

to discharge their authority to those who are less educated and experienced than they are. Having interviewed many members from the Command of the Region and from the second level of the hierarchy in Iraq, the author can see why the Command of the Region did not bother to call for a Regional Conference during Kassim's regime or that which followed (i.e., the Ba'thist's regime). Because of the gap between the Command of the Region and the second level "leaders", the Command did not see the value of convening the Regional Conference. To put it in the words of an Iraqi leader, "... it would have been time consuming and boring, besides nothing fruitful would have generated from a conference whose majority would have been mediocres".¹⁶

The Commands of the different Regions (i.e., Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Palestine, Kuwait, ..., etc.) communicate with each other only through the medium of the supreme organ of the ANM, the National Congress where delegates from the Commands of the different Regions meet regularly once a year to perform the following functions:¹⁷

1. Review the general political situation and determine the ANM's objectives for each stage;
2. Draw a general working plan for the Movement in each stage;

¹⁶Statement by anonymous, personal interview, November 10, 1968.

¹⁷ANM, Internal Rules, op. cit., p. 3.