EGYPTIAN-IRAQI RELATIONS AND THEIR IMPACT ON THE INTERNAL SITUATION IN IRAQ 1958-1963

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ABSTRACT

The research sheds light on the most prominent pillars between Egypt and Iraq in the first republican era in Iraq led by Abdul Karim Qassem[1] (1958-1963) and Egypt led by Gamal Abdel Nasser (1954-1970[2] , and its impact on internal developments and events in Iraq, and what Egypt had on the The Iraqi arena, especially the nationalist officers, and its reflection on the political situation in Iraq.

Keywords: Abd al-Salam Aref, Unity, People's Court, Al-Shawaf Movement

I. INTRODUCTION

The roots of the relations between Egypt and Iraq go back to ancient times, and the relations between strength and weakness sometimes oscillated, and in most cases they were characterized by the nature of conflict and tension, especially after World War II, when conflict and competition for Arab political leadership began, especially before the two revolutions in both Egypt and Iraq on July 23, 1952, and on July 14, 1958, respectively[3].

The nature of the political relations between the two countries, left its impact on the internal political situation in Iraq after the fall of the monarchy, as the relations witnessed an important development after the coup of the fourteenth of July 1958, after Egypt stood firmly on the side of the Iraqi army officers who carried out the coup and provided them with support material and media, and announced the readiness of its ground and air forces to stand by the Iraqi armed forces in support and sympathy [4].

It also announced on the fourteenth of July 1958 its recognition of the nascent Iraqi Republic, and it was the first Arab country to announce its official recognition of Iraq. He put and harnessed all military and media capabilities to serve the Iraqi government[5].

Accordingly, Gamal Abdel Nasser made the following statement: “The government of the United Arab Republic declares that any aggression against the Iraqi Republic will be considered at the same time as an aggression against the United Arab Republic, and in this case the United Arab Republic will fulfill all its obligations towards the Iraqi Republic in accordance with the Charter of Arab Collective Security [6].

The Iraqi Council of Ministers decided to send a delegation headed by Colonel Abdul Salam Aref (1963-1966)[7].Deputy Prime Minister and Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior and Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces. An agreement on the nineteenth of the same month, which included several points, the most prominent of which was the affirmation of the covenants and pacts that bind the two countries, foremost of which are the Charter of the Arab League and the Charter of Common Defense among the Arab countries, and taking a single position vis-à-vis the international position, and repelling any aggression that might befall them or against them. Either of them, and immediately start taking the practical steps required for that, in addition to the fact that the agreement emphasized full cooperation in the international environment to preserve the rights of the two countries and support peace in the Middle East and the world. The great impact on the feelings of the Iraqis because it embodied the independent Arab will in the joint defense against any aggression that might occur against the Arab nation [8].

And soon the Egyptian-Iraqi relations took another form, following the differences that occurred between the leaders of the coup, Abdul Karim Qassem and Abdel Salam Aref, and what concerns us in this regard is one of
those differences, namely the issue of Arab unity with Egypt, which Abdel Salam Aref presented during his interview with Abdel Nasser on the eighteenth of July, and stressed the importance of its establishment, even if it cost him to remove Abdel Karim Qassem from power[9], as Abdel Salam Arif was one of the most nationalist advocates of Arab unity with Egypt, and one of the most admirers of the personality of Gamal Abdel Nasser, and his principles Nationalism, and he expressed that admiration in his personal memoirs, after he met him in Damascus on the eighteenth of July 1958, when he said: “At eleven o’clock, brother Gamal Abdel Nasser came to us, we embraced.. I felt that we have known each other for a long time. I was I know everything about Abdel Nasser, the hero, the brave Muslim, the believer in his nationalism and Arabism, and I felt that we meet on the same line, the line of revolution and unity [10].

Since that meeting, Abdel Salam Arif mentions Gamal Abdel Nasser in his public speeches that he delivered among the nationalist youth, after he toured the Iraqi brigades calling for Arab unity, as he greeted the masses in his name and in the name of President Gamal Abdel Nasser, in addition to repeating some phrases, such as [10]

“Know that you have brothers in the Levant, North Africa and the Arabian Peninsula, who are part of you, and at their head is our elder brother Gamal Abdel Nasser.” Beauty”[12].

These actions provoked reactions from the members of the Communist Party[13], who began to incite Abdul Karim Qassem to take action against him, and to stop him from working with these methods, as well as they organized large demonstrations at the beginning of August 1958 that roamed the streets of Baghdad calling for the establishment of a federal system and chanting The life of Abdul Karim Qassem and called him by many titles such as the sole leader and the inspiring leader, and she stands firmly and categorically rejects the establishment of Arab unity with Egypt, which led to those demonstrations escalating the differences between the two leaders in particular, and the Egyptian-Iraqi relations in general[14].

In any case, Abd al-Karim Qassem was able to get rid of Abd al-Salam Aref after he relieved him of his position as Deputy Prime Minister and Deputy Minister of the Interior, and appointed him ambassador to Germany on the thirtieth of September 1958, with the aim of expelling him from the country[15], but Abd al-Salam refused that position and asked On the first of October 1958, he was excused from him or accepted his resignation, then he was summoned to the Ministry of Defense and met with Abdul Karim Qassem, and the dispute between them was deep, and the latter claimed that Abdul Salam wanted to kill him, which called for him to be imprisoned and his case transferred to the People’s Court[16]. Which sentenced him on the fifth of February 1959 to death[17]. It also issued a special paragraph in the decision stating, “Mercy is deposited with him to the order of the leader, Abdul Karim Qassem, by using his authority contained in Article 20 of the Law on Punishment of Conspirators.” Therefore, the matter remained with Abdul Karim Qassem without exemption or approval until the beginning of September 1961, when He was released, but he remained under house arrest until the coup of February 8, 1963[18].

Although the relationship between Abdel Salam Aref and Abdel Nasser was severed, the latter continued to support the Iraqi nationalist officers, in his desire to achieve Arab unity, and contact took place between him and the Iraqi officers following the Al-Shawaf movement[19] that occurred on the eighth of March 1959, as The Iraqi officers asked him to support them and to provide them with the weapons they needed, and these requests were communicated through the Egyptian military attache in Baghdad, Colonel Abdul Majeed Farid. And Gamal Abdel Nasser was not satisfied with military support only, but also provided them with money, “for the national cause in Iraq,” according to what Abdel Nasser made in mid-March 1963[20].

It is worth noting, that despite the failure of the Shawaf movement, which ended with the killing of Abdel-Wahhab Al-Shawaf[21] and the execution of Rifaat Al-Hajj Seri[22], who are among its most prominent leaders, Gamal Abdel Nasser continued to make several attempts to urge the Iraqi officers to carry out another revolution against Abdel Karim. Qassem, and held a meeting in Syria that included a number of Egyptian and Syrian political and military figures, in which he discussed the internal situation in Iraq[23], and suggested that “the Arab Republic should launch raids with the intent of causing chaos in the country, and perhaps that position would prompt some Iraqi officers to make another revolution.” Or some of the enthusiastic Iraqis rush in and assault him.”[24].

In addition, a media war has begun between the Arab Republic and the Iraqi Republic. Gamal Abdel Nasser accused that Iraqi planes had bombed the Iraqi-Syrian border, and declared: “Qassem Iraq took out his planes and attacked our republic…” He also accused the Iraqi government of exposing the nationals. The Egyptians and the Syrians in Iraq were subjected to terror and abuse, so he demanded the return of those families, and the Arab
Republic threw many other charges against Abdul Karim Qassem. In return, the Iraqi government closed the Egyptian embassy in Baghdad and expelled its members. Relations between the two countries worsened and continued in that state until the eighth coup The tenth of February 1963[25].

It is worth noting that, in his book (I was an ambassador in Iraq), Amin Huwaidi expressed the general situation in Iraq at that stage and the rule of Abdul Karim Qassem, saying: “The Iraqi people thought that the long-awaited dawn was about to dawn and shine, but the hopes sound Arabic, and the failure of efforts to confront the problems and deviations that were undertaken to correct them, which led to the fall of the entire revolution as prey in the hands of Abdxl-Karim Qasim, at whose hands the people tasted strange and abnormal types of killing, torture and displacement[26].

On this basis, we see that Amin Howaidi describes his feeling upon hearing from Cairo radio the news of the coup of February 8, 1963[27], and broadcasting the first statement of the National Council for the Leadership of the Revolution, which announced the elimination of the rule of Abdel Karim Qassem, who was described as “the enemy of the people.” [28]. He said, "The events passed quickly in front of me.. I know a lot about Iraq during Qassem's era. I was closely related to its events and what was going on in it for a long time before I went to Rabat to represent my country there.. I was deputy chief of General Intelligence in the late fifties and early sixties." The massacres of Mosul, Karukuk, and Umm al-Daboul passed before me, and the humiliation and humiliation that the people of Iraq had tasted in prisons and detention centers under the rule of a tyrant were embodied before me[29].

II. CONCLUSION

The nature of the Egyptian-Iraqi relations (1958-1963) was characterized by instability and steadfastness, which was evident in the many positions between the two parties towards each other, as the relations witnessed a remarkable development when the United Arab Republic supported the revolution of July 14, 1958 and was the first Arab country to recognize the new republican system. However, the relations between the two countries quickly became tense, especially after the differences between Abdul Karim Qasim and Abdul Salam Aref and the issue of Arab unity, as well as Jamal Abdul Nasser’s support for the Shawaf movement in Mosul in 1959, as he relied on it that it would end Qasim’s rule and end the communist tide in the region. And what followed was the closure of the Egyptian embassy in Baghdad as countermeasures by Abdel Karim Qassem towards Abdul Nasser and his intervention and support for the Shawaf movement.

The relationship remained unchanged, until the coup of February 8, 1963, when Cairo welcomed this in view of the solid friendship between Abdul Salam Aref and Abdul Nasser and the common goals and principles that unite the two parties in order to achieve Arab unity. As a new phase of relations began, the embassy of the Arab Republic was reopened in Baghdad, and Amin Huwaidi was appointed as an ambassador there, who is considered one of the most efficient men of Abdel Nasser's intelligence and those whom he trusts very much.

REFERENCES


[7] Abd al-Salam Muhammad Aref (1921-1966): President of the Iraqi Republic and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces during the period (1963-1966). He was born in 1921 in Baghdad. He studied at the Central Preparatory School. He joined the Royal Iraqi Military School, and graduated from it in 1939 with the rank of second lieutenant. In the Palestine War in 1948, he joined the Free Officers Organization in the fifties, participated in the July

[16] People’s Court: A military court that was formed after the July 14, 1958 coup, and was named the Al-Mahdawi Court in relation to the head of the court, Fadel Abbas Al-Mahdawi, who is the cousin of Abdul Karim Qassem. and defaming the officers accused of conspiring against the regime, and the Ministry of Defense also printed those minutes and issued them in 22 parts in 1960. Hassan Latif Al-Zubaidi, Op.Cit, p. 452; Muhammad Hamdi Al-Jaabari, Al-Mahdawi Court, Baghdad, 1990.
[29] Amin Howeidi, 50 Years of Storm..., p. 96.