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Verzonden aan: de Minister van Buitenlandse Zaken.

Aan Zijne Excellentie Prof. Dr. L.J.M. BEEL
Minister-President

Plein 1813 no. 4

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Irak

COMMUNIST STAND ON UNION WITH THE U.A.R.

Following are excerpts from a leaflet published by the Iraqi Communist Party, which defines the Party's stand on the issue of union with the U.A.R.:

".... Ever since the revolution in Iraq, certain elements in the country have been advocating a complete union with the U.A.R. Our party, however, together with other popular democratic forces, have considered a federal union with the U.A.R. and the Yemen as being much more opportune. This attitude derives from a realistic estimate of the situation of our country and of the whole Arab world. It reflects also our historical responsibility for the future of Arab nationalism and its democratic development. Our Party believes that the present struggle of the Arab nations has as its goal a complete union from the Atlantic Ocean to the Persian Gulf, within the framework of a federal and democratic Arab republic. Our Party supports this plan. Yet, at the same time, the Party takes into consideration the different historical and material conditions in every country, our basic assumption being that the union must safeguard the interests of all sections of the population and of all countries concerned. Obviously such a democratic Arab republic cannot be established until all Arab states, or at least their majority, gain their independence and until the Arab nations themselves will decide so by means of true democratic methods".

"Today, after Iraq has shattered its chains of bondage in the revolution of 14.7.58, tremendous opportunities to work for Arab unity have opened before us. We must not waste these opportunities through premature and precipitate action. Remembering the

historical responsibility entrusted to us, we must make our decision only after careful consideration. While doing so, we might perhaps do well to take into account the experience of the Syrian-Egyptian union, which proved that together with the positive accomplishments there are negative sides as well. When we hear the slogans calling for accession to the U.A.R., we experience a feeling of grave apprehension with regard to the future of our democratic rights, because of the lack of freedom in the U.A.R. (ban on political parties, suppression of freedom of expression and prohibition of social organization). It is therefore feared by the popular forces that in the event of a union with the U.A.R., political activities might be prohibited or limited to special activities within the framework of the "National Union" which has failed in both parts of the U.A.R. and in Syria in particular. More than anything else, the Iraqi people fears that a regime similar to the one in existence in the U.A.R., would be introduced in Iraq, and deprive us of the democracy which can be achieved in our country".

"Our brave Army and its officers, who gave a wonderful example of patriotism, responsibility and loyalty to the democratic principles of the Liberation Movement during the revolution, are also worried, watching the way the unification of the Syrian and Egyptian armies is being carried out".

"Other circles in our country are also apprehensive at the thought of a union with the U.A.R., because such a union is not likely to create the suitable conditions for Iraq's economic development, nor to establish an equal basis for economic cooperation between Iraq and the U.A.R. - considering the differences in the standard of development in the two

states".

"It seems therefore, that the only basis for the stabilization of relations between the liberated Arab States is a federal union, which would give due consideration to the specific conditions of every country and would at the same time promise to realize the ideals of liberty and democracy common to all Arabs".

"When we are told that individual interests must be sacrificed for the common good of the Arab people, we believe that such arguments are groundless and wrong. If union with the U.A.R. will act as a retarding factor on Iraq's development, such a union would not benefit the cause of democracy in the U.A.R. A federal union of Iraq with the U.A.R. and the Yemen, on the other hand, would have no negative effects. It would be a great step forward, and would open up new horizons for the ultimate union of all Arab nations, from the Atlantic to the Persian Gulf, in the framework of a democratic and federal Arab republic".

Begin december 1958.