

hearing that Iraq was being pressed to join the Turco-Pakistani pact the Arab Nationalists called upon the students of the American University and other institutions in Beirut to demonstrate against Iraq's participation in the military pact. Late in March 1954 hundreds of students marched from the campus of the American University to clash with the police which was blocking the university gates.

Hassan Abu Isma'il, a militant member of the Progressive Socialist Party was killed and twenty-nine other students were hurt.⁷ This incident had serious repercussions in the Lebanese National Assembly and the mass media were the government of Abdullah al-Yafi was strongly attacked for opening fire on a peaceful demonstration.

The American University expelled five of the student leaders who were held responsible for the whole affair. This disciplinary measure was taken in July 1954, that is during the summer vacation. However, when the University opened its gates for the Fall Semester, disturbances erupted once again by the ANM activists on campus, and this time the university authorities took the unprecedented measure of expelling seventeen students at one stroke.⁸

⁷The New York Times, March 28, p. 6.

⁸Al-Ra'i, January 24, 1955, p. 1.