

Jelena Manojlović

*Attitude of Yugoslavia towards Unification of Egypt and Syria
into United Arab Republic*

Summary

Unification of Egypt and Syria into United Arab Republic (UAR) was proclaimed on February 1, 1958, and was confirmed by the Syrian and Egyptian Parliament on February 5 and the plebiscite of the people of both up to then separated –state-legal entities was taken on February 22nd, the same year. This required official announcement of Yugoslav Government Authorities. Aware of the intricacy of the international situation caused by foundation of the new State at the Near East burdened by the conflict of interests of big cold war powers, former colonial rulers and Arab countries inspired with the idea of pan-Arabic union, the Government slowly reacted according to this matter. Great help were diplomats. Owing to their information, suggestions and projection of events, Yugoslav Government authorities managed to make announcement timely and in a proper way for international public on the occasion of the foundation of UAR. Although immediately after receiving the information, the Government was eager to express positive opinion regarding this matter, that was first of all reflection of the need to maintain existing good relations with Egypt as very influential state in the Near East region and the Arab World and country that did not belong to any of cold war blocks, the Government waited to issue the official act of recognition until all doubts regarding negative repercussions on the relation of Yugoslavia and other countries had been removed. That was on February 8, 1958, when Tito's message of congratulation to Nasser and Quwatti was announced. This provided unhindered work of our diplomats in UAR and their fast accreditation in the new country that was done only few days upon Egyptian-Syrian plebiscite. The more important was the fact that position of Yugoslavia at the Near East was strengthened.