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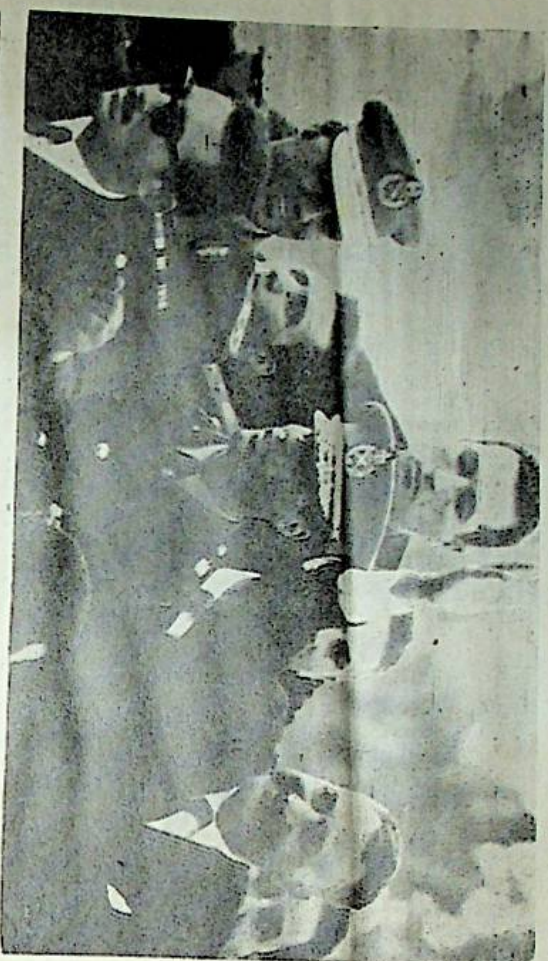


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Joint front plans result from Christmas mini-summit

THE three State leaders of Libya, Sudan and Egypt—Col. Muammar Gaddafi, President Nurei and President Nasser—who have had firming receptions in Tripoli and Benghazi during the last few months to form a joint Arab front to meet the challenge of the "Sevenites".

Following three rounds of talks in Tripoli, the plans for the future were announced in a joint communiqué. They were exactly as forecast by the Libyan Mail one month ago.

The periodic meetings will be held to follow up the realisation of objectives unifying their peoples, the declared principles of their revolutions and the aspirations of the Arab nation for freedom, socialism and unity.

Joint committees will also be set up in all fields to lay down the principles for a co-operation scheme involving all three countries.

Arafat flies in for brief call

CHAIRMAN of the Palestine Liberation Organisation Yasser Arafat paid a brief visit to the Libyan Arab Republic this week to thank the people of the Republic for their support for the Palestinian Revolution.

In an interview with the Libyan News Agency he said: "The Libyan people had a long struggle with colonialism and gave the liberation of millions of their brothers of their country. They understand the real duty of revolutionaries towards revolutionaries."

The P.L.O. leader said he was confident the Libyan revolutionaries Government and people accept responsibility without having to be asked.

Regarding the gains of the Palestinian Revolution at the Rabat summit conference, the chairman said that the matter would be regretful.

But if the piracy action was not made in collusion with French authorities, then we expect French measures to be adopted," he added.

A young horse rider was swept from his mount and injured when he rode under some wires this week. He was Ahmad Muribet, nephew of Mail publisher Mohammed Muribet, and he was riding at Ain Zara.

He was named escaped with a broken collarbone. "I must have been collared," said Ahmad. "I handed out the saddle and I'll leave riding to the cowboys."

BACC call off \$156m arms deal

THE British Aircraft Corporation have cancelled the £156 million contract to supply Libya with a missile defence system. BACC are claiming the £1.35 million already spent by Libya. And now an arms deal with France looks more a possibility.

An announcement in London on Monday came after six weeks of talks to cancel the deal. And it came ten days after France announced a £166 million deal to supply the Government with 50 Mirage fighters and 200 heavy tanks. The French deal has so far been denied in Libya.

According to the British Aircraft Corporation, the company had no option but to cancel the deal as it can instalment payment had not been made by the Libyan Government.

Colonel Muammar Gaddafi, chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council, commented on Thursday that the deal had been a failure from the early beginning.

Talking to a students' rally at the Libyan University in Tripoli, he said the ministry in London the deal were an old model. They were to be delivered within five years and hundreds of British military experts would have been employed by the Libyan Government, at high salaries, for the next few weeks. The money paid by the Libyan Government so far had been used to pay British Aircraft Corporation contractors' electric operations and maintenance workers who supply parts for the missiles.

In their statement, BACC said that the money due from the Libyan Government would have been paid to the contractors.

Parliament has no place in the new Republic, said Col. Muammar Gaddafi, Chairman of the RCC, told students of the Faculty of Engineering at the Libyan University on Thursday.

Gaddafi queries French on gunboats seizure

THE French Ambassador was summoned this week by Colonel Muammar Gaddafi, Chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council, who enquired about the five gunboats seized by Israel from a French port.

The Ambassador was asked to present a clarification from his Government, as this event was a source of anxiety to Arab public opinion. It was feared that it would affect existing relations between France and the Arabs.

The Ambassador promised to contact his Government immediately on the subject, and to supply the necessary information about measures taken so far in this respect.

Noting the fact that several local newspapers, quoting unidentified sources, have alleged that US intelligence agents were involved in the departure of the boats, the American Embassy in Tripoli today issued a categorical denial of the accusation. The statement, issued on Thursday, read:

A spokesman for the Embassy announced that he had been instructed by the Department of State in Washington to state categorically that the United States was not involved in any way with the Israeli-French gunboat incident.

Hundreds of people have been queuing up at Malta's main air port this week trying to get back to Libya after the Christmas holidays.

Malta Airlines report full bookings until January 6, but people have been waiting at the airport in the hope of landing a cancelled passenger that has not helped to phase the public is the slight of 19 empty seats on every Viscount can seat 60, they are only allowed to take 30 passengers under the existing agreement.

Empty seats upset would-be fliers

Parliament has no place in the new Republic, said Col. Muammar Gaddafi, Chairman of the RCC, told students of the Faculty of Engineering at the Libyan University on Thursday.

This was one point which emerged during his visit to them. Another concern of the Press, the chairman said, was subject to the people's interests and the principles of the Revolution. But present censorship was not as rigid as it appeared, he said.

Col. Arab unity, Col. Gaddafi said it was a necessary. The Libyan situation demanded it, he said, but added that nothing was going to be pushed quickly.

Development project would have to undergo careful study and planning. Concerning the closing down of an Arabic-language newspaper, Col. Gaddafi said the paper had carried an article considered to be an attack on an Arab country and which did not serve Arab interests.

While Armstrong and Aldrin were making their first historical steps on the moon, hundreds died in Vietnam. While one life was prolonged with miracle surgery, children have starved to death in Biafra.

And so it goes on. And on. And on. Into the Seventies? The more Man progresses, the more he regresses.

In Libya, the "Sixties" have ended with the advent of the Revolution which has led to the downfall of the monarchy and the birth of the Republic. This country has seen a new epoch in its history.

Iraqi Information Minister Abdallah Sanerati is to visit Libya. Currently in Khartoum on a Middle Eastern tour, the Minister is discussing the results of the Rabat summit.

Middle East tour

Technology in the 'Sixties' gave us rockets from the moon's surface. The decade has shown us the laser and its potential in a diversity of fields. We have seen heart transplant surgery and been persuaded to take the Pill.

The supersonic Concorde has captured our imaginations and James Bond, the hearts of women everywhere. There has been Beaulieu, and the birth of the hippies and yuppies. The younger generation has come to the fore, sitting in, demonstrating, tangling with Authority in most major capitals throughout the Western World. And getting high on anything and everything.

Charles de Gaulle has stepped down, the two Kennedys have been shot down. Sir Winston Churchill has been buried. There has been achievement and hope. Civilisation has progressed. But with achievement and hope, there have been tears and agony. Civilisation has stood still.

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Horseman hits wires

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"Spectacular" reception for Arab leaders' visit
TRIPOLI WELCOME BOOSTS ARAB MORALE SAYS NASSER

RESIDENT Gamal Abdel Nasser despatched a cable of thanks this week to Colonel Muammer Gaddafi, Chairman of the RCC, on his departure from Libya. "The memories of my meeting with you, your companions and with the Libyan people will remain in my mind and feelings as an incentive for hope whatever the circumstances and as an incentive for work whatever the difficulties," he said.

"I believe that your feelings were not light. They represented the will and the determination of the Arab nation for going all the way on the path of struggle till the end," the President's cable said.

The week's weather

Temperatures were above the seasonal average this week, and Tripoli and Benghazi bathed in warm sunshine. But the fine weather is expected to end tonight, when there is the possibility of showers.

TRIPOLI	
Sunday	max 68 min 46
Monday	61 45
Tuesday	63 47
Wednesday	63 47
Thursday	63 46
Friday	67 52
Saturday	67 52
BENGHAZI	
Sunday	66 47
Monday	62 48
Tuesday	65 54
Wednesday	63 45
Thursday	67 48
Friday	70 48
Saturday	72 50

Tripoli

businessman dies in New Year crash

HADI HAMOUDA, one of Tripoli's leading businessmen, died in the early hours of New Year's Day when his custom-built Citroen car was in collision with an oil tanker in Sharra Enasser.

Mr. Hamouda was the agent for French Citroen cars in Libya. He was involved in the construction industry, and was responsible for the building of many houses in the Fezzan. His buses linked Tripoli with Sebha.

Mr. Hamouda is survived by a wife and three children, the youngest of whom is 14 months.

The accident occurred at around 3.30 a.m. on Tripoli's main highway. Mr. Hamouda's car collided with a stationary truck. He died instantly.

Gaddafi for Iraq

Libyan RCC Chairman Col. Muammer Gaddafi will probably make an official visit to Iraq in the near future. The Iraqi News Agency reported last week that Col. Gaddafi had accepted an invitation from President Ahmed elBakr.

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Dutch Government release Palestinian commando (16) to care of Republic

The young Palestinian commando Tayseer el Attar, who had been detained in Holland, arrived at Tripoli International Airport last weekend accompanied by an official from the Libyan Embassy in Brussels.

The young commando was met at the airport by the Mayor of Tripoli, Mr. Abu Bakr Zaglay, and a representative of the Libyan and Foreign Affairs Ministry.

The 16-year-old commando, who belongs to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, was accused of throwing a grenade at the Israeli Embassy in Tunis. The Hague last September.

Attar also visited Unity and Foreign Affairs Minister Mr. Saïd bin Bushair.

Commenting on the subject, the Minister said: "The concern of the Libyan Revolution is to help the young commando and the Libs' commando and the Libs' commando with the Dutch Government for sending him to Libya, stem from the Revolution's belief that all efforts should be exerted to help Palestinians who are struggling for the recovery of their homeland."

But this does not mean that the Libs' revolutionary Government supports all actions carried out by some organisations in various parts of the world. Consequently, the Libyan Government prompted by humanitarian motives in the case and asked for the dispatch of the young commando instead of him being detained for five more years until the age of 21, as the Dutch Attorney General called for.

Mr. Bushair's decision to say that the Libs' Government had already expressed its rejection of actions leading to the harm of innocent and friendly peoples, as happened in Athens where a child was killed.

Basketball championship

The Libyan Arab Republic is preparing to take part in the African Basketball Championship due to be held in Cairo from March 8 to 15, 1970. The Libyan team started official training four days a week from this week.

Fishing catch

Government-owned fishing vessels have put into Tripoli ports with some 17 tons of various kinds of fish which was put on sale at fish markets and Bab el Bhar, Dhabha and RaasHassan this week. Prices of fish sold to the public ranged between 35 and 15 piastres a kilo.

THE LIBYAN MAIL

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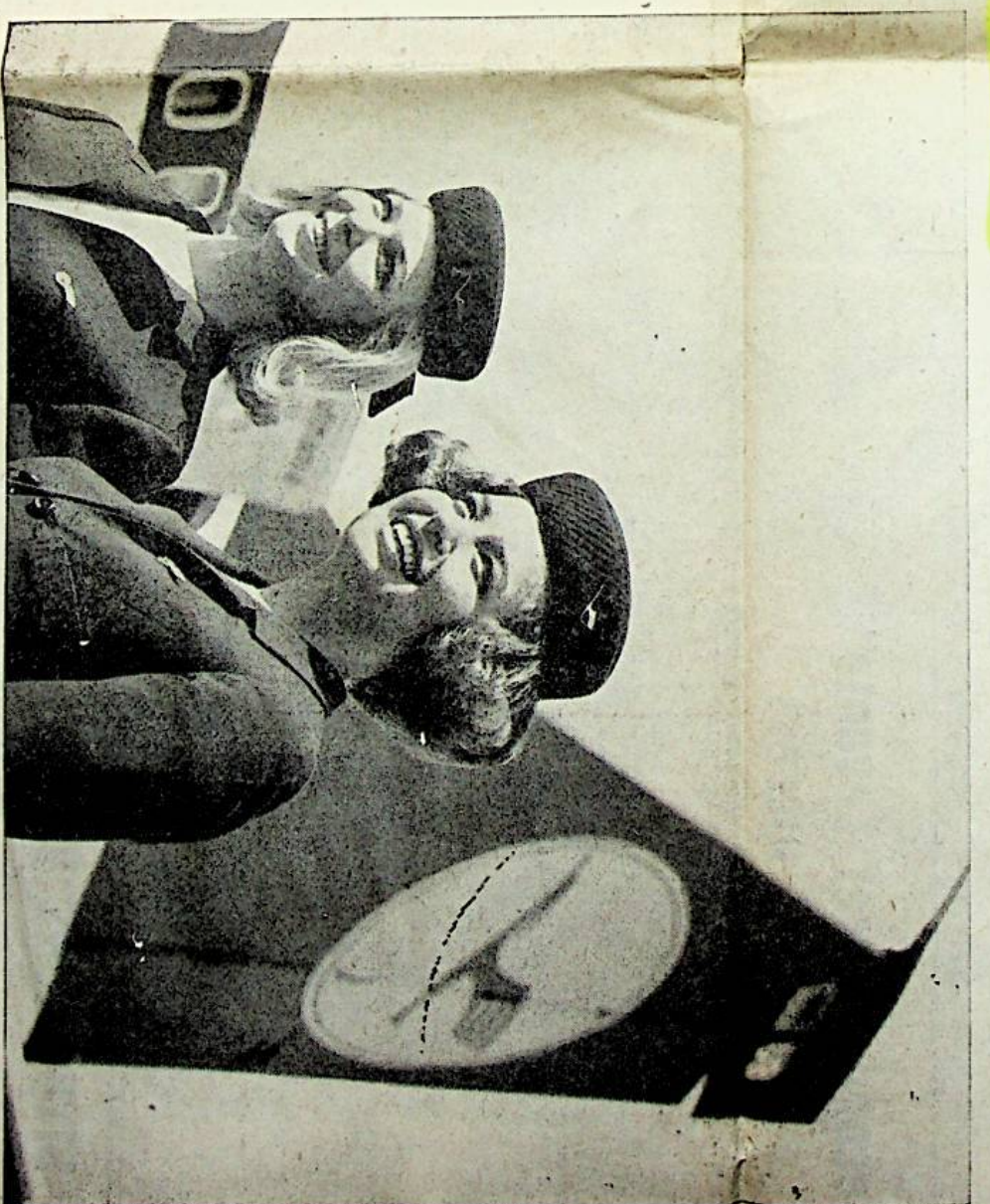
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