

adopted in 1962 by the ANM at the instigation of Muhsin Ibrahim. The "traditional leadership" was prepared to accept the revision of its basic program for two reasons.²⁵ First, the bitter experience of the rise and fall of the U.A.R., an experience which ruled out the bourgeoisie as a unionist force. Second, the impact of the ideological dialogue that took place between the Nasserites and the other unionist forces after the Syrian secession. Nasser's role in this respect was very great, for he opened new vistas in Arab socialist thought by presenting the National Charter.

Apart from the ideological debate that was engulfing an increasing number of members, the ANM was involved in a militant, patriotic, and class oriented battle to reinstate the U.A.R. in Syria. Its persistent fight to overthrow the secessionist regime in Syria, and its continued struggle in Iraq under the banners of union and socialism was highly appreciated by President Nasser who took special interest in the activities of the ANM at this time.²⁶

The failure of the Ba'th leaders to honor the unity agreements which they signed with Nasser soon after they assumed power in Iraq and Syria, accentuated the rift between the U.A.R. and the Ba'th. The ANM, which had tried but failed to overthrow the Iraqi Ba'th in the meantime, was happy to hear of Nasser's denunciation of the Ba'th on the 11th

²⁵Statement by Hani al-Hindi, personal interview, June 22, 1970.

²⁶Ibid.