

thinking had come when the ruling class and its State power lost legitimacy in the eyes of the majority of people after the humiliating defeat of the Arabs in Palestine.

3. An Elite Group -- The Arab Nationalists have been more or less an élite group of students, intellectuals, and petty-bourgeois elements in their early days. But in spite of that they believed in the Arab masses as the force that will carry on the struggle to its ultimate end. Thus they sought to raise the consciousness of the masses, enhance their energies and galvanize them into action.⁵²

4. A Monolithic Organization -- The Arab Nationalists were adamant on having a single and uniform organization which speaks in one voice. Aware of the shortcomings of the Ba'th in this respect, the founding leaders emphasized the importance of having a monolythic organization which prohibits factions and insists on unity of action.⁵³

THE ORGANIZATION FOR RESISTING PEACE WITH ISRAEL

It would be well, before discussing the next move made by the Arab Nationalists, to cast a retrospective glance at the political fortunes of the Arab East in the years which followed the Arab-Israeli War of 1948.

⁵²ANM, "Harakatuna" [Our Movement], p. 3.

⁵³ANM, Fi al-Tathqif al-Qawmi, op. cit., pp. 111-113.