

# **SADDAM HUSSEIN the Fighter, the Thinker and the Man**

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## **CHAPTER 19**

### **The Meaning of Non - Alignment**

This determined independent Arab stand finds its wider political expression in Saddam Hussein's concept of "non-alignment", and in the positive and effective role he plays in the non-aligned movement.

What then is his concept of non-alignment? It involves the non-intervention in the internal affairs of any of these nations, and the dialogue and relations based on adherence to principles with the aim of achieving better results. According to this method, "Iraq chooses its policy and its friends in the world. Its choice is based on a long-term overall view, and not on current views or relations divorced from the comprehensive vision of the world's development, the factors affecting this development, and the nature of the present struggle between the Arab nation and colonialism and its aides, the Zionist entity above all. It also takes into account the struggle against backwardness and for independence (1)."

But how do the non-aligned nations counter outside pressure? Saddam Hussein replies that this can be done in two ways. The first is to create a national ideology, expressing the people's interests independently, which is derived according to their circumstances and aimed to solve their problems. This ideology should comprise an overall and sophisticated view of life, mankind, the problems of various peoples, and international relations.

The second is to provide the will able to transform this ideology into a working programme following this direction.

However, Saddam Hussein does not ignore the role of economic pressures exerted on the developing countries by the superpowers and the advanced industrial nations.

Talking of "non-alignment" without considering its economic content sometimes becomes a mere beatification. Saddam Hussein frankly stated the following at the Sixth Non-Aligned Summit in Havana in 1979 for the whole world to hear:

"Iraq asserts the absolute necessity of eliminating all forms of economic exploitation and privilege, and advocates rapid action towards achieving a fair economic system. Iraq also holds a deep conviction in the people's right to have full and effective control of their natural resources, including the right to nationalize these, and use them in the interests of independent growth and ending the dominance of multi-national companies, which represent the new colonialism in robbing the wealth of developing countries. Iraq likewise advocates the establishment of specific unions and cooperatives for the producers of primary materials in the developing countries. Those already in existence should be strengthened and consolidated. This is in order to counter the monopolies of the developed industrial nations, and create an effective force to accompany the political will to do so.

Iraq too calls for the creation of efficient means to resist the effects of inflation, brought to the developing countries by the developed industrial nations. This is one of the most important negative factors affecting the economies of the developing countries and impeding their economic growth. In order to deal with a vital aspect of the issue, Iraq has suggested the establishment of a long-term world fund to help these countries counter the effects of inflation, irrespective of their political and economic systems. The basis of this is that the advanced industrial nations will contribute to the fund according to the amount of inflation they cause. The OPEC countries will also make their contribution. In our opinion, when applied, this project will provide an

important and fundamental solution to this current state of economic relations linking the economies of developing and developed nations. It will also form a basic pillar towards achieving a new international economic system.

"Realizing the truth about the economic conditions being currently experienced by the developing nations, and assessing the future relations between Iraq and the Third World, the Iraqi government has decided to recompense those developing nations which currently have direct oil contracts with Iraq for any official price rises in Iraq oil from June 1st, 1979, until the end of this year. This it will do by offering long-term interest-free loans to these countries equivalent to the sum of the raise in oil prices, and, in the hope of finding the start to a just and serious solution to this situation 2).

This, then, is the Third World of today.

The Third World is reappearing, making itself felt once again through this tall youth from the East, from a great nation, which has given mankind all known prophets.

Here is the Third World recovering its face of struggler in this Knight, not yet forty-three, who speaks profoundly, discusses wisely, and acts with pride, as if Tito had left him his experience, Nehru his rationality, and Gamal Abdul-Nasser his Arab decisiveness, his leading magnetism and proud youth.

Yet Saddam Hussein himself, thanks to all this, and despite it, always remains a pure expression of a new historic moment. This moment is witness to the birth of a new stage in an ancient nation, which thrives, with its national, progressive and human thought and its generous sacrifice and struggle, to overcome all its difficult and complicated contradictions, and to surpass, in its future, all the glories of its past.

### **Notes**

1) Saddam Hussein, full text of The Press Conference in Baghdad, 18-7-1978, pp. 60-61.

2) Saddam Hussein, *Harakat Adam al-Inhiyaz Hakadha Nafhamuha (Our Understanding of the Non-Aligned Movement)*, Baghdad, Ministry of Culture and Information, 1979, pp. 18-22. 409