

Nadya Filipova

**BULGARIA AND THE ARABIAN NATIONALISM IN THE PRACTICE
OF THE POLITICAL RELATIONS WITH EGYPT (1956-1966)**

(Summary)

In the middle of 50-s of XX century, following the Soviet diplomatic initiatives and stimulated by its economical needs, Sofia activated its politics toward the states in the Near East. For the Arabian world it was a time of quick disintegration of the colonial system and this facilitated the rapprochement of Bulgaria and Egypt, leaded by G. A. Nasser, well-known for his anti-western policy. In the beginning of 1958, the nationalistic forces in Egypt and Syria integrated their states. In the end of the 50-s and the middle of the 60s, being dependent on Moscow's politics, which at the time had no particular strategy for the Near East, Sofia found itself in a difficult position to assess the degree of its support for the gaining strength Arabian nationalism, while at the same time defending Arabian communists. The sketchy, ideologically determined approach, imposed as a style by the Soviet diplomacy, the lack of clear estimation for the real situation in the Arabian world and for the real bearers of change in Egypt and Syria, brought strong negatives for Bulgarian international policy in the United Arabian republic. In the middle of the 60-s, concerned with improving its economic contacts, Bulgaria transformed its actions toward the nationalistic regime in Egypt. Sofia undertook some selfdependent steps for the improvement of its international connections in the region. Considerable "contribution" in that process became the growing resolution of the Arabian radical elite to destroy Israel. After some political and economical pressure,

Sofia supported the Arabian side in the conflict with Israel, even before the Six-day war in 1967.