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THE IRAQI-JORDANIAN FEDERATION AND AKRAM ZUAITER'S EFFORTS IN IT

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ABSTRACT

The research, entitled (The Iraqi-Jordanian Federal Union and the efforts of Akram Zuaiter in it), deals with the definition of the Iraqi-Jordanian Federal Union, and the efforts made by Akram Zuaiter, one of the sons of the first generation of Arab nationalists, to achieve it, after he saw in it a way to save the Arab nation and save it from colonial control.

INTRODUCTION

The project of the federation between the Iraqi and Jordanian kingdoms was among a number of Arab unitary projects put forward by the Arab nationalists, after they saw in it the best and only solution to save the Arab nation and Palestine from its ordeal in the wake of the catastrophe of 1948.

The project of the Iraqi-Jordanian federation was proposed by King Abdullah of Jordan prior to his assassination in order to secure the continuation of the Hashemite rule in Jordan and preserve the future of the Hashemite family. He took advantage of the visit of the Iraqi Minister of Interior, Salih Jabr to Amman on the 23rd of May 1950. He discussed with him the draft of the union, which stipulated the unification of the kingdoms of Jordan and Iraq and the formation of a Supreme Federal Council whose members are appointed by the governments of the two countries equally. The military and the foundations of education, while both countries retain their constitutions and their complete independence in other matters, and finally the royal family has the same rights in the two kingdoms. If the king dies without leaving an heir to his throne, the latter will be the share of a decent person from the dynasty of Hussein bin Ali.

Akram Zuaiter was one of the supporters of this project and at the same time welcomed the offer made to him by the Plenipotentiary Minister of Iraq in Amman, Ahmed Pasha Al-Rawi, whom he met in Beirut on the 3rd of July 1951, and represented in working with him to achieve the project of the union of the Iraqi and Jordanian countries. Zuaiter also expressed his opinion on the project by saying: "I believe that the annexation of Transjordan to Iraq is a rescue operation for the Arab part of Palestine and Transjordan from the verifiable Israeli invasion." Stressing that if it is done in the correct and desired manner, it will be a sign for the establishment of a major Arab state, which will make it easier for it to eliminate the Zionist entity.

In his first efforts in this regard, Akram Zuaiter sent a letter to the Iraqi Foreign Minister, Muhammad Fadel al-Jamali, in which he touched on the necessity of the union of the Iraqi and Jordanian countries, and the positive impact this would have on the future of the Arab countries. Following his previous message, he received an invitation from the Iraqi Ministry of Foreign Affairs to visit Iraq in order to work as quickly as possible to unify the two countries, Iraq and Jordan, so Zuaiter arrived in Iraq on August 9 of the same year, and was received by Muhammad Fadel al-Jamali. With Jordan, Al-Jamali assured him of the seriousness of his Prime Minister, Nuri Al-Saeed in taking this step, and that he was the one who requested to be summoned to Baghdad.

Akram Zuaite Efforts

Akram Zuaiter met, during his stay in Baghdad, with a number of Iraqi political and military figures, such as Shaker Al-Wadi, Saleh Jabr and Sharif Isran, and he explained to them the need to take advantage of opportunities, especially after the assassination of King Abdullah, who worked in his last days to assign the throne of Jordan to King Faisal II of Iraq. He explained to them that the purpose of this project is to save Jordan, which is also a first step on the way to achieving the Arab national project that aims to establish the Greater Arab State.

Akram Zuaiter saw that Saleh Jabr is the most enthusiastic man in Iraq to achieve the union between the two countries. Regarding the position of Prime Minister Nuri Al-Saeed, Saleh Jabr told Zuaiter that Al-Saeed talks about the union project, but he does not give it the importance it deserves.

On the eleventh of August 1951, Akram Zuaiter went to the Iraqi royal court, where he met with Muhammad al-Sadr and Jamil al-Madfai, and began to explain to them the danger of opposing the union project, and that the Arabs are not given the choice in this, but rather they are obliged to do so. Because the Zionist entity will take the initiative to occupy Jordan if Iraq does not rush to save it through the union, and Al-Sadr replied to him by saying, "We salute you and thank you, may God bless you ... and we pray to God to unite us on guidance". Al-Madfai expressed his fear of the opposition of the Egyptian government and the Prime Minister of the All-Palestine Government Ahmed Helmy Pasha to the project, stressing the need for the Palestinians themselves to be united.

Akram Zuaiter In Beirut

Akram Zuaiter met on the fourteenth of August 1951 with Nuri al-Saeed, and he spoke with him about the importance of the union and about the situation of Jordan, which cannot be left like this because of the Zionist dangers. The English are upon us," stressing Zuaiter that the Palestinians should have their say and take the initiative to ask for union, then he told him to prepare a plan to achieve the union project and attach it to a set of proposals and submit them to him to work on its light. It was only Akram Zuaiter that he addressed on the same day to Muhammad Fadhil al-Jamali informing him of the conversation that took place between him and Nuri al-Saeed, and al-Jamali said to him, "By God, by God, there is no Arab nation or Arab nationalism if Jordan goes." He also suggested that he present to Nuri Al-Saeed the formation of a committee whose mission is to supervise the steps of realizing the project accurately and quickly. Zuaiter agreed to his proposal and identified a committee of ten people, and on the next day he presented his proposals to Al-Saeed, who agreed with the latter and blessed him with his efforts and then ordered him to travel quickly Working on this project.

Akram Zuaiter returned to Beirut on the seventeenth of August 1951, and after he met a number of political figures in it and explained to them what he had reached with Nuri al-Saeed and Iraqi politicians, he left the next day heading to Amman, where he held a series of meetings with Suleiman Toukan And Abd al-Rahman Shuqair urged them through it to work to convince the residents of the West Bank from Jordan to call for union with the throne of Iraq, so they expressed their readiness for all the facilities that the matter requires, then he went to Palestine and held meetings with a number of political figures in Jenin and Tulkarm and Ramallah, through it, invited them to work on the union of Iraq and Jordan, both eastern and western, and then explained to them the advantages of this project, and that it would be a first step in the way of realizing the project of the great Arab state that would be able to eliminate the Zionist entity .

Akram Zuaiter returned to Jordan again, in conjunction with the coronation of Prince Talal as king. Zuaiter met the king on the nineteenth of September 1951, and expressed to him the Arab nationalist youth's pride in him, and conveyed to him their hope that the union project would be realized by him, and he replied to him The King: "I cherish the confidence of the Arab youth ... and their attitude towards me ... and they pray to God that I fulfill their hopes in that.". Then Zuaiter informed the king of his intention to stay in Jordan and work there, and the latter welcomed him and assured him that Jordan could not dispense with the services of national figures loyal to the Arab nation. Zuaiter then met with the Jordanian Prime Minister, Tawfiq Abu Al-Huda, and he spoke with him about the meetings he held in Palestine, which raised hopes among its people, who began to feel that there are serious projects to achieve the union. Foreign affairs in each of them, and so on, so that the union will be in the form of stages, so that the Iraqi and Jordanian peoples will accept it on both sides.

Akram Zuaiter then went to Syria and met on the twenty-fifth of May 1953 with its president, Adib al-Shishakli, After the welcome, the latter said to him, admonishing

him: "Distance breeds estrangement ... and lack of communication, meeting and understanding generates hatred and repulsion ... This is what is between us". He also made it clear through his speech that if all the loyalists agree, they are not sufficient to repel the enemy, however they differ. Zuaiter replied, explaining the position of the Arab nationalists on the Shishakli government by saying: "We, the nationalists, consider that the survival of the Arab nation depends on the survival of the idea of restoring Palestine, and that the appreciation of personalities The nationalism of the ruling politicians in the Arab countries is to the extent that they understand this fact, so the Arab armies must be armed and strengthened to be able to realize their dream of liberating Palestine" . With regard to the issue of the union, Al-Shishakli did not express his support or opposition to it.

Akram Zuaiter traveled to Iraq and met on the 31st of October 1953 with King Faisal II, and he spoke to him about the hopes placed on him not only in Iraq but also in the Arab countries as a whole, as the borders of his state extend to the extent of his belief in Arab nationalism. Then Zuaiter explained through his speech that if Palestine became in the hands of the Zionists, there would be no throne and no Iraq would remain. The king replied to him by saying, "This is true." Then, Zuaiter resumed his speech, emphasizing that had it not been for the weakness that pervaded the Arab countries, the Zionists would not have dared to declare hostility to the Arabs.

Akram Zuaiter received an invitation from Prince Abd al-Ilah to meet with him at the royal court. He accepted the invitation. The meeting took place between the two parties on the 4th of November 1953. Zuaiter began his talk about Palestine and Jordan and how to save them by achieving the union. It was necessary to finish it in the life of King Abdullah. Then, Abd al-Ilah expressed to Zuaiter his fear of public opinion that does not encourage the union project due to the influence of the communist tide opposing it. He also indicated that there are those who fear the idea of union if it does not achieve tangible results on the ground, such as joint defense and military alliance.

Before leaving Baghdad, Akram Zuaiter drafted a message about the union project and delivered it to Iraqi Prime Minister Muhammad Fadel al-Jamali, who in turn delivered it to the members of the League of Arab States, and explained the necessity of union in order to restore the nation's dignity and its usurped rights, stressing at the same time that the road is still open. In front of all countries wishing to join it, provided that they begin to strive for that.

Akram Zuaiter left Baghdad heading to Jerusalem on the tenth of November 1953, and from there to Jordan, which was in a state of confusion after the massing of the Zionist forces on its borders and on the Syrian borders, and their attack on Gaza and the killing of more than twenty people, at the time when they withdrew The Egyptian government forces its forces from Gaza in anticipation of any emergency attack on the Suez Canal, so Zuaiter attended a meeting of Jordan's King Hussein bin Talal with the ambassadors of Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Iraq, and the king explained to them Jordan's position and the inability of its army to withstand the Zionist forces for more than three days, as well as the difficulty of the Egyptian position , and then indicated to the ambassadors to write to their governments and explain to them the Jordanian position

in detail, but the king quickly realized that the situation could not bear the correspondence, so he himself traveled to Baghdad on the twenty-eighth of February 1954, and asked the Iraqi government to send a military squad to the aid of the Jordanian army . Akram Zuaiter met with Awni Abd al-Hadi at the Jordanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to find out the latest developments regarding Iraqi aid to Jordan. The forces are under the command of King Hussein and not under the command of the Jordanian army chief of staff.

Union Of Jordan and Iraq

The union of Jordan and Iraq was announced on February 14, 1958, the union that Zuaiter had long sought to achieve, bearing all the criticisms leveled at him in order to find a major Arab state that would take it upon itself to confront Zionism and annex all the Palestinian territories under its banner. However, this union did not last long. Because of the revolution of the fourteenth of July 1958, which ended the monarchy in Iraq, declaring the establishment of the republic, and at the same time announcing its abandonment of the union on the grounds that its purpose was not to support the people, but to support the corrupt royal authority and the ruling clique that came to power without the consent of the people.

CONCLUSION

The positions of the Arab nationalists were supportive of all projects of union between the Arab countries, after this union became a necessity to stand in the face of the colonial and Zionist challenges that threaten the entire Arab region, and Palestine in particular. Through his meetings with a number of officials in the Iraqi government, such as Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Saeed, as well as his meetings with senior Jordanian dignitaries, led by Prince Talal bin Abdullah, all these meetings through which Zuaiter tried to convince both parties of the importance of the union to save Jordan first, and to establish a state A major Arab country takes upon itself the task of liberating its country, Palestine, from Zionist control.

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