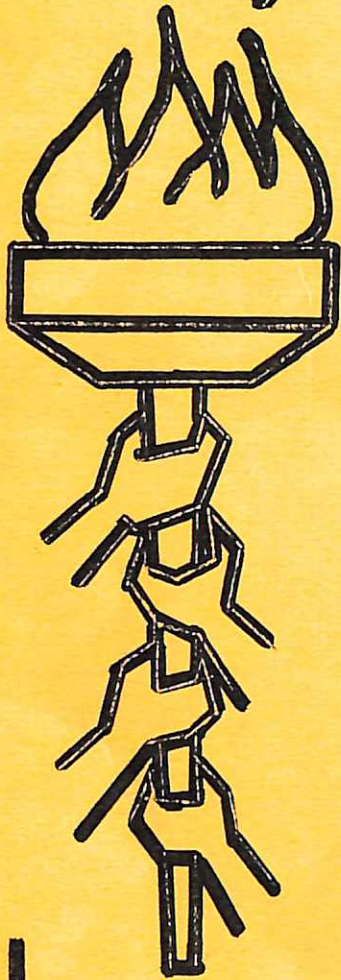


# KSSE

*information*



JULY  
No 2  
1973

Kurdish Students' Society in Europe (KSSE) - Publication

From August 1964 to August 1965  
It was felt that 'KURDISTAN', the annual Journal of our organization K.S.S.E., did not suffice and that supplements in-between the issues of 'KURDISTAN' were necessary to convey the news of main events and continuous activities of our Society which is the voice of the Kurdish students in Europe and a reflection of their struggle for just human and national rights, the news of which is concealed ruthlessly, by the oppressive governments concerned, from the outside world.

We hope that our readers, within and outside our Society, and the many friends of our Cause will lend us their support in this new advent with their articles, criticisms, distribution and any other kind of feasible support.

KSSE

the international Union of Students  
we can report today with pride that in the 2nd and 10th  
Congresses we were unanimously elected as members of the  
national Finance Committee. At the 10th Congress our organiza-  
tion received an award in recognition of its work.  
Since the foundation of our society, our assistance has grown  
economically. Today our society has active branches in the  
following countries:  
1: France; 2: England; 3: F.R.G.; 4: U.S.A.; 5: G.S.R.; 6: Hun-  
gary; 7: Yugoslavia; 8: Bulgaria; 9: Poland; 10: Sweden;  
11: Italy; 12: Romania; 13: West Berlin; 14: Spain; 15: Austria;  
and 16: Denmark.

Our organization possesses two independent publications:  
a) "Kurdistan" of which it has been issued since our foundation;  
it is in English, 2 in German and one in Arabic.

## KURDISH STUDENTS' SOCIETY IN EUROPE (KSSE)

From August 10th to August 16th, 1956, a group of kurdish students met in Wiesbaden, German Federal Republic. They debated the necessity of founding a "Society of Kurdish Students in Europe" to represent the interests and rights of all Kurds studying in Europe. An important point was the mobilization of all Kurds in the struggle against imperialism in order to render support to the national independence struggle of the kurdish people. The meeting decided to name the newly-founded association "cultural Society of Kurdish Students in Europe"

On August 4, 1958, the 3rd Congress was held. The delegates adopted a resolution changing the organisations name to "Society of Kurdish Students in Europe". This congress described the revolution in Iraq of July 14, 1958, as the driving force in the struggle against the oppression of the kurdish people.

From the first day of the foundation of the society the kurdish students in Europe have devoted all their strength to the realisation of the societ's goals. Today we can state with pride that the "Society of Kurdish Students" actively participates in the struggle of the World Youth Federation and through active struggle has won international prestige and a good name for itself.

In December 1964, our organisation was accepted as a member of the international Union of Students.

We can report today with pride that at the 9th and 10th IUS Congresses we were unanimously elected as members of the International Finance Committee. At the 10th congress our organisation received an award in recognition of its merits.

Since the foundation of our society, our membership has grown enormously. Today our society has active branches in the following countries:

1: France; 2: England; 3: FRG; 4: GDR; 5: USSR; 6: CSSR; 7: Hungary; 8: Yugoslavia; 9: Bulgaria ; 10: Poland; 11: Sweden; 12: Italy; 13: Rumania; 14: West Berlin; 15: Spain; 16: Austria; and 17: Denmark.

Our organisation possesses two independent publications:

a) "Kurdistan" of which 16 have been issued since our foundation. 13 in English, 2 in German and one in Arabic.

b) the periodical "Persching", three issues of which have been published in Arabic.

The programme of our Society is:

1. To help the students attain their goal in study;
2. Realisation of cooperation among kurdish students in Europe;
3. Promoting kurdish national culture;
4. Struggle to attain independence for the kurdish people and realisation of their national rights;
5. Inform other peoples about the national problems of the kurdish people;
6. Cement cooperation between the kurdish students and all other progressive organisations in Europe;
7. To support other oppressed peoples in the struggle for independence, freedom and progress.

The most important task of our organisation since its foundation has been the support of our people and other peoples fighting for their independence. In so doing we have consistently come out for the demands of the kurdish revolution, autonomy for Kurdistan and democracy in Iraq. A great achievement was the strengthening of our organisation and solving the problems of everyone so that our organisation grew stronger and more powerful year by year.

We do not forget, however, to extend our fraternal thanks to all organisations and friends who support our cause and help us fullfill our tasks.

News of KSSE branch activities

KSSE General Council

1 - A representative of the Council participated in the Dubrovnik seminar held from 1st to 7th Sept. 1972. The seminar was arranged by the Yugoslav Union of Students, the participating delegates representing 30 student organizations.

2 - KSSE has sent a letter to IUS appreciating the role IUS has played in the defence of various peoples' causes, and thanking it for supplying KSSE with its publications and informing it with IUS activities.

3 - A letter has been sent to the Yugoslav Union of Students thanking it for its support for the Kurdish cause and KSSE and for the cooperation with KSSE delegation to the Dubrovnik seminar.

4 - KSSE has sent a letter to the Secretariat of the IUS (International Union of Students) requesting that the 21 March be considered as a day of solidarity with the people and students of Kurdistan in their struggle for their right to self-determination. The Secretariat of IUS has sent the following reply to KSSE:

Dear friends:

We thank you very much for your letter of 2 Nov. 1972.

We share the opinion that relations between KSSE and IUS have crystalized and expanded during the recent times on the basis of the struggle for peace and freedom and democracy and against imperialism, colonialism, and neo-colonialism. We hope that these relations shall continue to grow in the future too.

As for your suggestion of making the 21 March a day of international solidarity with the people and students of Kurdistan in their struggle for the right to self-determination, we would like to express our sympathy for the idea, but naturally the taking of any decision concerning this matter is outside the jurisdiction of the IUS's Secretariat and such a decision can be made by the congress of IUS. Therefore, your suggestion will be forwarded to the next congress of the IUS for consideration. Finally, we wish your struggle every success.

With our greetings,

Secretariat  
IUS

5 - A delegation of our union has participated in the April-meeting in Beograd on 27th - 4th April.

## Branches

### France's branch

- 1- The branch held its annual congress on 27 June 1972; the following resolutions have been adopted:
  - a - requesting the Iraqi government to implement the as yet unfulfilled articles of the March 11 Declaration.
  - b - denouncing the Arabization policy pursued by the Iraqi authorities in Kirkuk, Mendili, and Sinjar.
  - c - denouncing political assassinations and the deportation of Kurds, particularly active members of the Kurdistan Democratic Party.
  - d - denouncing criminal attempts to assassinate the leader of the Kurdish people Mustafa Barzani.
  - e - supporting democracy for Iraq and autonomy for Kurdistan within the framework of the Republic of Iraq.
- 2 - A representative of the branch has delivered a speech at a meeting held at (Motoilet) in support of the Irish people.
- 3 - In cooperation with the Committee for the Defence of the Kurdish People, the branch has participated in a student exhibition at the (Cité Université) where many photographs from Kurdistan were exhibited. The publication of an article in the Le Monde daily contributed to the increase of the number of visitors to the exhibition.
- 4 - In cooperation with the Greek Students and the Committee for the Defence of the Kurdish People, the branch has issued a leaflet on the situation in Turkish Kurdistan.
- 5 - The branch participated in a meeting held at the (Cité Université) on the situation of the Turkish people.

### Rumania's branch

- 1- Celebration of Newroz in Bucharest, in which all students organizations in the city took part.
- 2 - Celebration of the Sept. 11, 1961 revolution in Iraqi Kurdistan.
- 3 - The branch's 3rd congress was held between the 2nd and 3rd of Dece. 1972. Discussions were conducted in a democratic atmosphere, and a number of resolutions were adopted. A new branch committee was elected.
- 4 - Participation in the Palestine People Week in Bucharest.

### Austria's branch

- 1 - Publication of a booklet entitled "The Kurds, a People without a State" in the German language.

- 2 - Presentation of a note to the UN General Secretary during his visit to Austria concerning the Kurdish question and expressing the hope that he and the UN will appreciate the situation of the Kurdish people. The note has been later on published.
- 3 - A circular entitled "Possibilities for peace in Iraqi Kurdistan" has been published in German.

#### The USSR's branch

- 1 - Celebration, in cooperation with the Kurdistan Democratic Party, of the Sept. 11, 1961 revolution against oppression and discrimination.
- 2 - Celebration, in cooperation with the Iraqi Students League, of the July 14, 1958 revolution in Iraq.
- 3 - Participation in the "day of labour" during the celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Soviet Union.

#### Italy's branch

- 1 - Publication of a leaflet containing information on KSSE.
- 2 - The annual congress of the branch was held on 11 Nov. 1972; a new branch committee was elected.
- 3 - Replying to false propaganda appearing in some Italian papers concerning the national liberation movement of the Kurdish people.

#### Yugoslavia's branch

- 1 - The annual general meeting of the branch was held in Zagreb on 1 Dec. 1972.
- 2 - Celebration of the Newroz in Zagreb, Belgrade, and Sisat.
- 3 - Presentation of Kurdish folkloric activities.
- 4 - Participation in the April Meeting in Belgrade.
- 5 - Publishing the following statements:
  - a - Against the forced deportation of the Feili Kurds from Iraq.
  - b - On the general conditions of the Kurdish people
  - c - On the occasion of Newroz, the Kurdish national day.
  - d - On the anniversary of the issuance of the March 11 declaration
  - e - On the occasion of the excusion of a number of Kurdish of Kurdish officers by the Irayi authorities.

#### Hungary's branch

The annual general meeting was held an 2 Des. 1972 attended by members and representatives of different students organizations. A new branch committee was elected.

#### Bulgaria's branch

The annual general meeting was held on 30 Sept. 1972, attended by members and representatives of Bulgarian and foreign organi-

zations. A number of resolutions were adopted.



Meeting between the executive committee of KSSE with U.A.S.C. Rumania

KSSE celebrates the Kurdish peoples national day (Newroz) in Europe



Participation of the KSSE - president at the congress of the Kurdistan students union - Irak





News about Kurdistan's Organizations

Kurdistan Students Union (KSU)-Iraq:

- 1 - A statement has been presented to the Iraqi authorities in which KSU protests against racist methods employed when decisions were being taken on the admission of applicants to the al-Riyad Agricultural Secondary school in Kirkuk resulting in none of the 30 Kurdish applicants being admitted at the school despite the fact that Kirkuk constitutes part of Iraqi Kurdistan.
- 2 - A delegation representing KSU has visited a number of KSSE branches in order to strengthen ties between the two organizations.
- 3 - A statement has been sent to the National Union of Iraqi students protesting against the policy pursued by the Union and local state authorities aiming at pressuring and persecuting KSU chapters, especially in Kirkuk, Diyalah, and Nineva, where KUS local leaders have been subjected to persecution and pressure.
- 4 - KSU has made the necessary preparation for a visit to Kurdistan by an Italian students delegation representing left students organizations in Italy. The delegates have visited Suleymani and Arbil and their environs. They have been acquainted with the life of Kurdistan's students and youth. They have met with some of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) Politbureau members and the leader of KDP and the Kurdish people Mustafa Barzani.

Kurdistan Democratic Youth Organization (KDYO)

KDYO's athletic teams have been very active during the recent months.

Kurdistan Union of Women (KUW)

- 1 - Upon an invitation by the Soviet Women Committee, KUW has sent a delegation to Moscow for the participation in the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Soviet Union. The visit was an opportunity to acquaint women from various parts of the world with the situation of women in Kurdistan.
- 2 - KUW has been engaged in many a varied anti illiteracy campaigns, courses in sewing and typing where participation has been encouraging.

## Attempts to "Arabize" the Province of Kirkuk

The province of Kirkuk in Iraqi Kurdistan has been an integral and inseparable part of Kurdistan from ancient times. However, it has two specific features that distinguish it from the rest of Kurdistan. These features are firstly the dwelling in Kirkuk of the Turkuman national minority and secondly its richness in petroleum. In the outer areas of the province some Arab tribes live in a number of villages. However, the present government of Iraq seems intent on changing the national character of the province in an attempt to cut it off from the rest of Kurdistan by reducing the Kurdish majority in the province's population through encouraging Arab tribes from outside the province to settle there and thereby excluding the province from the promised autonomy for Iraqi Kurdistan. The measures adopted by the Iraqi government to achieve this aim include:

- 1 - Transferring all officials in the Bureau of Civil Registration in Kirkuk and replacing them with others.
- 2 - Contrary to the March 11 Declaration, all policemen who have joined the Kurdish revolution and later reinstated have been transferred to areas outside the province.
- 3 - Hundreds of Kurdish workers have been dismissed from the Iraqi Petroleum Company (IPC) for political reasons. They were to be reinstated according to the March 11 Agreement. However, only 50 workers have been reinstated.
- 4 - Arab families have been encouraged and offered housing facilities to resettle in Kirkuk.
- 5 - Even though unemployment is quite widespread in the province, hundreds of Arab workers have been brought from outside Kirkuk to work in factories newly opened there. Many Kurdish workers employed at the nationalized IPC have been transferred to areas outside Kirkuk and workers from outside the province have been installed in their place.
- 6 - Iraqis moving to Kirkuk from other parts of the country have been given 1957 civil registration documents showing that they have been residents of Kirkuk since then and thus have the right to vote when the census for the determination of the national majority in the area is carried out.
- 7 - Arab big landlords have been financially supported by the authorities to purchase lands from Kurdish landlords in Kirkuk, in order to push the Kurds living on these lands out of the area. So far, lands bought in this manner include the following villages: Hashisha, Delsi Gawra, Delsi Bujug, Robara, Kumbiz

Kurdi Rabi'a, Sikani, Karakra, Karimiya, Sai Mehmed, Atshana, Tel Maghar, and Arghoon.

8 - Thousands of homes occupied by Kurds have been levelled with the ground in the districts of Shorja and Azadi in the city of Kirkuk, and the population of 21 villages in Debis have been forced to abandon the area after their homes had been destroyed in 1963. According to the March 11 Declaration, the population of these villages were to be allowed to resettle in their previous villages; but, subsequently, they have been banned by the authorities to resettle there. Further, the dwellers of the Shorja district have not been allowed to rebuild their homes.

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### Heroes of the Kurdish People

#### Sheikh Mahmood al-Hefid

Born in Suleymani, Iraqi Kurdistan. In 1915, Sheikh Mahmood led some 1000 Kurdish worriers in battles against British forces invading the southern areas of Iraq. He participated in campaigns against tsarist Russian troops in northern Iraq. After World War One, he headed a council of Kurdish notables to consider the principles included in the Wilson doctrine proclaiming the right to self determination of all nationalities being under Ottoman rule. However, soon after the real aims of the British government had become clear, Sheikh Mahmood revolted and captured all the British officers present at the city of Suleymani thereby liberating the area from British rule. In the battle of "Derband Baziyan" between the Kurdish rebels and the invading British troops taking place on 18 June 1919, Sheikh Mahmood was wounded and captured and then put on trial. During the trial he defended the right of the Kurdish people to self determination and refused to comply with the wishes of the colonialists in <sup>als Entschädig.</sup> exchange for a promise to pardon him. As a consequence, he was sentenced to death; but the death sentence was commuted to 10 years imprisonment and a 10 000 Rupee fine for fear of popular reaction. However, Sheikh Mahmood and a number of his relations were exiled to India in 1922.

With more reinforcements arriving, the British troops were able to subdue the revolt and reoccupy Suleymani. But the revolutionary spark ignited by Sheikh Mahmood never died out. Under

local pressure and international considerations, the British authorities were compelled to release him and let him return to Suleymani. He persistently refused to cooperate with the occupation colonialist forces and refused to recognize as legitimate the installation of Faisal as a king of Iraq. He insisted on the right of the Kurdish people to self-determination.

In August 1922 the forces of Sheikh Mahmood forced the British troops occupying Suleymani to leave the city which he entered at the head of 1000 Kurdish fighters and proclaimed himself the King of Southern Kurdistan, i.e., present Iraqi Kurdistan. The Kurdish flag was raised everywhere, a cabinet was formed, and postal stamps were issued.

However, the city of Suleymani had exchanged hands several times before British troops supported by the Royal Air Force was able to reoccupy it. Thereupon, Sheikh Mahmood moved to "Meriwan" where he led another revolt breaking out after the 6 August 1930 incidents. He personally took part in the Awbarik battle which the Kurds won and in the course of which he exhibited superior military capabilities.

Sheikh Mahmood died in Baghdad on 9 Sept. 1956 and was buried in Suleymani. As a sign of respect and admiration for his leadership of, and sacrifices for the Kurdish people, people paid their respects all along the route of his funeral from Baghdad to Suleymani.

### Qazi Muhammad

Born in Mahabad, Iranian Kurdistan, in 1901. Soon after modern schools had been opened in the area, he was appointed director of education. He had remained in that post until the death of his father when he was appointed the Qazi of the city of Mahabad. Qazi Muhammad encouraged science and he himself started to study modern sciences after having been educated in religious schools. In addition to Kurdish, he mastered Arabic, Persian, and Azerbaijani; he could also speak Russian, English, and French.

Qazi Muhammad had been known for his dislike for tribalism and landlordism and exploitation. This has won him the respect of the broad masses of the people and brought upon him the wrath and hatred of some landlords.

Soon after World War Two, he started his political activities in defence of the right of the Kurdish people to self-determi-

nation.

On 22 Jan. 1946, Qazi Muhammad was elected President of the Republic of Kurdistan (The Republic of Mahabad), but imperialism, the enemy of the Kurdish people, could not stand the development of the Kurdish people because it feared that the example of the Iranian Kurdistan would be followed by the other colonised parts of Kurdistan. Therefore, this initiative on the part of the Kurdish people was suppressed and murdered in its cradle. Qazi Muhammad, at the age of 46, was hanged in the very same square where he had previously announced the birth of the first Kurdish Republic, the Republic of Mahabad.

### Sheikh Said Piran

Leader of the revolt breaking out in Turkish Kurdistan in 1925. His leadership was founded on the basis of both his influence with Kurdish tribal chiefs and his broad knowledge and education. Besides Kurdish, he mastered Arabic, Persian, and Turkish. He followed, with interest, international events and developments, and kept in touch with Kurdish intelligentsia and politicians; his court had always been crowded with them. After suppressing the revolt, employing the cruelest methods, and in cooperation with the colonialists, the Turkish authorities sentenced him, after a summary trial, to death on 27 April 1925. He was executed on the next day along with 40 leaders of the revolt.

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### The relations between Kurds and Armenians

Ottoman Turkey had recurrently resorted to the policy of playing one nationality in the Ottoman empire off against another using religious and national sentiments as an instrument in affecting and carrying out the policy, in order to divert the attention of these nationalities away from their real miserable condition, miserable economically, socially and culturally, and to prevent their cooperation to regain their lost human and national rights. The Ottomans have, however, achieved relative success in their attempts, but soon their real intentions became clear to all the nationalities concerned.

This policy by the Ottoman Turks had been persistently pursued with the Kurds and Armenians, who had both been victims of the same policy. After having committed their bloody massacre of th

Armenian people, and fearing European and American reactions, the Ottoman authorities had attempted, mostly in vain, to put the responsibility of their massacre on the Kurdish people. However, facts proved more powerful than mere unfounded propaganda. In fact, during the climax of the massacre of the Armenians at the hands of the Ottoman Turks, the Kurds had actually saved the lives of about 50 000 Armenians by hiding them in their home and thus risking their own security; these people were delivered to safety when the area came under Russian and Armenian troops that temporarily occupied parts of Kurdistan during WWI. One result of this situation was the common declaration sent to the Allies after WWI by representative of the Kurds and the Armenians containing their demands for human as well as national rights.

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#### Turkish Kurdistan between the two World Wars

The post World War One period had witnessed great changes in the Middle Eastern geopolitics. Before the War, the major part of the area had been under Ottoman rule. The war has dealt the last blow to a hopelessly corrupt and decadent state of the Ottoman empire coupled with the emergence of a number of national liberation movements among the subjugated nationalities to throw off the yoke of Ottoman rule. These two factors had resulted in the final disintegration of the empire.

During the war period, and actually before the war, a number of Kurdish organizations had emerged not only in Turkish Kurdistan but also in the other parts of Kurdistan, advocating and working for the attainment of the Kurdish people's rights to self determination and freedom.

In 1920, the Treaty of Sèvres was concluded between the Allies and the Turkish government. The Kurds were represented during the negotiations leading to the Treaty by Sherif Pasha, the Ottoman ambassador to Sweden. The Treaty contained three articles concerning the Kurdish question; these were articles number 62, 63, and 64, recognizing the rights of the Kurdish people to autonomy and even independence if they so desire. However, the Treaty was born dead. Political developments taking place in Turkey during this time rendered the Treaty void because the new regime ruling in Turkey rejected the Treaty.

As a consequence, a new treaty was concluded in 1923; the one concluded at the Lausanne Conference. The new treaty contained no reference whatsoever to the Kurdish people. As far as minorities' rights were concerned, the treaty did not include more than vague references and superficial guarantees for the rights of minorities existing within the borders of the new state.

It is interesting to notice that during the campaigns to liberate Turkey of foreign troops, the Kurdish people supported the Kemalist forces and offered many sacrifices in the course of these campaigns. However, soon after well establishing their rule, the Kemalists with Kemal at their head revealed their real intentions and policy towards the Kurds and the other minorities in Turkey. Not only did the new regime suppress the Kurds but also has ever since pursued with more intensity and vigor the old reactionary Ottoman policy of deculturalizing, i.e., turkifying, the Kurds to the extent of denying the existence of the Kurdish people by calling them "mountain Turks". In addition, mass deportation of Kurds, and the violation, by the Turkish authorities, of the Kurds' individual and public rights had culminated in the outbreak of the 1925 revolt by the Kurdish people under the leadership of Sheikh Said Piran.

The revolt had initially controlled vast areas of Turkish Kurdistan. But, due to a number of reasons, among them the military superiority in numbers and matériel of the Turkish army, the starting of the revolt prematurely, inadequate political and national consciousness among the peasants, the backbone of the revolt, and outright treason by some landlords, the revolt was suppressed and severely crushed, its leaders summarily tried and executed on 28-29 June 1925. Oppression, destruction, and looting of the Kurds and their property continued long after the crushing of the revolt, even in areas that had not taken part in the revolt, a situation that culminated in a second revolt in the Ararat area in 1930. The revolt was once again severely crushed, resulting in further oppression, destruction and looting.

The consequences of these two revolts have been long lasting and widespread poverty and economic, social and cultural underdevelopment. As a measure of collective punishment, the Turkish authorities have completely neglected the Kurdish area ever since and have cut the area off from the surrounding and out-

side world. The parallel economic and social and cultural conditions prevailing in the entire country in the 1920's have begun to diverge and the gap between the Kurdish area and the rest of Turkey has been widening ever since.

The crushing of the two revolts, and the international atmosphere, had encouraged the Turkish ultra-nationalist and racist tendencies to accelerate and the policy of Turkifying the Kurds to intensify. Racist tendencies and utterances by Turkish politicians became commonplace; the press and other mass media were extensively used in this process. The Kurds, as well as the other minorities, in the country were humiliated and referred to, by a minister of justice as slaves and servants.

All these circumstances had led to yet another revolt by the Kurdish people as a measure of self-defence. The new revolt broke out in the province of Dersim in 1936-1937. As with the previous revolts, the new one was crushed, but with more murderous weapons at the disposal of the Turkish army.

The inter-war period witnessed many revolts in the other parts of Kurdistan as well. Therefore, the government of Iran, Iraq, Turkey, and their guardian, the British government shared the common goal of suppressing any attempt on the part of the Kurdish people at self-determination and freedom. Their common goal led them to conclude the Sa'ad Abad Treaty whose main objective was the cooperation among these governments to crush any Kurdish revolt(s) should some break out.

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"The Kurdish People in Syria between the extra-ordinary census and the racist Arab Belt"

Ever since 1962, the Kurdish people in Syria have been the victims of chauvinist and racist policies designed and executed by various Syrian governments. In 1962, the so-called "extra-ordinary" census was conducted, which resulted in 120 000 Kurds losing their Syrian citizenships overnight. The census was followed by another racist measure, the so-called Arab-Belt, designed to create an area 10-15 kms wide and 360 kms long along the Syrian-Iraqi and Syrian-Turkish borders; the Belt was created with the intention of settling Arab tribes in it and evacuating the Kurds who have been living there from times immemorial, hence the name Arab Belt. The evacuated Kurds were to be resettled in the southern



desert areas of Syria. To execute this project behind the back of the world, the Belt area has been declared a military zone.

After 10 years of implementation, these racist policies have resulted in the following facts which the Kurds have to live with:

- 1 - Education: in the Jezira area affected by the census and the Belt, elementary schooling is still available because pupils attending schools need not show proof of their being Syrian citizens; in addition, elementary schooling is compulsory in the country. But at the secondary, university, vocational, and teacher colleges, levels, difficulties have been mounting for those students who had lost their citizenship as a result of the census.

- 2 - Qualified persons are not able to find work with government departments, and many of the actually employed at these departments have been dismissed because of the census.

- 3 - Housing: because of the Belt, thousands of Kurdish families have lost their lands and consequently forced to migrate to neighboring towns in search of work. Because of their poverty, the only housing possibility open to them had been the huts they could erect on the outskirts of these towns. But even this possibility has been closed by forbidding, in 1965, by a special law which further banned any and every repair work on existing houses and huts in the Jazira area.

- 4 - All persons who have lost their citizenships as a result of the census are forbidden to buy lands and buildings.

- 5 - Work: everyone who had lost their citizenship became automatically a foreigner and therefore can not work unless he or she obtains a special permission. This situation has caused a sharp increase in unemployment in the Kurdish area.

- 6 - Many Kurdish farmers have been deprived of their lands situated in the Belt area; the remaining farmers are not allowed to use the natural grazing lands in the area or to collect the hay left over from harvests. After the failure of settling down Arab tribes in the Belt area, the Syrian government has converted the project into state farms. Unfortunately, the change in the name of the scheme has not changed its chauvinistic and racist essence.

Some hopes had been put in the new regime of H. al-Asad due to Asad's relatively moderate policies in this respect. A delegation from the Kurdish area was sent to Damascus in order to explain to the new leadership the plight of the Kurdish people in Syria. However, the delegation was not given a chance to meet the leaders.

But after persistent effort, an army officer met the delegation. Because of his ignorance of the whole affair, the officer could not comprehend what the delegation was trying to explain.

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The attempt to assassinat the leader of the  
Kurdish People, Mustafa Barzani

At 5 o'clock, on 29 Sept. 1971, a number of conspirators disguising themselves as men of religion (Muslim priests) had a meeting with Mustafa Barzani, the leader of the Kurdish people, in his headquarters at Haji Umran, in order to discuss with him matters of general political interest and to mediate between the Kurds and the government of Iraq. Soon after the talks began, the room where the meeting was held suddenly became filled with explosions of all sorts. The conspirators were well armed and the plot well organized. However, and fortunately for the Kurdish people and peace in Iraq, the attempt at assassinating the Kurdish leader failed.

The survival of Mustafa Barzani saved Iraq from plunging into another bloodbath as well as the March 11 Agreement.

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From Austria's Branch

The publication of the booklet - The Kurds, a people without state- in the German language by the Austria's Branch of the KSSE has contributed to the familiarization of broad circle of the Austrian society with the Kurdish people and their problems and aspirations.

- The "Volksblatt" newspaper has published in its 24 Nov. 1972 issue an article on a whole page entitled - The Kurds -. The article was based on facts contained in the booklet. The paper has, further, offered a monetary prize to the winner who gives the best answer to the following question: "What people that number more than 12 million, divided among 5 states, and who have been oppressed for many centuries?"

- The "Menschenrecht" paper, the organ of the Austrian Committee for the Defence of Human Rights, has published the following introduction to and comment on the booklet: ". . . fortunately this people of the mountains have active students abroad who try

to explain the various dimensions of their problem through peaceful propaganda and logical activities without resorting to acts of destruction . . ."

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Friends of the Kurdish People

Kalevi Sorsa-Prime Minister of Finland

One of the founders of Finland's Kurdish Committee to support the Kurdish people's struggle to gain their just rights in 1968, Sorsa was elected General Secretary of the Social Democratic Party of Finland in 1969, and became the vice chairman of the Finland's Kurdish Committee in 1970. He has been Prime Minister of Finland for some time and still is.

Mira and Dola

They are both newspaper reporters from Yugoslavia. They often write about the Kurdish people and their struggle and achievements. They wish and hope to meet Mustafa Barzani, the leader of the Kurdish people and the Kurdish national liberation movement.

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• GRAZ

• Leoben

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• WIEN

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