

In a short time they were recognized as one of the most trusted fighting forces of Arab nationalism and revolution. They were credited with a prominent place in the National Front which led the struggle against the dictatorial regime of General Kassem. The above stands won the Movement an increasing number of members from all walks of life. Of special interest to the ANM was the opening it established in the Armed Forces where influential officers were attracted to the Movement. The Movement's achievements in Iraq, in a matter of a few years, was beyond anything its leaders expected when they started on a new program with a bunch of students in 1958. Their accomplishments in the next five years were really fantastic. When the Ba'th took over the reigns of government in 1963, the ANM was a force to reckon with. It had its organizations spread in every corner of the country, with its strongholds in Mosul, Baghdad and the Middle Euphrates. Its followers were mostly working-class people. Students, high school teachers and few university professors still comprised its hard core cadre.<sup>25</sup>

In Jordan, there has always been definite limitations imposed on the activities of the Movement. These limitations were caused by two factors. First, the paternalistic and

---

<sup>25</sup> Statement by Salam Ahmed, personal interview, November 10, 1968.