

the expounding of his nationalist doctrines with no attempt on his part to engage his students in political activities, the Arab Nationalists seized the initiative to invite the more energetic and promising participants in the discussion circles to take part in their political activities.

In the course of the next few months and before the end of the university year, the Arab Nationalists started their own study groups and enrolled many of Zurayk's students who have proved, in the meanwhile, to be serious and active. The Arab Nationalists did not confine themselves only to explaining the ideas of Arab nationalism to those who attended their study groups but also engaged them in the political struggle. Everyone belonging to these groups was expected to be an active member in al-Urwah and to take a leading part in its activities. Everyone was also expected to participate in other political activities conducted by the Arab Nationalists.⁴⁵

It is pertinent to recall here that Dr. Zurayk acted as the advisor to the Executive Committee of al-Urwah during the year 1950-1951, and as such he was in close contact with the founding leaders of the movement. His influence must have been great on the Arab Nationalists

⁴⁵Unless otherwise pointed out, the information on the formative years of the ANM is based mainly on the author's personal interviews with Dr. George Habash, June 24, 1970; Hani al-Hindi, June 22, 1970; Dr. Wadi' Haddad, June 21, 1970; Dr. Ahmed al-Khatib, November 12, 1968 and Hamid al-Jibouri, March 6, 1968 and other members of the original leadership who wished their names to be kept in secret.