

discredited parliamentary system. By taking part in those "facade institutions", the Ba'th, in the view of the Arab Nationalists, was doing a disservice to the revolutionary cause. It was only diverting those who should know better from the difficult work of reaching people, organizing them and building with them a solid movement of struggle.³⁰ The Arab Nationalists have also noted the fundamental incompatibility of socialism with the Ba'th liberal doctrine. There can be no socialism in the Arab World, they claimed, until the landlords and the bourgeoisie have been decisively crushed.³¹

Although the Ba'th represented a radical departure from previous national parties in terms of organizational structure, the Arab Nationalists still did not think that the Ba'th has really solved the organizational crises of the Arab national movement. They could easily point to more than one faction within the party. Indeed the Ba'th had more than its share of divisions based upon both ideological and personal geographical factors. Besides the "main school", or the "national school" of Michel Aflaq and Salah al-Din Bitar there was a Marxist faction led by Jamal Atasi and a Jordanian faction led by Abdulla al-Rimawi.³² These divisions

³⁰Opinion expressed by Dr. George Habash in a training course for the advanced members of the ANM, December 22, 1959.

³¹Ibid.

³²The Administration Committee, ANM, "Ta'mim Houli al-Tatawurat al-Akhirah Fi Hizb al-Ba'th" [Circular About the Latest Developments in the Ba'th], September 1959, pp. 1-4.