

IN MEMORIAM

ABDUL MAJID ABBASS, Diplomat and Academician, died on May 13, 1971 of a heart attack. He had been Professor of Government for the past nine years at Southern Illinois University--Carbondale, specializing in international organization, jurisprudence, and Middle East studies.

He was born in Iraq, attended the American University of Beirut, and received three degrees from the University of Chicago (B.A., 1936; M.A., 1938; and Ph.D., 1939). His major professor was the late Quincy Wright, and like his great mentor Majid Abbass emphasized the role of law in the creation of world justice and peace. He realized fully from personal experience the practical difficulties involved in human and international relations.

His academic career was intertwined with a distinguished career in politics. After serving on the faculty of The Law College of Baghdad from 1939 to 1947, he was elected to the Parliament of Iraq. During this period he also served as a representative on the Committee of Jurists which framed the Statute of the International Court of Justice and as an Iraqi delegate to the San Francisco Conference which framed the United Nations Charter. He served successively as a delegate from Iraq to the United Nations between 1946 and 1952. He was in the Parliament of Iraq until 1954 and thereafter served as Minister of Communications and Public Works and then as Minister of Agriculture. His political and diplomatic career was climaxed in 1958 when he was appointed Ambassador and Permanent Delegate of Iraq to the United Nations.

With the overthrow of the Iraqi Government in July 1958, Dr. Abbass chose to remain in the United States with his wife and six children and to return to the academic profession. After serving as Visiting Professor at American University, Southern Illinois University and the University of Libya, he returned to Southern Illinois University as a member of the teaching faculty in September 1963, where he had remained continuously except for a one year Visiting Professorship at the University of Amman, Jordan. He quickly demonstrated his great warmth, graciousness, and generosity. He also established himself as a highly respected teacher and scholar.

He thought, spoke, and wrote imaginatively of new initiatives which could be taken in the United Nations and elsewhere in man's search for peace. We shall miss him greatly; but his warm and challenging spirit will remain with us. And we shall be inspired by his hopes that mankind will work more diligently in laying the foundations for a system of justice and peace.

Professor Earl Hanson
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