been said prior to this by the Crown Prince Faisal Saud, who was a permanent resident in Cairo, and Saudi Arabia's Foreign Ministry Undersecretary Ahmed Shuqairi, who was in Cairo too on that time. All of these were to facilitate a Saudi attempt to convince us to withdraw our complaints to the Security Council against America's threats and against the Turkish military build-up at our border. This US-Saudi attempt also failed and the Security Council continued then to consider the Syrian complaints. This was an occasion when the U.S. approaches were revealed to the world. Seemingly, an out of character approaches when the U.S. pretended to advocate freedom then. Nowadays, these appear to be the norm when the aggression and the danger of the new shape of neo-colonialism are exposed to the world very clearly. In short, this was the story of the Egyptian army descent at Latakia harbour and the story of King Saud's mediation. The two stories, which were altered and distorted to hide the role of the Arab masses and to present Syria as the "sick man" who was disputed over by the various parties; "battling over him" to contain him, at a time when this "Patient" was inflicting caustic defeats on the colonialists and their lackeys.

5 Idolatry or paganism and some of the phrases associated with them, such as idols and priests, in the writings of Afif Bizri, do not carry an exclusive religious meaning, but are used metaphorically and refer generally to every human thought, doctrine or ideology, which has been progressive in origin and dedicated to the benefit of man, then has frozen and turned into retroactive thought works to serve beneficiary minorities in contrast with the interests of the majority of people.

6 The "Janabizah" were hooligans from the Ottoman era who used to conduct their activities in the bazaars. Some of the owners of influence and power in the society at that time paid them to terrorize the sellers, so they could buy their goods at cheap prices.