

The zeal and excitement of the first generation waned when they soon discovered the hard realities of life. It was sometime toward the late fifties when the Movement observed that it was not going to fulfill its aims through its "boy scouts". The achievement of unity between Egypt and Syria in 1958 shed some light on the weakness of the ANM which was until then indulging in organizing students, especially high school students. The National Congress which convened later that year reviewed in detail the previous experience of the Movement and found that its criteria for membership was too rigid to attract members from any group other than students. It called upon the Commands of the Regions to look for new vistas to recruit workers, farmers and members of the armed forces.<sup>24</sup>

The Movement now associated itself with the rising tide of Nasserism and a breakthrough could be established in more than one Arab state and among a multitude of classes, social groups and sections of the population. In Iraq, the Movement members threw their lot with the Ba'thists and other nationalist forces to combat communism which all of a sudden was threatening the newly established revolutionary regime. When Kassim collaborated with the communists, they turned against him and stubbornly fought his dictatorship.

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<sup>24</sup>Statement by Mustafa Baydoun, personal interview, November 17, 1968.