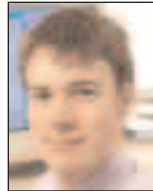


# Three tribes living



Kurdish leader Mustafa Barzani fought against the Iraqis in 1946.



**WANTING** to raise the profile of their people, the Western Kurdistan Association, based in Hammersmith, has set up a cultural and historical archive made up of vivid and interesting pictures and documents. Reporter **MICHAEL RUSSELL** spoke to the association's chairman Dr Jawad Mella about the archive, the history of Kurds, and his own views on the hanging of Iraqi tyrant Saddam Hussein which, he feels, will make little difference to peace efforts

**J**UST days after the hanging of former Iraqi president Saddam Hussein, Dr Jawad Mella, chairman of the Western Kurdistan Association, spoke about the justice of the move and what it means for the future of the troubled country.

The 60-year-old had commanded 500 men fighting the Iranians and Iraqis for the rights of his people.

He spent two years in the mountains as a partisan fighter before fleeing to England in 1984.

This followed an attempt on his life by the Iranian secret police.

"I welcome the British and American armies and their effort in liberating Iraq from Saddam Hussein," said Dr Mella.

"After all, he was responsible for the death of tens of thousands of Kurds. But it didn't sort out the fundamental problem, which continues as before.

"You have three types of people, the Shia, the Sunni and the Kurds, who have been killing each other for the past 14,000 years.

"They want them to live together in the same state but this doesn't work.

"The human is much more important



**LEFT:** It was a tough life in the rugged and unforgiving countryside of Kurdistan with tribes using makeshift tents as their homes.



Dr Jawad Mella (centre, with moustache and pistol on his hip) with his men during the mountain fighting.



**Above:** Lynette Lindfield Soane, the first Western woman in Kurdish dress, whose husband was Kurdistan's own 'Lawrence of Arabia'. **Far left:** Qazi Mohamed a former Kurd republic leader shortly before his death. **Left:** General Mustafa Yarmulki who refused to become a Turkish citizen.

