AUB’s Contribution to the United Nations

GALA DINNER 2013
“More world leaders have been educated at the American University of Beirut than any other institution I can think of—even Harvard. There were more graduates of the American University of Beirut at the establishment of the United Nations than from any other institution” (US Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy, AUB Bulletin, February 1996, p. 43).

This statement, coming from a Harvard graduate no less, prompted the Administrative Board of the President’s Club to research the contribution of the 19 AUB graduates and former students who participated in the United Nations Charter Conference held in San Francisco in 1945. While our stated mission is to improve student welfare on campus, we thought that it would be only fair to highlight the pioneering role AUB students have played all along, not only at the national and regional levels, but at the international level as well.

The task was quite arduous and could not have been completed without the support of various organizations and individuals. The President’s Club would like to thank Nawaf Salam, Lebanon’s Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York, for giving us access to documents, speeches, and pictures available in the United Nations archives. Special thanks go to Philip Khoury, Chair of the AUB Board of Trustees, Faysal Al Kudsi, Malek Mahmassani, Khaled Saab, Maha Abdul Jabbar Ajlani, and Hilda Khoury Tohme for all the valuable documents and memorabilia related to their parents or relatives.

The project was carried out in cooperation with AUB’s Jafet Library. The President’s Club would like to express its deep gratitude to Lokman Meho, University Librarian, for his personal participation in our research efforts; to Kaoukab Chebaro, Head of the Archives and Special Collections Department, who put at our disposal all the information and facilities available in her department; and to Sara Jawad, web and graphic designer for the booklet design. Had it not been for the thoroughness, efficiency, and dedication of Samar Mikati, Archives Librarian, and the Archives staff, the project would not have materialized.

Last but not least, the President’s Club would like to express its sincere appreciation to Jean-Marie Cook for editing the booklet, to Cornelia Krafft for her creative and artistic contribution, and to Christian Moussa for the graphic and exhibition design.

Mona Chemali Khalaf
Chair
AUB President’s Club
A scarf that was distributed to the participants of the San Francisco Conference, 1945
Far, far above the waters
Of the deep blue sea,
Lies the Campus of the College,
Where we love to be.
Far away, behold Kanisah!
Far beyond, Sannin!
Rising hoary to the heavens,
Clad in glorious sheen.

Chorus:
Look before us!
Shout the chorus!
See the banner wave.
AUB in thee we glory:
Make us true and brave.
From Iraq or from Arabia
From the banks so green
Of the great Egyptian river,
Or from Palestine;
From the waters of Abana
Lebanon serene.
We salute thee, Alma Mater!
Oriental Queen.

Hail to thee, our Alma Mater
We would ever be
Worthy children. Make us faithful,
Faithful e'er to thee!
Where'so'er the land that calls us,
E'en across the sea,
We'll salute thee, Alma Mater, Hail! O Hail! To thee.
Setting up the seats before the Conference
AUB Presidents

Daniel Bliss 1866-1902
Howard S. Bliss 1902-1920
Bayard Dodge 1923-1948
Stephen Penrose 1948-1954
Paul Leonard 1957-1961

Norman Burns 1961-1965
Samuel Kirkwood 1965-1976
Harold E. Hoelsher 1977-1981
Malcom Kerr 1982-1984
Calvin Plimpton 1984-1987

Frederic Herter 1987-1993
Robert Haddad 1993-1996
David S. Dodge 1996-1997
John Waterbury 1998-2008
Peter Doorman 2008-Present
A close view of the original copy of the Charter of the United Nations which is kept in the United States National Archives in Washington, D.C.
United Nations Charter, signed pages
Iran - Mostapha Adly signing the Charter
Dear Friends,

It is wonderful to be involved and to work with the President’s Club. On behalf of thousands of AUB students I extend to the President’s Club heartfelt gratitude and appreciation. They are direct beneficiaries of your generosity and commitment to improving their lives.

AUB invests heavily in improving the quality of life for its students and towards enriching extra-curricular activities. However student life also relies on the support of friends of the University. Every donation helps and goes a long way in making the day to day life of AUB students not only more comfortable but also in enriching the student experience.

In the course of time donations have contributed to major improvements in student housing, the PSPA study and research areas, the Music Club as well as many other areas of interest to students. Most recently, the President’s Club approved the funding for the purchase of high quality sports equipment for the Charles Hostler Student Center fitness room expansion. This substantial contribution will have many benefits for all students who use the center and including those who feel less confident about using a busy gym.

This donation is in addition to some major projects in recent years that I’d like to list including: student housing, by providing computers, washing machines and furniture; refurbishing Mary Dodge Hall so that it offers a reading room and an activity room; music room, by funding the soundproofing of the practice room in West Hall; smart rooms that are fully equipped electronically to enable interactive and modern learning facilities in the classrooms; room for the visually impaired that goes at least some way to diminish the disadvantage of those visually impaired when it comes to reading materials and resources. These are but a few projects that have made a huge difference.

All members of the Executive Committee have been a pleasure to work with and I’d like to say a special thank you to Dr Mona Khalaf, who has proven to be an outstanding leader. Her enthusiasm and energy are inspiring. Her insistence on doing things for the right reasons and in the right way best sums up her character. Mona, you are an outstanding model for AUBites!

A big thank you is also due to Mrs. Salma Oueida, Director of Development, who has been for many years a fantastic source of coordination and support of the President’s Club. She is truly dedicated to ensuring that the inspiring mission is implemented.

Enjoy the evening and on behalf of AUB students I look forward to your continued support.

Talal Nizameddin
Dean of Student Affairs
San Francisco Momento

San Francisco

An Etching by Max Stern

Memento of the

United Nations Conference on International Organization

April 25 1945
This is San Francisco

11

Galerie Janine Rubeiz
Lebanon - Charles Malik during the 1945 San Francisco Conference
# The Administrative Board

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<td>Peter F. Dorman (Honorary President)</td>
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A pictorial record of the delegates to the United Nations Conference (1)
A pictorial record of the delegates to the United Nations Conference (2)
19

AUB’S CONTRIBUTION TO THE UN CHARTER

45

COUNTRIES
AUB Delegates

Iran
Ghassem Ghani (M.D. 1919)

Iraq
Abdul Jabbar Chalabi (F.S.* 1926)
Abdul Majid Abbas (F.S. 1934)
Darwish Al-Haidari (F.S. 1927)
Fadhel Jamali (B.A. 1927)
Hashim Jawad (B.A. 1932)
Majid Khaddouri (B.A. 1932)
Mohammad Ibrahim Adham (F.S. 1939)
Salih Mahdi Haidar (F.S. 1933)

Lebanon
Angela Jurdak Khoury (B.A. 1937, M.A. 1938)
Charles Habib Malik (B.A. 1927)
Sobhi Mahmassani (F.S. 1924)

Saudi Arabia
Ahmad Abdul Jabbar (B.A. 1943)

Syria
Fares Al-Khoury (B.A. 1897)
Farid Zeineddine (B.A. 1925)
Naim Al-Antaki (F.A. 1924)
Nazem Al-Koudsi (F.S. 1920)
Raja F. Hawrani (F.S. 1925)
Toufik Huneidi (F.S. 1940)

* F.S means former student.
Ghassem Ghani (1893-1952)

Unlike many early physicians, Iranian Ghassem Ghani was also renowned as a diplomat, a politician, and a man of letters. He received his MD in 1919 from the Syrian Protestant College - the name of the American University of Beirut (AUB) until 1920.

He practiced medicine in his birthplace, Salizavar, where he also opened a hospital. In 1923 and again in 1926 he went to Paris where he engaged in specialized medical training, but in 1928 he was back in Iran practicing medicine in Salizavar, and later in Mashad and Tehran, where he taught in the Faculty of Medicine and the Faculty of Theology.

Ghani’s political and diplomatic career began in 1935, when he started a seven year stint as a member of Parliament for Mashad. He later served as Special Minister to Egypt and briefly in the 1940s as Minister of Health and Minister of Education. Following his membership in the Iranian delegation to the 1945 San Francisco United Nations Conference he was Iran’s Ambassador to Egypt (1947) and then to Turkey (1948). Disappointed at not being designated Ambassador to the United States, he left his post in Turkey and assumed self-imposed exile in the United States, where he died in 1952.
But perhaps Ghani’s greatest legacy was as a writer and scholar. Throughout his medical and diplomatic career, he pursued a scholarly literary vocation, making close friends with writers, musicians, painters, and scholars, with whom he regularly corresponded and sometimes collaborated. Among these were the Iranian scholar Mohammad Qazvini, the musician Ali-Naqi Waziri, and the painter Mohammad Gaffari.

Ghani, a prolific writer, is said to have introduced the French writer Anatole France to Iran with translations into Persian of three of his novels. Ghani wrote on the life and works of Avicenna and “topics as diverse as the virtues of eugenics, the history of medicine in Islamic societies and the philosophical foundations of Sufism.” He was a known student of the classical Iranian poet Hafez Shirazi and collaborated with Mohammad Qazvini in a “well-known critical edition of Hafez in 1941, reprinted many times and regarded by many scholars as a major landmark in the history of editing classical Persian texts.”

Throughout his life Ghani kept copious notes and diaries of specific incidents and events in his life. These diaries, along with his notes and letters, compiled and edited by his son, Cyrus Ghani, were published in 12 volumes (1980-84) in Persian. In 2005 a one-volume edition edited by Cyrus Ghani and translated into English by Paul Sprachman, appeared as A Man of Many Worlds: The Diaries and Memoirs of Dr. Ghassan Ghani.

Although the anecdotal nature of many of the recorded incidents and events are of uneven merit, the reminiscences have often been applauded as providing an unparalleled insight into the culture and civilization of Iran in the first half of the 20th century.
Abdul Jabbar Chalabi (1906-N.A.)

Abdul Jabbar Chalabi was briefly a student at the American University of Beirut in 1926 before studying Agriculture at the University of California, where he received a BS in science in 1929. He earned a degree in education from Columbia Teachers’ College and then returned to Iraq where he lectured at the State Agricultural College in 1929 and was Agricultural District Officer (1931-1932), then headmaster of the Najaf Secondary School from 1932 to 1934. Much involved in education, he held various posts in the ministry—Director General of Primary Education, Acting Associate Director General in 1943, and Chief Inspector in 1946. He was a member of delegations to various conferences, including the Cultural Exchange Conference in Egypt and in 1945 the United Nations Charter Conference in San Francisco and the Cultural Conference of the United Nations in London. Leaving education he served as Minister of Supply, Director General of the Ministry of Communications and Public Works (1946-52), and Minister of Agriculture in 1952. He was dismissed from the Development Board after the revolution in 1958, and then went into business. Arrested in 1974, he was sentenced to one year in prison, but was soon released.
Abdul Majid Abbas (1910-N.A.)

Abdul Majid Abbas was born in Iraq in Qala’t Sikkar on the Gharraf in 1910. He was educated in Safad, Palestine, and later in Lebanon at Brummana High School and the American University of Beirut (AUB). Aided by various scholarships from the government of Iraq he studied economics at the University of Chicago from 1934 to 1939. Back in Iraq he was professor at the Baghdad Law College from 1940 to 1949. In 1947 he had become deputy for Amara and for Muntafiq in 1948 (and again in 1953 and 1954). He joined Nuri Pasha’s Constitutional Union Party in 1949 and edited the party newspaper for some time. Having represented his country as an Assistant Delegate at the 1945 United Nations San Francisco Conference, he was part of the Iraqi delegation to the Asian-African Conference in Bandung in 1955, and in 1958 he was named Permanent Delegate of the Arab Union to the United Nations. He became Minister of Communications and Works in both cabinets of Jamali. In 1954 he was Minister of Agriculture and that same year he served briefly as a member of the Board of the Government Oil Refineries Administration, but shortly after the revolution that summer, he was dismissed.
Darwish Al-Haidari (1907-N.A.)

Darwish al-Haidari was another of the Iraqis of his generation trained in agriculture. Born in Baghdad in 1907, he was a student at the American University of Beirut in 1927 and later at the University of Texas, where he concentrated in agriculture and from where later, in 1956, he received an honorary degree. Benefiting from his training in agriculture, he directed experimental farms, in 1933 at Rustam-iya and in 1940 at Abu Ghuraib. In 1942 he became Director of Grain in the Local Products Directorate of the Ministry of the Interior. He attended the Hot Springs Food Conference as a member of the Iraqi delegation in 1943, and was an Assistant Delegate at the United Nations San Francisco Conference in 1945. From 1946 to 1954 he attended many other international conferences as Director General of Agriculture. He was Director General of the Fourth Technical Section of the Ministry of Development (1954-56) and Director General of the Date Association in 1956. He also served as the Iraqi representative to the Committee of Economic Experts of the Baghdad Pact (1955-59).
Hashim Jawad was born in Iraq in 1911 and educated at the American University of Beirut (AUB), where he earned a BA, in 1925, and at London University, from where he received a degree in economics in 1936. That same year he was appointed Assistant Secretary to the Council of Ministers and was sent as a member of the Iraqi Foreign Service to represent Iraq at the International Labor Organization in Geneva. When he returned to Iraq in 1941 he became the first Acting Director General of Labor in the Ministry of Social Affairs and served as the secretary of a committee to organize post-war affairs in Iraq. In his capacity as Director General of Labor, he took part in the settlement of the Iraq Petroleum Company strike in Kirkuk in 1946. Later that same year he was removed from the post by Arshad al Umari, who considered him as too close to Russian communism. From 1947 to 1956 he was employed in the International Labor Organization. He was appointed as Iraq’s Permanent Delegate to the United Nations in 1956, but it has been suggested that he was prevented from attending Security Council meetings because he showed himself too ready to cooperate with Russia. In 1958 he was appointed General Manager of the Office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the first Foreign Minister following the revolution of July 14, 1958. But he was arrested after the movement of February 8, 1963. Later released, he became a United Nations representative in Burma and then in Beirut. In 1969 he was assassinated by his driver in Beirut.
Mohammad Fadhel Jamali (1903-N.A.)

Iraqi Mohammad Fadhel Jamali, who earned his BA from the American University of Beirut (AUB) in 1927, was throughout his life as a politician deeply involved in issues of education and was also a committed supporter of Arab federation. He was a member of six Iraqi cabinets between 1946 and 1953 and served as Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister of the Interior, and Prime Minister.

Jamali was born in Iraq in 1903 when the country was under the domination of the Ottoman Empire. He first thought of becoming a teacher and enrolled in Baghdad’s Elementary Teachers’ Training College, graduating in 1920, first in his class.

He attended AUB on a scholarship and while in Beirut was President of the nationalist society, *Al Urwat al Wuthka*. Back in Baghdad at the Higher Teachers’ Training College he began his support of education for women and won a grant to study at Columbia University, where he earned his MA degree from Teachers’ College in 1930. The topic of his PhD thesis, bedouin education, reflects his deep commitment to problems of education in the Arab world.
Serving in Iraq’s Department of Education for ten years, Jamali lectured and wrote about education. Papers on education appeared, in 1935, “Whither Education in the Arab World,” and in 1938, “Educational Trends in Germany, England, and France.” In the course of his lifetime he wrote several books and articles in Arabic and in English.

In 1946 he was a delegate at the first General Assembly, and, as President of the Arab League, spoke frequently at the United Nations against the partition of Palestine. When the partition was approved by the General Assembly in 1947, he was among members of the six Arab delegations who walked out. In 1949 and 1950 he was Iraq’s Permanent Delegate to the United Nations, speaking frequently in defense of Arabs in Palestine and in support of Arab countries throughout the Middle East and North Africa.

Speaking of his experience at AUB, Mohammad Jamali once said, “It changed my thinking from regionalism to internationalism,” and “It crystallized my faith in Arab nationalism.”
Majid Khadduri taught at Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) for more than three decades. Fouad Ajami, who succeeded Khadduri as director of the Middle East Studies Program at SAIS, called him “one of the pioneers of Middle Eastern Studies in the United States,” and “pioneer” he was, bringing study of the Arab world, particularly Islamic law and jurisprudence, to several American universities for the first time.

A native of Iraq, Khadduri received a BA in history from the American University of Beirut (AUB) in 1932 and later his PhD from the University of Chicago in 1938. He then returned to Iraq and taught at the Higher Teachers’ College in Baghdad. After serving as a member of the Iraqi delegation to the United Nations Founding Conference in San Francisco, he later returned again to the United States in 1947 to teach at the universities of Indiana and Chicago. Offering some of the first courses in Islamic law ever taught in the United States, he joined SAIS in 1949, where he remained until his retirement in 1980, when he became Professor Emeritus.
Majid Khadduri (1908-2007)

Over his lifetime Khadduri wrote many articles and more than 35 books in both English and Arabic. He was a true pioneer in his field, and many of his books remain standard works in the study of “Islamic jurisprudence, Arab personalities, and the politics of Iraq, Libya, Egypt, Syria, and Saudi Arabia.” Khadduri founded the al-Shaybani Society of International Law, an organization designed to bring together scholars interested in understanding legal issues of the Muslim world.

Khadduri was visiting professor at several universities including Columbia, Harvard, Virginia, and Georgetown. He received numerous honors and awards, including the Egyptian Order of Merit, First Class in 1979, membership in the Egyptian Academy, the Order of Rafidain from Iraq, and the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee’s Lifetime Achievement Award in 2001.
Mohammad Ibrahim Adham, born in Baghdad in 1920, was a student at the American University of Beirut (AUB) in 1939. He received bachelor’s and master’s degrees in law (1950) and a PhD in 1953 from the American University in Washington, D.C. From 1944 to 1945 in the Iraqi government he was personal secretary to the Foreign Minister, and in 1945 he was secretary to the Iraqi delegation at the San Francisco United Nations Charter Conference. From 1950 to 1952 he served as legal counselor at the United Nations in New York City, and from 1952 to 1953 as director of the Foreign Office in Baghdad. Turning from government to business, Adham, who was naturalized as an American citizen in 1953, became in 1968 Senior Vice President of the international business group, Vesicol Chemical Corporation, in Washington, D.C. and was a member of the advertising council of Jacobs Engineering Group, Pasadena, California as of 1979. He was a member of the executive council of the International Bar Association and over his lifetime contributed many articles to legal and Methodist periodicals.
Sir Carl August Berendsen, New Zealand, with Mohamed Fadhel Jamali, right
Salih Mahdi Haidar (N.A)

Salih Mahdi Haidar was a student at the American University of Beirut (AUB) in 1933. Unfortunately nothing more has been discovered about this Iraqi AUB-affiliated delegate to the 1945 United Nations Charter Conference in San Francisco.
**Angela Jurdak Khoury (1915-2011)**

Firsts dominated the life of Lebanon’s first woman diplomat, Angela Jurdak Khoury, mother of AUB’s current Board President Philip Khoury. At the American School for Girls and later at university (she attended BCW for two years and then finished her BA at AUB in 1937) and in graduate school she persistently gained the highest honors. While at AUB she excelled in music and sports, winning first prizes in tennis and initiating for the first time sporting events and field trips for women students. She became in 1937 the only woman student registered in the graduate program at AUB. After earning her MA (1938), she became the first woman on the faculty. She initially held several administrative secretarial posts, but later as an instructor in psychology and sociology she became “the first Lebanese woman in the history of the University to become a member of the faculty in the upper departments of the University.” In 1944 her MA thesis in sociology was described by her advisor, Stuart C. Dodd, as a “pioneering” work “still quoted in scientific circles in America because of its new contribution to the science of Sociology.” Accompanying Charles Malik to the San Francisco Charter signing in 1945, she became the first woman, not only in Lebanon’s diplomatic service, but possibly the first in the Arab world, and the only woman among the AUB attendees at the Conference.

Born in the Lebanese mountain town of Shoueir, as a young girl Angela Khoury lived on the campus of AUB where her father, Mansur Hanna Jurdak, was a distinguished professor of mathematics and astronomy.

She moved from the American School for girls to the then Beirut College for Women (now the Lebanese American University-LAU) and then to AUB where, after another two years she was awarded her BS in sociology in 1937. After receiving her MA she taught at the University until 1945.

At that time, appointed Secretary General to the Lebanese delegation at the United Nations Conference on International Organization in San Francisco, she also became a member of the
recently established Lebanese Legation in Washington, D.C. Throughout the 1940s and ’50s she was the Lebanese Consul in New York and the Lebanese representative to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, for which she was also named rapporteur.

After 21 years of diplomatic service to Lebanon in New York and at the United Nations in Washington, D.C. Khoury returned in 1966 to her first love—teaching. She first completed her PhD in international relations at the American University in Washington, DC, and then served for fourteen years as Professor of International Relations at George Mason University in northern Virginia (1968-1982).

Throughout her life Angela Khoury won numerous scholarships, prizes, and awards—many teaching honors while at George Mason and in 1959, Lebanon’s Order of the Cedar, awarded for outstanding service to the nation.
365 Club, San Francisco, Dinner Invitation (2)
Charles Malik (1906-1987)

Charles H. Malik, the best known among the American University of Beirut (AUB) delegates and signers of the United Nations Charter at the 1945 Conference on International Organization, renowned for his intelligence and diplomatic prowess, was also passionate in his pursuit of moral views in education and diplomacy. Speaking at the Hotel Phoenicia in 1972, he affirmed, “The recuperative forces of the spirit—the forces of understanding and decency and love and forgiveness and faith and moral strength and responsibility—are still most active, to heal and to restore.”

Lebanon’s Charles H. Malik was a skilled diplomat, an engaged educator, and an ardent United Nations supporter who held many important government positions at home and abroad. He was President of the thirteenth session of the United Nations General Assembly (1958-59), but his greatest achievement was perhaps his distinguished role as chief motivator and co-author, along with Eleanor Roosevelt, of the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights, signed in 1948.
Charles Malik (1906-1987)

Born in Btriram in the Koura, Malik attended the local elementary school for eight years before moving to the American Mission School for Boys in Tripoli. Later at AUB he studied physics and mathematics, receiving his BA in 1927 with one of the highest averages ever recorded at the University. He then taught at AUB as an instructor for two years and worked at a publishing house in Cairo before moving on to graduate studies at Harvard in 1932.

He interrupted his full scholarship graduate studies at Harvard University under Alfred North Whitehead to move in 1935 to the German University of Freiburg to study with Martin Heidegger; however, discouraged by the political atmosphere in Germany at the time, he returned to Harvard where in 1937 he received his PhD on the philosophy of time in Heidegger and Whitehead.

Back in Beirut he taught at AUB until 1945, helping develop the Cultural Studies Program and teaching philosophy. He rose rapidly from instructor to full professor and chaired the Department of Philosophy. A delegate at the 1945 San Francisco Charter Conference, he remained involved in United Nations activities until 1956. After ten years of direct service at the United Nations, Malik returned to AUB as Professor of Philosophy and Dean of Graduate Studies. He served as Distinguished Professor of Philosophy from 1962 to 1976 before becoming Professor Emeritus until his death in 1987. During this period he was visiting professor at several important American universities.

Charles Malik’s role as diplomat, particularly at the United Nations, was perhaps the most important of his full and rich career. In 1945 he became the first Ambassador of Lebanon to the United States and was a member of the Lebanese delegation at the signing of the United Nations Charter.

As rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights, he made a vital and inspirational contribution to the writing and passing of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Declaration was adopted by the General
Assembly in 1948 without a single negative vote. Malik, who alone authored the preamble to the Declaration, is said to have written the single “most significant international declaration of the Twentieth Century.”

Back in Lebanon in 1956, Malik was also Minister of Foreign Affairs (1956-58), Minister of Education (1956-57), and deputy of the Koura (1957-60). In 1958 he was named President of the thirteenth session of the United Nations General Assembly. From 1960 to 1976, teaching became the heart of his career as visiting professor at several American universities and Professor at the American University of Beirut.

Eminent jurist and scholar Sobhi Mahmassani was born in Beirut in 1909. He studied in the preparatory section of the American University of Beirut (AUB) in 1923 and 1927 and then went on to earn a BA in English law at London University. He completed a PhD in law at the University of Lyon in 1931.

On returning to Beirut he was appointed to the bench, and then became President of the Lebanese Court of Appeals and Discrimination. He later served as a legal commission rapporteur.

In addition to his judicial functions Mahmassani contributed broadly to education at several universities in Lebanon, teaching at Université St. Joseph, the Lebanese University, which he had played a prominent role in founding; the American University of Beirut, where he taught Roman and Islamic law; and the Beirut Arab University.
Sobhi Mahmassani (1909-1986)

In 1944 he was appointed legal advisor to the Lebanese delegation at the establishment of the Arab League in Alexandria, and then in 1945 he served as legal advisor to the Lebanese delegation at the United Nations San Francisco Charter Conference.

In 1948 he participated in the founding conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in Beirut and took part in subsequent UNESCO meetings. He participated in the Congress of Islamic Culture at Princeton in 1953 and in the same year in the Congress of Islamic Culture at Bloudan in Syria and in Tehran in 1957.

Mahmassani was elected member of Parliament for Beirut in 1964 and was later made chairman of the parliamentary Committee for Justice and Administration. He served as Minister of Economy from April to December in 1968.

Mahmassani was also a member of Arabic language academies in Syria, Egypt, and Iraq, and of the Islamic Studies Academy in Bombay. He wrote several legal studies including *Philosophy and Legislation in Islam* and *Constitution and Democracy*; he participated in a number of international conferences on various topics around the world, including the promotion of Christian-Muslim dialogue. He also lectured on legal matters in many countries, including Egypt, Tunisia, Pakistan, Iraq, Iran, and the United States, and at the International Court of Justice in The Hague.
Ahmad Abdul Jabbar (Born, 1921)

Ahmad Abdul Jabbar, a Saudi national born in Mecca in 1921, earned his BA and MA from the American University of Beirut (AUB) in 1943 and later, in 1953, an MA in political science from Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. Secretary of the Political Department in the Royal Cabinet in Riyadh from 1943 to 1946, he was also Secretary for the Saudi delegation at the 1945 San Francisco Charter Conference. From 1946 to 1955 he served as First Secretary and Counselor of the Saudi Legation (later the Embassy of Saudi Arabia) in Washington, D.C. and also as delegate to the United Nations.

From 1955 to 1960, as Deputy Minister of State, he was Assistant Head of the Prime Minister’s Cabinet for political affairs. He served as Ambassador to Japan and the Republic of China (Taiwan), 1960-63; Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Germany, 1964-65; Ambassador at the Foreign Ministry, 1965-66; and President of the Islamic Center in Rome, 1971-72.
Ahmad Abdul Jabbar (Born, 1921)

In 1945 he attended the United Nations General Assembly from 1946 to 1955, in 1975 and 1976, and from 1977 to 1995. He also participated in the FAO Conference in Washington, D.C. in 1948. Commenting on his years as Saudi Arabia’s Ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva for 20 years, he said he was alternately hopeful and frustrated by the difficulties the United Nations experienced in following the high goals stated in the original charter.

Abdul Jabbar, a writer who published poems and articles in several Saudi, Egyptian, Lebanese, Italian, and German magazines, was honored with Knight of George 1, King Abdul Aziz’s Highest Decoration for Merit, Cavaliere di Gran Croce (Italy), and Golden Jumbo Jet (Premio Internazionale dell’Ascesa, Italy). Abdul Jabber has lived in Geneva since retiring from the United Nations in 1995.
Fares Al-Khoury (1877-1962)

Like so many of the American University of Beirut (AUB)-affiliated delegates to the United Nations Charter Conference in 1945, Syrian delegate Fares Al-Khoury sought to abolish the rule of the Ottoman Empire over Syria, and later, the French mandate which held Syria in occupation after World War I. He later became Syrian Prime Minister, Speaker of the Syrian Parliament, and the first Permanent Representative of Syria to the United Nations (1946-48). As the first Christian Prime Minister of Syria (1944-45 and 1954-55) Fares Al-Khoury was known as a determined nationalist (he opposed Arab unification and later attempts for union with Egypt) and a devoted secularist who tried always to diminish antagonism between Christians and Muslims. Fares Al-Khoury became the first Syrian statesman to visit the United States when he represented his country at the United Nations Charter signing in San Francisco in 1945 as one of the three signers from Syria. He is considered one of the founders of the Syrian republic.
Fares Al-Khourí (1877-1962)

His support of the Arab resistance led to his arrest in 1916. But when King Faisal arrived as King of Syria, Al-Khourí became Minister of Finance until 1920, virtually creating the ministry. In 1923 he helped in the creation of Damascus University.

Al-Khourí’s career was marked by his passionate desire to create an independent Syria, independent originally from the Ottoman Empire and subsequently from the French mandate; by his ardent nationalist views about independent Syria (he opposed pan-Arabism and unification with Egypt); and by his fervent secularism. It is said that in support of these views his son Souhail authorized readings from the Koran and Muslim prayers at his father’s Christian funeral in 1962.
Farid Zeineddine (1907-N.A.)

Syrian United Nations Ambassador and lawyer Farid Zeineddine was advisor to the six man Syrian delegation to the 1945 San Francisco United Nations Conference on International Organization. Like so many other American University of Beirut (AUB)-affiliated delegates born around 1907, he was embroiled throughout most of his life in the struggle for an independent Syria and in the battle against Israel.

Farid was educated in Syria before obtaining a BA in history from AUB in 1925, when he moved on to further study at the Sorbonne in Paris. He received degrees in international law and economics and finance in 1929 and 1932, while also studying Muslim law and Arabic culture. He received a PhD in law. During summers he attended the Universities of Vienna and Berlin.
In the 1930s he taught at AUB for two years and at the University of Damascus for one year. In Baghdad he delivered a series of lectures on Arab society and culture, heady topics for a man whose country was under French mandate. In 1934 he served on an advisory board to the Minister of Education in Syria.

During this period Zeineddine wrote *Le Régime du Contrôle des Mandats Internationaux* which appeared in 1933, and *National Movements for Liberty and Unity in 19th Century Europe* (in Arabic in 1935). He also wrote many articles on the Arab world.

His political statements did not go unnoticed by the occupiers. Occasionally he had to leave Syria because of his political views; in 1942 he was briefly imprisoned. He was also a staunch supporter of the Arab League, beginning in 1924 when he was a student.

In the late 1940s he represented Syria several times in United Nations sessions, and was appointed Minister Plenipotentiary to the Soviet Union. In 1951 he became (until 1954) Syria’s Permanent Representative at the United Nations and in 1952 he became Syria’s Ambassador to the United States. During the unification of Syria and Egypt he served as Foreign Minister. At the United Nations he defended various Arab causes, attacking US support for Zionism, addressing the illegal diversion of the Jordan River water, and supporting the seizure of the Suez Canal. His often bitter opposition to Israel evolved into several sensational national debates on prime time television in the United States.
Naim Al-Antaki (1902-N.A.)

Naim al-Antaki, an Aleppo-born Syrian lawyer who practiced law from 1926, studied at the American University of Beirut (AUB) in 1924 and later at the University of Paris where he received a degree in law. Back in Syria he was elected to the Bar and then became President of the Lawyers’ Bar in 1936. That same year he was Secretary General of the negotiating delegation in Paris. Elected deputy of Damascus in 1943, he was Minister of Finance in 1944, and in 1945 as a member of the Syrian Delegation at the United Nations San Francisco Charter Conference, he was one of three signers for Syria. He was Minister of Finance and Public Works (1945-46) and then became Minister of Foreign Affairs in 1947. Reelected deputy of Damascus that same year, he was also Vice President of the Syrian delegation to the United Nations special session on the question of Palestine. A lawyer for several companies, he was also an influential member of the Rotary Club and belonged to the National Bloc from its inception.
A prominent Syrian embroiled in resistance to the French occupation of Syria was Nazem Al-Koudsi, a lawyer/politician born in Aleppo to a “scholarly, landowning Sunni family.” He was in 1920 a student at the American University of Beirut (AUB) of which he was a supporter throughout his life. He was an active nationalist, “one of the leaders of the Nationalist Youth (al-Shabab al Watani)” during the French mandate. He graduated from the law school of the University of Damascus and earned a doctoral degree in international law, human rights, and constitutional law in Switzerland.

Although he did not receive an AUB degree, according to the *Gale Encyclopedia of the Modern Middle East*, his western education both at AUB and in Switzerland led to his political career and was undoubtedly behind his participation as a Syrian delegate and signer at the United Nations 1945 San Francisco Charter.
Nazem Al-Koudsi (1906-1998)

Conference. He was a leader of the Aleppo People’s Party and a member of the National Bloc party. He opened the Syrian Embassy in Washington, D.C. and was the first Syrian Ambassador to the United States after Syrian independence. He was also a member of the Syrian Parliament seven times, and Speaker of the House four times from 1953 to 1957. He was Foreign Minister (twice) and Prime Minister (twice) for short periods in 1949, 1950, and 1951. After the collapse of the union with Egypt in 1961, he became President of Syria. Following the March 1963 Baath Party coup he was briefly imprisoned; he then abandoned both politics and Syria and lived in Lebanon and in France from 1976 to 1990, and thereafter in Jordan where he died in 1998.
Raja F. Hawrani (N.A.)

Raja F. Hawrani was a student at the American University of Beirut in 1925. Unfortunately nothing more has been discovered about this Syrian AUB-affiliated delegate to the United Nations Charter Conference in San Francisco in 1945.
Toufik Huneidi (1919- N.A.)

Toufik Huneidi, son of Mohammad Saeed Huneidy, President of the Aleppo Chamber of Commerce, received his secondary education in Syria and later was a student at the American University of Beirut where he earned a BA (1942) and an MA (1943) in political studies, and in 1948 a PhD in political science from the University of Washington. He served as a deputy in Parliament. In 1945 he attended the United Nations San Francisco Charter Conference as a delegate of Syria. During his lifetime he wrote articles in Arabic on Syrian policy guidelines which were often published in local newspapers.
A Note on the Sources

With the traditional thorough and dedicated assistance of the staff of the Jafet Library Archives of the American University of Beirut (AUB), every effort has been made to find material on the nineteen AUB-affiliated representatives at the signing of the United Nations Charter Conference held in San Francisco in 1945.

The major sources of information were the United Nations Archives of the Lebanese Delegation, the AUB Archives and Special Collections in Jafet Library, and family and friends of the delegates. Sources included also the Internet, yielding a rich variety of articles, obituaries, and lists of publications; and a number of well-known encyclopedias in both Arabic and English such as Gale’s *Encyclopedia of the Modern Middle East and North Africa; Encyclopaedia Iranica;* various “Who’s Who” encyclopedias in both English and Arabic (*Who’s Who in the Arab World, for example*); *A Pictorial Record of the Delegates to the United Nations Conference on International Organization;* and many others. Different college magazines such as AUB’s *Al-Kulliyah* helped organize the material and give it life.

Although many sources were pursued, much information is still missing. Any corrections and updating will be gladly accepted either by the President’s Club or by the Archives and Special Collections at Jafet Library, which can be contacted through any of the following:

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Left to right—Sayed Kanan Ibrahim, Farid Zeineddine, Fouad Ammoun, Najmuddin Rifai, Faris Al-Khoury.
# Table of Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>A Note from the President’s Club</th>
<th>Page 43</th>
<th>Syria - Fares Al-Khouri</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Page 3</td>
<td>Alma Mater</td>
<td>Page 45</td>
<td>Syria - Farid Zeineddine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Page 5</td>
<td>AUB Presidents</td>
<td>Page 47</td>
<td>Syria - Naim Al-Antaki</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Page 9</td>
<td>Letter from the Dean of Student Affairs</td>
<td>Page 48</td>
<td>Syria - Nazem Al-Koudsi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Page 13</td>
<td>The Administrative Board</td>
<td>Page 50</td>
<td>Syria - Raja F. Hawrani</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Page 16</td>
<td>AUB’s Contribution to the UN Charter</td>
<td>Page 51</td>
<td>Syria - Toufik Huneidi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Page 17</td>
<td>AUB Delegates</td>
<td>Page 52</td>
<td>A Note on the Sources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Page 18</td>
<td>Iran - Ghassem Ghani</td>
<td>Page 56</td>
<td>Founding Members of the President’s Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Page 20</td>
<td>Iraq - Abdul Jabbar Chalabi</td>
<td>Page 58</td>
<td>President’s Club Members Since October 2002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Page 21</td>
<td>Iraq - Abdul Majid Abbas</td>
<td>Page 61</td>
<td>The Bench Campaign</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Page 22</td>
<td>Iraq - Darwish Haidar</td>
<td>Page 64</td>
<td>Special Thanks and Acknowledgment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Page 23</td>
<td>Iraq - Hashim Jawad</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Page 24</td>
<td>Iraq - Mohammad Fadhel Jamali</td>
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<tr>
<td>Page 26</td>
<td>Iraq - Majid Khudari</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Page 28</td>
<td>Iraq - Mohammad Ibrahim Adham</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Page 30</td>
<td>Iraq - Salih Mahdi Haidar</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Page 31</td>
<td>Lebanon - Angela Jurdak Khoury</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Page 36</td>
<td>Lebanon - Charles Malik</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Page 39</td>
<td>Lebanon - Sobhi Mahmassani</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Page 41</td>
<td>Saudi Arabia - Ahmad Abdul Jabbar</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>