

## Iraq's proposed comprehensive Mideast settlement

*On Aug. 14, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein proposed that all outstanding territorial disputes in the region, including the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait, be solved comprehensively. What follows are excerpts from that statement.*

1) Any withdrawal arrangement should be based on one principle. This includes Israel's immediate and unconditional withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories of Palestine, Syria, and Lebanon, as well as Syria's withdrawal from Lebanon, the withdrawal between Iraq and Iran, and the special arrangements for the situation in Kuwait. Any military arrangement on the time and the

related political preparations should also be dealt with in accordance with the recognized basis, and principles, taking into consideration Iraq's historical rights over its territory and the choice of the people of Kuwait. The implementation of this proposal should take place in a priority order, beginning with the first occupation or so-called occupation—hence, beginning with the implementation of all the United Nations Security Council resolutions and all cases up to the most recent one. The same measures that were adopted by the Security Council against Iraq should be used against whoever refuses to comply with these arrangements.

2) In order to reveal the truth of matters to international public opinion so that it may judge objectively, away from American wishes and pressure, we call for an immediate withdrawal from Saudi Arabia of the American forces and their accomplices. The U.S. forces should be replaced by Arab forces whose size, nationality, mission, and deployment would be determined by the Security Council, assisted by the United Nations Secretary General.

this? The American consumer is suffering. Because, I would like to remind you that the price of petroleum was \$18 a barrel. We asked OPEC to increase it, and it was increased a few weeks before the crisis of Aug. 2, to \$21 a barrel, and we settled for this. Our policy regarding oil is to have stable prices—fair to the consumer and fair to the producer. Our policy is known in OPEC. In fact, we had a big fight with the Shah in the 1970s because he wanted to jack up the price. We are against jacking up the prices. We want to sell our oil to the West. We don't want the West to look to alternative sources of energy. Now the price is \$32 a barrel because of the American action. This is the irony of the situation.

**EIR:** Could you describe what the Iraqi infrastructural projects are, and what the Iraqi idea is for the Arab world in terms of development, industry, and so on?

**al-Mashat:** We went through a development plan that no other Third World country did, prior to the Iran-Iraq War. We believe in sharing our wealth, and we translate that into action. As a matter of fact, we have given Third World countries, in terms of a percentage of GNP, more than any country in the world—all before the Iran-Iraq War. During the Havana Non-Aligned conference of Nov. 4, 1979, for example, we allowed developing nations which had oil contracts with us the right not to pay the higher prices which had been agreed upon by OPEC, from June 1 to the end of that year.

If you had visited Iraq before the war, you would have seen that Iraq was a beehive. For any country to have real potential, in my opinion, three conditions must exist simulta-

neously: You have to have wealth, commensurate to the size of the country and population; you have to have a trained human infrastructure; and you have to have modern, non-corrupt leaders. Fortunately, in Iraq we have these three conditions existing simultaneously.

If you take Iraq, and see the wealth of Iraq, we not only have the second-largest proven oil reserves in the world, after Saudi Arabia, but we have huge deposits of phosphate, which we have already started to develop. We have huge deposits of sulfur, as a mineral, not only as a byproduct of oil; and then, last but not least, for these 17 million people: Iraq is Mesopotamia. It is agricultural land, the land of the two rivers. We have water resources. All of this fabulous wealth for 17 million people. So we have that condition.

We have the human infrastructure. We don't import people to run our factories; we have Iraqi people. Sometimes, we work with foreign experts, yes, but the Iraqi people are doing the development by themselves. We have eradicated illiteracy in our country. Since 1978 we made schooling mandatory for every child of six years of age. We have 12 universities, aside from technical institutes. Education is free from primary school to the Ph.D. level. So we have the people undertake the development by themselves. This is the second condition.

The third condition is that you have to have leaders who believe in using modern science and technology for the development of their country, and who are not corrupt. They are not using their money by putting it in Monte Carlo, or buying yachts, or investing it for their own personal pleasure and concubinage. We have clean leaders.