

UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC

Date of Elections: January 8 and 13, 1969

Characteristics of Parliament

The unicameral Parliament of the UAR is constituted by the National Assembly, which comprises 350 elected members and a maximum of 10 members appointed by the Head of State. Article 49 of the Constitution lays down that half the members of the Assembly at least must be workers or farmers.

In January, the Assembly was renewed upon the normal expiry of the previous legislature.

Electoral System

All citizens of both sexes at least 18 years old are entitled to vote provided they have not been deprived of their political rights. Naturalized foreigners are allowed to vote only upon the expiry of a period of 5 years from the date of their naturalization.

All male citizens fulfilling the requisite conditions for voting are automatically registered on the electoral rolls; women are registered at their request. Any person whose name appears on the electoral rolls, which are revised each year in December, and who fails to vote is liable to a fine of £E1.

To be eligible for membership of the National Assembly, candidates must be registered voters, at least 30 years old on the day of election and proficient in reading and writing. Moreover, if they are naturalized citizens, a period of 10 years must have elapsed since their naturalization.

In addition,

- candidates must have been active members of the Arab Socialist Union for at least 1 year;
- their estate and property must not have been subject to sequestration under the provisions of Law No. 533 of 1954 or Law No. 162 of 1958;
- they must not be among those whose agricultural property has been limited according to the provisions of the Laws on Agrarian Reform;
- they must not be among those to whom the Socialist laws have been applied in respect of amounts exceeding £E10,000.

However, the President of the Republic is empowered to exempt certain candidates from these 4 conditions by decree.

The parliamentary mandate is incompatible with the tenure of office in the civil service.

The 350 elective seats in the Assembly — 2 for each of the 175 constituencies — are filled by a plurinominal majority vote in 2 stages, as follows:

— If, in a constituency, 2 candidates, including at least 1 worker or farmer, obtain an absolute majority of votes cast in the first round of voting, both are declared elected.

— If neither of the 2 candidates who have obtained an absolute majority is a worker or farmer, only the one who has received the most votes is elected. A second round of voting is then organized for the election of the constituency's second deputy in which only the 2 workers or farmers who were best placed in the first round may participate.

— If only 1 candidate obtains an absolute majority in the first round, a second round of voting is organized. All candidates may participate in this second round if the person elected in the first round is a worker or farmer; if this is not the case, only worker and farmer candidates may participate.

— If none of the candidates secures an absolute majority of the votes cast, a second election is held among the first 4 candidates who have received a relative majority, provided that at least 2 of them are workers or farmers. In this case, if no candidate secures an absolute majority in the second round, the seats are attributed to the 2 best-placed candidates on condition that at least one of them is a farmer or worker and that they have won at least 20 per cent of the votes of the total electorate.

General Political Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

In the United Arab Republic, political forces are grouped under a single national organization, the Arab Socialist Union, which combines workers and farmers, members of the armed forces, intellectuals and the national capital in common action.

In the fight of the coming elections, the National Congress of the Arab Socialist Union had, on June 5, 1968, drawn up a new definition of the terms "worker" and "farmer". The following criteria were adopted:

"A *worker* is any person who, in industry, agriculture or the public services, is engaged in manual or intellectual work, is dependent upon this work for his livelihood, is not entitled to belong to a professional trade union and does not possess any diploma from a university, institute of higher education or military school. Persons who started out in life as workers, later obtained a university diploma and have remained affiliated to their workers' trade union are not included in this category.

"A *farmer* is any person who, together with his wife and children under age, is not entitled to possess more than 10 feddans (4 hectares) of land, and for whom agriculture is the sole means of livelihood and occupation. He must moreover reside in the rural areas."

"Candidature Conferences" were then organized by the Arab Socialist Union in all constituencies except the 6 in the Canal Zone, where, in view of the circumstances, the 12 deputies were declared

elected in accordance with Article 16 of the National Assembly Basic Act which specifies that, "in cases of extreme necessity, the President of the Republic is empowered to declare the 2 candidates elected by decree, without any elections being held".

These Conferences, which were attended by the representatives of the executive committees of the basic units of the Arab Socialist Union, each designated 2 candidates by secret ballot, i.e. 338 for the 169 constituencies.

However, in addition to those submitted under the auspices of the Party, 470 other candidates were also put forward, in accordance with the law, by members of the Arab Socialist Union.

As a result of the first ballot, held on January 8, 1969, in 169 constituencies, 320 deputies were elected. A second ballot was organized on January 13, in 13 constituencies, for the allocation of the remaining 18 seats.

It will be noted furthermore that, out of the 350 candidates elected to the Assembly, 27 had not been proposed by the Candidature Conferences of the Arab Socialist Union.

Statistics

1. *Results of the Poll in the 169 Constituencies in which Elections were held*

Number of registered electors.	7 448 757
Voters.	6 571 417 (88.2 %)
Void or blank ballot-papers.	202 906
Valid votes.	6 368 511

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2. Distribution of Deputies according to Professional Category

Engineers	21	
Medical professions	7	
Officers and former members of the armed forces	15	
Persons holding agronomy diplomas	27	
commercial diplomas	22	
diplomas of secondary education	138	
law diplomas	45	
Persons not holding any diploma	72	
Teachers	13	
Farmers	66	182
Workers	116	
		350

3. Distribution of Deputies according to Sex

Men	357
Women	3
	360*

* including the 10 members appointed by the Head of State.

4. Average Age of Deputies: 45.