

II. — LIBYE

1. — Remaniements ministériels et nouveaux gouvernements

Le gouvernement en place au début de l'année 1966 est celui du 2 octobre 1965.
Cf. *Annuaire de l'Afrique du Nord* (IV), 1965 : 661.

Remaniement ministériel le 20 mars 1966 : le général Muhammed al-MANSURI devient ministre de l'industrie et M. Yusuf YASSINE le remplace au ministère de la défense.

2. — Discours du trône

We open the Third Session of the Fifth Parliament, wishing your honourable Assembly every success in achieving our comprehensive progress and increased prosperity and for welfare and continually improving ways of life for all citizens.

Foreign affairs

In their foreign policy, my Government are following a realistic, moderate and non-deviating course, guided on this course by two important principles.

First the avoidance of involvement in the various international controversies.

Second the sincere contribution to combined efforts which aim at the support of peace and stability throughout the World.

In the particular field of Arab relations, my Government makes every endeavour to continue their fruitful policy of fraternal cooperation and to extend their fullest support to the efforts of the Arab League for the purpose of achieving the great Arab objective desired by the whole Arab Nation, in addition to the cleansing of the Arab air by the elimination of all misunderstandings that have tended to divide some of our Arab brethren, so that our efforts may be effectively combined in the devotion to the service of our causes.

And, being fully convinced that the Palestinian problem takes precedence over all Arab causes, my Government continue to stand by the side of those determined to solve this main problem of the Arab world.

Moreover, my Government reaffirm their support of all people in their struggle against submersion under foreign influence.

My Government also supports the movements of people aiming at the liberation of countries which are still suffering from colonialism and racial discrimination so that the inhabitants of such regions will achieve full sovereignty as is their right in the light of the human principles of self-determination.

My Government makes all endeavours to support the African Unity Organisation and so increase the volume of cooperation with sister states for the general good of the African continent and the welfare of its people.

They reaffirm full observance of the Arab League charter and the African Unity Organisation pact.

And, being profoundly convinced of the significant rôle of the United Nations Organisation as an effective instrument in maintaining peace and security, as well as in providing prosperity to the people of the world, my Government are fully determined to continue their support to this international organisation.

As regards diplomatic activities; my Government intends to establish diplomatic missions in the Republic of Pakistan and Sudan. New Libyan Embassies were opened in the Hashimite Kingdom of Jordan and in the Republic of Niger during the last months.

And, with the view to completing our diplomatic representation abroad so that Libyan views and the Libyan personality are properly represented in the international field, my Government will endeavour to establish diplomatic and consular representation in certain other countries of Asia, Europe and Latin America.

Armed forces

In the National Defence field, my Government pursues a policy which seeks the adequate expansion of the Defense Forces by developing its Land, Air and Naval forces and by ensuring that they are supplied with modern military equipment. The Navy ship « Tobruk » has recently been added to our forces.

Contracts for the supply of other naval units, equipped with modern weapons, have been duly concluded; in addition, the Royal Air Force will be supplied with modern military planes so that the total forces at their disposal are capable of defending our people and land.

A draft conscription law has been prepared and is laid before your Honourable Assembly.

In appreciation of the heroic struggle and the great sacrifices our veteran soldiers have made, my Government are giving considerable attention to the promotion and improvement of the social and financial position of these veterans.

Home affairs

My Government continues to concentrate efforts in the legislative field on the introduction of laws and regulations which will conform with the progress and development achieved by our country.

My Government are endeavouring to develop local administrations and improve municipal services. In view of the need for the standardisation of municipal procedures and coordination of their administrative and financial activities, the Municipal Executive Regulations have been promulgated.

New municipalities are being established in regions where the public interest so requires. Local reform schemes are achieving promising results in the development of remote areas.

My Government is rightly proud of the standard of our Public Security Force in maintaining the widespread atmosphere of tranquillity, stability and spirit of security and confidence that prevails throughout the country.

Every endeavour is being made to improve upon the present excellent standard of this force by improving conditions so that it will be able to continue shouldering the increasing responsibilities with which it is faced.

As regards Civil Service Affairs, my Government aims at improvement of productivity of the public official by providing all reasonable means necessary to raise the civil servant's living standard both during service and on retirement.

A unified pension draft law has been prepared which will be laid before your Honourable Assembly during this session.

Petroleum

My Government continues to view our Petroleum Wealth with the greatest attention, seeking means to ensure constant growth.

International developments in the oil industry are being followed with similar attention. We are mobilising our efforts in this respect with those of other oil producing States for the development and promotion of the oil industry through organisations, conferences and specialised committees levels.

Efforts are being made to provide training opportunities for our civil servants in the scientific, practical, legislative and administrative fields of the oil industry so that capable Libyan personnel will be able to participate successfully in exploiting our natural wealth.

Finance, development

Development projects in the various sectors of activity are proceeding in accordance with the five year plan which is now in its fourth year. Work progress is very encouraging. The broad outline of the second five year plan is being prepared.

Action is being taken for the preparation of an overall plan of action that will embrace all the towns and villages of our country.

To achieve this goal, a review of the present status of public utilities, social conditions and land exploitation will be undertaken.

Studies are continuing for the proper evaluation of our natural gas resources in order to determine the possibilities of utilisation to generate electrical power for industrial purposes.

Considering the vital importance of water in promoting agricultural activity, and the increase of productivity, as well as the need for domestic purposes, steps are being taken for the institution of an overall hydro-geological survey which should determine the country's available water resources whether surface or artesian.

Taxation

For the purpose of practising proper financial control over the Public Treasury, my Government are reviewing the current fiscal and accounting regulations.

Being fully convinced that taxation should no longer be considered merely as a means of increasing the Treasury's revenues, but should rather be considered more as an effective instrument for the better distribution of income and the adjustment of other social requirements, my Government continues to adopt a Custom's policy which aims at the elimination of duties on items in demand by people of the lower income groups.

A new direct Taxation draft law has been prepared which will function as an efficient tool in providing equitable justice to the various categories of taxpayers.

My Government is pleased to reaffirm that the supervised financial organisations are carrying out their assigned duties successfully.

The Bank of Libya's activities continue to provide the fullest support to our National Economy by applying all appropriate measures in order to minimise the effects of inflation in our country.

Furthermore some new measures have been adopted to re-organise the currency control.

Farming

In the field of agricultural credits, my Government continues to extend support to the Agricultural Bank in its services to farmers.

A Royal Decree has abolished the provisions relating to too high interest rates.

Resulting from the policy of encouraging agriculture, short and medium term agricultural credits were substantially increased.

In the light of the significant part that long term credit could play in the development of our agricultural potential, agricultural credits are now being granted which will enable farmers to establish new farms as well as improve existing ones.

In the field of agricultural production my Government has implemented a resolution by which Government financial aid is offered to farmers to cover their essential purchases of chemical fertilizers, insecticides, forage, machinery and fuel for agricultural purposes.

It is also my Government's intention to uphold their policy aiming at the stabilisation of prices of agricultural products, by purchasing the main agricultural crops at fair prices.

Being anxious to increase agricultural wealth, existing orchards are being enlarged and new orchards planted as well as forest trees.

Of great importance to my Government is the need to conserve and improve the animal wealth of the country. This will be done under an overall plan which will provide for the supply of forage to offset drought conditions which often prevail in certain regions from time to time. New silos and other stores are being established in many areas of the Kingdom in order to increase the country's food storage capacity.

Land settlement projects include the development and reclamation of all existing farms as well as the establishment of new farms totalling about forty thousand hectares.

Trade

Conscious of the need to maintain our economic growth, my Government has had under review existing economic legislation with the view to adaption so as to conform with the requirements of our revived economic life and to enable our national elements to exercise control over the national economy.

To this end, my Government have drafted the Commercial Agencies law, which is laid before your Honourable Assembly, as also is the Accounting Procedures Regulations, the Patent Agents Law and the Unified Law for Chambers of Commerce.

My Government are taking such steps as are necessary to ensure that the domestic market is adequately supplied with goods for public consumption. Foreign trade is being promoted through a number of Trade Agreements concluded with sister and friendly States.

Tourism

An overall tourist amenities plan is in the course of preparation.

It will include the construction of a large number of new hotels and tourist motels throughout the country, as well as the reconstruction and furnishing of existing hotels.

Industry

Industry is receiving the closest attention. Directions for the proper regulation and control of industry are being prepared with the purpose of supporting National production and for protecting consumers interests.

Education in industrial methods is also to be carried out to contribute to our industrial progress. In order to raise local industry to satisfactory standards, my Government are exercising close supervision over such enterprises. The policy of constructing industrial compounds is continuing.

My Government are exploring the possibilities of establishing petrochemical industries and are to institute an industrial survey plan for implementation.

Careful attention is being paid to the Industrial and Real Estate Bank so that it may discharge its responsibilities of assisting the private sector to establish national industries and by providing credits to citizens wishing to build their own houses.

A Royal Decree exempting such credits from interest charges has been promulgated.

Public works

In the field of Public Works a good deal of success has been achieved in providing potable water supplies throughout the Kingdom, in addition to improving the water resources for the cities.

Efforts are continuing to ensure as wide a distribution of electric power throughout the country as possible by installing new power stations and enlarging and improving existing ones.

Sewage projects are being carried out in the main cities and other sewage projects will be prepared for Regional centres. My Government are arranging for the implementation of the Meginin Valley (flood control) project in Tripoli, and the Kattara Valley project in Benghazi.

Great attention has been given to the Barce Reconstruction works and work thereon is progressing smoothly.

Communications

Steps have been taken to inaugurate under-sea lines of communication which will connect Libya with the international network in Europe. This project is expected to provide 120 telecommunications channels.

The co-axial telecommunication line within the Kingdom will also be implemented and will provide an additional 960 telephone channels.

The present network has been enlarged and extended as far as the eastern and western borders of the Kingdom. The Tripoli-Benghazi existing network has been enlarged and new telephone exchange stations to be constructed in Tripoli and Benghazi will increase the present capacity of telecommunications threefold.

Work on the installation of the high vibrations network between Tripoli, Benghazi and the Southern Region is being carried out. This will provide telephone and telegraphic services almost five times greater than at present. Further, the Sebha telephone exchange will be enlarged to accommodate three thousand lines.

Air, land, sea

Design for the Idris and Benina airports are in the course of planning. Complete specifications for passengers accommodation, runways and other services are being prepared.

At Sebha airport the passengers' accommodation is under construction. Other subsidiary airports are being constructed or rehabilitated.

A new centre for the control of Libyan air space will be established; meteorological services are being developed.

The technical specification for the redevelopment of Tripoli port and other ports have been prepared.

My Government are pleased to inform the Honourable Assembly that the coastal road widening and improvement project is now entering the stage of execution.

Housing

My Government continue the housing policy which aims at the provision of suitable houses for our citizens within the limits of the Idris Housing Scheme.

During the current year the construction of ten thousand houses will be commenced as the first stage of the Idris Housing Scheme.

The Aquisition Bill has been promulgated whereby the occupant of a state-owned house can become its proprietor.

My Government have prepared the necessary studies for the implementation of the Agricultural Settlements Programme and the Model Villages Scheme.

More than 20 000 agricultural housing units will be constructed.

Education

The Islamic University has prepared a plan for the construction of a new University compound in Beida. It intends to open a higher studies division in Jaghboub, in addition to the establishment of new schools and institutions throughout the country. Equal attention is being paid to the Koranic school and Senussi zawayats.

Our school construction programme aims at the provision of a sufficient number of modern schools. A large number of new schools have been completed and others are being constructed to meet the ever increasing demand for education and this expanding programme will also ensure morning school periods for all classes.

Teachers' Training Institutes will be enlarged for both men and women to accommodate a large number of students. Two new women teachers' training institutes were recently opened in Derna and Zaria to meet the increasing demand for girls' education throughout the country.

Plans for two University compounds in Tripoli and Benghazi have been prepared. The tender covering the execution of the first stage will be announced by the beginning of the next year.

A Faculty of Agriculture has been established in Tripoli during the current scholastic year. Another Faculty of Civil Engineering will be established in Benghazi. Other faculties will follow.

My Government continue to send students abroad on scholarships to specialise in the various fields of University education which are not available here.

Support is being given to technical and vocational studies as well as to the abolition of illiteracy campaign.

Being fully conscious of the importance of antiquities as a valuable human heritage, my Government are concerned about their proper preservation and excavation, as well as the establishment of new museums to contain these relics.

Health

The number of beds in existing hospitals has increased considerably. Fifteen new hospitals are under construction and, during the next three months, notices calling for tenders for two large hospitals, one in Tripoli and one in Benghazi will be issued.

In addition, fifteen new medical centres and forty five dispensaries will be opened in all Regions of the Kingdom.

A number of specialised doctors have been engaged to serve in the Kingdom's hospitals and some senior specialists, of world known repute, are invited to perform delicate surgical operations for certain especially difficult cases in the Libyan hospitals.

Twelve tuberculosis centres are being established in various parts of the country.

A wide anti-polio inoculation campaign which covered the whole Kingdom has been carried out.

Mobile social service units will be provided to offer social care and amenities to rural inhabitants so that they will be encouraged to remain on the land, where benefits will be brought to them.

Social services

Work is progressing on the construction of two «sports cities» in Tripoli and Benghazi, where a selected group of Arab young men will meet in the fifth Arab Games competition which will be held in our country in 1969. It is also intended to establish youth camps and summer rest houses.

The Scout movement is receiving my Government's whole-hearted support and attention.

My Government are giving women every encouragement by, for example, supporting the women's Al Nahda societies and the establishment of social centres which will provide an effective outlet for their activities in the service of society, guided by the great educational factors and teachings of our pure Islamic religion.

In the field of Social Insurance, my Government have established a number of dispensaries to provide medical care to all insured persons.

Preparations are under way for the establishment, for the National Social Insurance Institution, of two hospitals and two administrative buildings in Tripoli and Benghazi, in addition to the enlargement and development of the present Sebha office.

Several new mosques have been constructed. Continuing great care is taken of Libyan pilgrims.

My Government continue their efforts in developing the diffusion of information. Two powerful transmitting stations are being installed in Beida and Tripoli and two similar stations will shortly be inaugurated in Tripoli and Benghazi.

The Libyan television plans have been completed and construction work will be commenced early next year.

Support for cultural and artistic movements will also be supplied and citizens will be encouraged to participate; to this end centres will be established for diffusion of cultural activities.

We have given the broad lines of the accomplishments of my Government as well as outlining their future policy in both the domestic and foreign fields, which aim at the provision of the means for the advancement and progress of our beloved country and of our noble people within a world where peace and security prevail.