Baghdad, Iraq. March 18, 1933.

CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Murray:

On February 3rd I was laid low with a severe attack of influenza with pneumonia complications which the doctor seems to have taken very seriously. The proof of the fact that I must have been rather ill is that I am really only just now commencing to feel myself again and even so I am still taking some formidable kind of tonic. This accounts for my not having fed you with political reporting work recently. It has also held up a number of other things which required my more personal attention.

I am gathering together my notes for the preparation of a general political report covering the recent Parliamentary elections, political trends, and expected cabinet changes, etc., which report I hope to be able to send next week. In the meantime, however, I might tell you that it is fully expected that within the next week or ten days there will be an important change in the composition of the cabinet. It seems very likely that Yassin Pasha will become Prime Minister with Nuri Pasha as Minister for Foreign Affairs, with Rustum Beg Haidar as Minister of Finance, and with Naji Pasha al Suwaidi, a former Prime Minister, holding some other portfolio. A cabinet including these men would be the strongest ever formed in Iraq. There is some talk that possibly the Emir Zaid, a brother of the King, may become Prime Minister instead of Yassin Pasha. It is generally known that the present cabinet is not sufficiently strong to carry on the Government during the absence in Europe this summer of the King, which is the reason for the expected cabinet change very shortly. Even if Yassin should be made Prime Minister it is believed that it would be with his understanding with the King that he would put a soft peddle on his opposition to the Anglo-Iraq Treaty.

One other matter which I might mention to you now is that there is a likelihood of the Iraq Government annulling all of the bids for the Habbaniyah concession

and

800

Wallace S. Murray, Esquire,
Chief, Division of Near Eastern Affairs,
Department of State,
Washington, D. C.

and that a decision will be taken to cause the work to be carried out by a specially created department of the government with the assistance of engineers employed for the purpose. In other words it will be the Haifa harbor incident over again and we would find the engineer of some important English firm at the head of the new Iraq Department. He would be assisted by other engineers of his own firm and all materials w would undoubtedly be purchased in England as was the case of the Haifa harbor. This of course is not certain but there is a strong possibility of it being so. The inference is obvious.

I will write you next week more fully in reply to the recent letters I have had from you.

With kindest regards, believe me,

Yours sincerely,

PK/skl.

Baghdad, Iraq. March 19, 1933.

CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Murray:

In continuation of my letter of yesterday it is announced this morning that a new cabinet was formed last night. It has come a few days earlier than I expected as Nuri Pasha when intimating to me last wednesday the forthcoming change gave the impression that it would be within, as he said, two weeks. The new cabinet as now announced includes Rashid Ali Beg Gailani, Prime Minister; Nuri Pasha as Said, Minister for Foreign Affairs; Yassin Pasha al Hashimi, Minister of Finance; and Rustum Beg Haidar, Minister of Economics and Communications. The new Prime Minister has recently, and until last night, been the Private Secretary to the King. He is Yassin Pasha's political right-hand man. From all I can gather it is obvious that Yassin Pasha is not yet ready to take over the responsibility of the head of the Government, but that he desires to dictate policy through his chief henchman Rashid Ali Beg Gailani. I will telegraph at once the names of all of the new cabinet members. These names include, with those already mentioned, distinctly representative Iraqians of greatest influence. The new cabinet will not only be popularly received but it will also constitute one of the strongest which has ever been named in Iraq. It remains to be seen whether the jealousies between Yassin Pasha and Nuri Pasha will enable them to work for long in harmony but I believe that they will do so at least until after the King returns from his visit to England next Autumn. I will report more fully in the matter next week.

Yours sincerely,

Wallace S. Murray, Esquire,
Chief, Division of Near Eastern Affairs,
Department of State,
Washington, D. C.

No. 93 - Diplomatic Baghdad, May 19, 1933

Subject: Another Barzan Uprising.

890 - Barzan

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,

Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to report that the annual raiding parties of the Barzanis have begun. With the surveillance of the Barzan fugitives in Turkey relaxed and with the opening of the mountain passes between Iraq and Turkey, several raiding parties entered Iraq at the very moment Parliament was engaged in discussing the granting of amnesty to the Barzanis who took part in last year's uprising. The Department may recall that the Shaikh of Barzan and his followers surrendered to the Turks in the summer

of 1932

of 1932 following their flight before the Iraq forces.

On May 11, 1933, Lieutenant Colonel H.C. Prescott, Director General of the Iraq Police, was on his way from Kirkuk to Khirwan-a-Kazin returning from an inspection tour of the new frontier police posts which were established last fall. The Assistant Commandant of Police of Aqrah with a small detachment of men were on their way to Khirwan-a-Kazin from Billeh, about 10 miles distance, to report to Colonel Prescott. A short distance from Billeh he encountered a raiding party of some fifty men which opened fire. Reinforcements were sent for while all police posts in the vicinity were advised by telegraph in order that they might close in upon the rebels and cut off their retreat. A detachment of police which set out from Khirwan-a-Kazin encountered another raiding party of some sixty men. In the exchange of shots a police inspector was killed. In both engagements four (five) policemen were killed and several wounded. The number of rebel casualties has not yet been ascertained. Although all police posts were on the look out for the two raiding parties they were successful in retreating unobserved and, it is assumed, they recrossed the frontier into Turkey.

The incident has resulted in the shelving of amnesty bill and the sending of a battalion of troops to reinforce the police post at Khirwan-a-Kazin. Airplanes of the Iraq Air Force have been despatched to Kiana to make reconnaissance flights over the

troubled

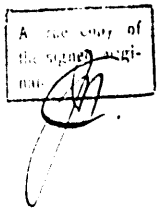
troubled area in an endeavor to locate any other raiding parties.

While no more fighting has taken place every precaution is being taken to prevent another uprising this year. The fall of a police post would be a crushing blow to the prestige of the Iraq Government particularly so soon after the country has acquired its independence.

Only a perfunctory announcement of the fighting was printed in the press on May 19th although the actual encounter with the rebels took place on May 11th. Sir Kinahan Cornwallis, Adviser to the Ministry of Interior, kindly furnished the Legation with the foregoing details of the incident.

The Department will be kept informed of any further developments.

Respectfully yours,



L. Knabenshue.

File No. 800
GER/jnc.

Copy to L. I. C., Paris.
Copy to American Embassy, London.

No. 101 - Diplomatic Baghdad, May 26, 1933.

Subject: Amnesty Law for the Barzanis Passed; Continued Disturbances in the North Reported.

800

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,

Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to report that Parliament passed an Amnesty Law affecting those Barzanis who revolted against the Government and carried on armed hostilities between December 9, 1931 and the end of February 1933. The passage of this Law was not postponed as was reported in my despatch No. 93 of May 20, 1933; however, the provisions of the new Law definitely exclude the granting of amnesty to those Barzanis who took part in the recent hostilities in the north.

It is believed that an earlier passage of this

Law

Law might have prevented the present activities of the Barzanis. I am informed by Sir Kinahan Cornwallis, Adviser to the Ministry of Interior, that the Government was apprised months ago of the intention of the Barzanis exiled in Turkey to return to Iraq in the spring. It is possible that the Barzanis, who have been eking out a living with difficulty in Turkey, would have returned peacefully to their lands had they known of the Government's intention to pardon them.

I am informed that raids on towns and villages along the Iraq-Turkish border have continued intermittently but, aside from the policemen killed in the encounters reported in my despatch No. 93 of May 20, 1933, no additional casualties have been reported. A battalion of troops, armed cars and several airplanes have left Baghdad for the troubled area. No encounters between the rebel forces and the Iraq army have so far been reported.

The Department will be kept informed of further developments.

Respectfully yours,

I. Knabenshue.

Enclosure:
1 Amnesty Law.

File No. 800
GWR/jno.

A true copy of the signed original

Copy to:
American Embassy, London,
American Embassy, Istanbul,
A. I. C., Paris.

Enclosure No. 1 to despatch - Diplomatic - No. 101, dated May 26, 1933, from the American Legation at Baghdad.

AMNESTY FOR THE BARZANIS
LAW NO. 15 of 1933.

We, KING of IRAQ,

With the concurrence of the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies, order the enactment of the following Law:

Article 1. - His Majesty the King may grant general amnesty to the Barzanis who have declared disobedience and revolted against the Iraq State and have carried on armed hostilities against it between December 9, 1931 and end of February, 1933, with the exception of Khalil Khoshoy only, and the Government may order any person to reside in any other place in Iraq should his removal from his own district be considered necessary.

Article 2.- This Amnesty shall not cover the crimes committed against the people, nor the personal rights resulting from the crimes mentioned in Article 1.

Article 3.- This Law shall come into force from the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.

Article 4.- The Ministers of Interior and Justice are charged with the execution of this Law.

Made at Baghdad this Eighteenth day of Muharram, 1352 and the 15th Day of May, 1933.

FAISAL

Rashid Ali Prime Minister	Hikmet Sulaiman Minister of Interior	Mohamed Zaki Minister of Justice.

No. 105 - Diplomatic. Baghdad, May 31, 1933.

Subject: King Faisal Pardons Falih Beg as Sa'dun, Convicted Murderer of Abdullah Beg al Sana.

890c

CONFIDENTIAL.

The Honorable

The Secretary of State

Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to refer to the Legation's despatches Nos. 103 and 131, dated January 15 and February 12, 1932 respectively, regarding the commutation of the death sentence passed on Abdullah Falih Beg as Sa'dun for the murder of Abdullah Beg al Sana, former Director General of the Ministry of Interior, and to report that His Majesty King Faisal issued a Royal Irada on May 19, 1933 granting Falih Beg a complete pardon.

The

The King's action did not greatly surprise those who have followed the case. Since the day Falih Beg began to serve his sentence, commuted from death to fifteen years on the grounds that the motive was purely tribal, members of the Sa'dun family, influential shaikhs and other tribal sympathizers have deluged the King with petitions for Sa'dun's pardon. At first open threats of tribal risings were used, but during the past year more rational pleas have been made, although there was no appreciable diminution in the efforts to secure the release of the condemned man. (For tribal viewpoint with regard to the murder of Abdullah Beg al Sana see diplomatic despatch No. 216 of May 31, 1932).

On the same day that the statue of His Majesty was unveiled, May 20th and the King's birthday, a smaller one was unveiled of Sir Abdul Muhsin Beg as Sa'dun, the cousin of Falih Beg, as reported in my diplomatic despatch No. 95 of May 22, 1933. Having apparently decided to eventually release Sa'dun, the King doubtless thought it fitting that the pardon should coincide with the commemoration of his "illustrious" former Prime Minister and relative of the prisoner. Coinciding also with the unveiling of his statue and with his birthday celebration, the pardon undoubtedly received more attention and the King's clemency was the more applauded.

While certain people consider that pardoning Sa'dun has reestablished the King in the good graces of most of the important tribesmen who are numerous and powerful

enough

enough to have caused serious internal disturbances, others, including some of the Government officials lament what they consider was a distinct sign of weakness on the part of the King. They fear that in thus acceding to the demands of the tribal chiefs he has permanently weakened his authority over them, which was built up at such a cost, and furthermore, that pardoning Sa'dun for an admitted murder in cold blood because he happens to be a tribesman not only establishes a bad precedent for the enforcement of civil law and order, but it will mark the beginning of additional crimes by any tribesmen who may imagine their family honor has been touched.

One result has quite naturally been renewed agitation on the part of the city dwellers to have the tribal laws abolished in order to eliminate the discrimination now practiced in favor of tribesmen. Business and professional men of Baghdad and other cities -- the intelligentsia of the Kingdom -- clamor through their legislators for abolition of the unjust laws which discriminate between urban and rural dwellers, maintaining that, as all are Iraqis, all should be equal under the law. To the occidental the justness of that stand seems unassailable. But after more deliberation anyone experienced in Eastern affairs might find sounder reasons for believing that the King's action has been altogether the wisest course to pursue. It has been my experience in the Near and

Middle

Middle East that attempts at modernizing and civilizing reform have usually been pushed too rapidly. Many outbreaks and much civil strife might have been averted if tribal and clannish peoples in this part of the world had not been forced to make too sudden changes in their modes of life, customs and allegiances. For that reason it is believed that the King has followed a shrewd middle course in dealing with the Sa'dun family, neither allowing the execution of the death sentence, in opposition to the tribal laws, nor yet granting pardon at once to the offender against more enlightened civic moral codes, but rather partially satisfying civil justice through having the condemned man serve some eighteen months in prison, and satisfying tribesmen at the same time through eventually granting the pardon. Had the King pardoned Falih Beg at once it might have appeared that he was intimidated by the tribal threats. But having waited until the threats became petitions and then supplications, conceding a little by commuting the sentence from time to time, it is not believed that his prestige has suffered. At the same time, the reluctance with which the King acted will undoubtedly be interpreted by the tribesmen as an indication that he will not be so lenient in the future and consequently his action will serve as an important step in the gradual education of the tribesmen in the adjustment of their code of conduct.

The fact should not be overlooked that the King, who is still somewhat considered by many Iraqis as an

"imposé"

"impose", has not yet won over the complete loyal support of the entire population including many of the tribes. But even so it would be unwise for him to attempt to revolutionize too soon the feudal standards and customs of his tribal subjects. There is every justification for adopting two standards for city dwellers and tribesmen. The former have had educational advantages, and the benefit of contact with western customs and standards, which they are adopting and consequently they may reasonably be expected to abide by the corresponding legal codes. The tribesmen not having enjoyed those advantages still follow in good fai th the primitive feudal codes built up by their ancestors over a period of centuries. While it is desirable eventually to bring the tribesmen in line with the city dwellers in respect to more civilized legal codes, the transition should not be too rapid.

The King has undoubtedly considered the broader aspects of the Sa'dun affair and pardon of the condemned man will very likely prove to be an important factor in his efforts to win over the loyal support of his still hesitant tribesmen.

Respectfully yours,

P. Knabenshue.

File No. 800.
MNH/PK/skl.

Copy to:
American Embassy, London.
E. I. C., Paris.

No. 118 - Diplomatic. Baghdad, June 10, 1933.

Subject: Iraqi Author Jailed for Arousing Active Religious Resentment.

CONFIDENTIAL.

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,

Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to report that Abdul Razzaq al Hassan, former editor of the AL AHD newspaper, organ of Nuri Pasha's party, was arrested on June 4th on the charge of arousing high religious feeling and creating serious active resentment liable to lead to public disturbances through writing and publishing a small pamphlet entitled "Arab Nationalism in the Scale". His monograph is reported to reveal certain historical facts not complimentary to the Shiah faith and in

general

general to expose the frailties of that branch of the Mohemmadan religion, showing how the faith is supported by ignorance. As the police immediately confiscated all available copies of the booklet and no one is known who possesses a copy, none can be forwarded at this time to the Department, but an effort will be made to secure one.

Upon loud clamoring by substantial numbers of the outraged Shiahs the offending author was hailed before the magistrate on June 4th on the charge of inciting public unrest. He was remanded for trial on June 6th - two days being allowed to obtain legal assistance - and at first allowed bail. That order was quickly changed however, to remand in custody. Regardless of the author's arrest, popular indignation was sweeping like prairie fire through Shiah ranks in Baghdad, Kerbala, Najaf and the lower Euphrates valley. The Government was bombarded by letters and telegrams couched in strong terms appealing and demanding that the insult to the faith be avenged by the most drastic punishment.

The next day, the 5th, the bazaars and the main streets near the Sarai began to be filled with a seething swarm of the more excitable Shiahs, fiercely demanding the life of the infidel who had maliciously attacked the honor of all true followers of Hussein. Many shops closed in sympathy and others, particularly those of Jews, were forcibly closed by the rioters. It was also unfortunate that the outbreak coincided with a Shiah religious festival beginning the 6th, which of course

intensified

intensified religious resentment. The famous Shiah shrines at Khadhamain, Kerbala and Najaf were closed for one day in protest, and all the while the temper of the protesting Shiahs filling the streets was mounting to the danger mark.

According to one report a delegation of Shiahs hastened to the Palace to inform H. R. H. the Emir Ghazi, now Regent in his father's absence, who at once ordered Hassan to be immediately rearrested and tried without delay. However, the legal advisor to the British Embassy who was consulted by Iraq officials at once on the matter, informed me that Hassan's re-arrest was ordered at the instance of the British adviser to the Ministry of Justice, who saw the mob from his office window, and ascertaining the cause of the disturbance, which was rapidly reaching riot proportions, hastily advised the Senior British judge having jurisdiction to cause Hassan's immediate re-arraignment before the Magistrate for trial in order to avert what might develop into a serious religious uprising.

The unfortunate author was produced and charged with violating Section 89 revised, of the Baghdad Penal Code, which reads as follows:

> "Whoever by printing, or causing to be printed or published any newspaper, book or other printed matter, or by any means of publication mentioned in Section 78 seeks to excite feelings of hostility or contempt against one or more classes of persons in such a way as to endanger the public peace shall be punished with imprisonment not exceeding two years or with fine not exceeding 100 Turkish pounds (approximately 100 dinars) or with both such punishments.

.....Further

"..... Further the printed matter shall be confiscated and the printing house shall be liable to be closed whether temporarily or permanently according to the gravity of the offence, and, whenever the editor or manager or other person responsible for the publication of a newspaper or periodical is convicted of an offense falling under this chapter or the preceding chapter the judgment may order the suspension of the newspaper or periodical for a period not exceeding one year."

The two days allowed the accused to obtain legal counsel were apparently of no avail as no attorney could be found with sufficient courage - or as some termed it foolhardiness - to defend the accused. Consequently, the Magistrate, after hearing the evidence and the author's defense, passed sentence forthwith of four months rigorous imprisonment and fifty dinars fine, with the further penalty of another six months rigorous imprisonment in the event the fine was not immediately forthcoming. The Court also ordered that all copies of the book be confiscated. As the fine has not been paid it seems evident that Hassan will have to serve ten months, although many thought that Sunni friends, followers of Nuri Pasha, would pay the fine at once.

It is understood that opinion among Sunnis, Christians and Jews tends toward the belief that the author was "railroaded" through the courts to jail without having been given any opportunity to defend himself, merely to appease the angry mob which the police feared to quell wthout giving it some satisfaction. They cite Hassan's ignored defense that

everything

everything written in his booklet is based on historical fact. However, British officials agree that the author's publication has definitely violated the law, and on that ground alone his sentence is justified. There can be no doubt about the work having incited a large number of people to make a threatening public demonstration, and had it not been for the quick action on the part of the British Adviser, serious consequences might have resulted from the almost fanatical temper of the mob. As it was, about one hundred mounted police were finally called out and only after repeatedly charging sections of the mob bent on damaging property were they finally able to disperse the rioters.

It is hoped that the case will not be appealed by either the accused or the prosecution. Without appeal the incident will soon be forgotten, but an appeal might tend to re-arouse Shiah feeling causing demonstrations accompanied by acts of violence.

The political significance of the affair lies in the fact that the Shiah Moslems of Iraq have, since the beginning of the development of self government in the country, been highly dissatisfied with the small share in the government allowed them by their Sunni co-religionists who have been and still are in control of the government. In spite of the fact that the Shiahs are very considerably in the majority, there is not a single Shiah Mutasarrif throughout the whole country and only about three Qaimmaqams. Moreover there are even less

Shiah

Shiah employees in the government than Christians and Jews, who are very much in the minority.

It is said that Shiah dissatisfaction is steadily increasing and that they are about to commence the publication of a newspaper to serve as their political organ and to organize a Shiah Club also for the purpose of promoting their political aims.

While the agitation which took place in consequence of the publication of the above-mentioned book, was largely due to religious fanaticism, it was also aggravated by political considerations, inasmuch as the Shiahs interpreted the book as a Sunni attack upon them in order further to discredit them.

It is evident that Shiah susceptibilities render them easily aroused and that by being played upon by unscrupulous politicians they could be used as the vehicle upon which to launch political unrest or even upheaval, a situation which may be considered as not entirely unlikely.

Respectfully yours,

P. Knabenshue.

File No. 800.
MNH/PK/skl.

Copy to:

American Embassy, London.
Two copies to E. I. C, Paris.

No. 123 - Diplomatic. Baghdad, June 21, 1933.

Subject: King Faisal's Passage Through Trans-Jordan and Palestine --- Political Ebullitions.

800

CONFIDENTIAL.

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,

Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to refer to my diplomatic despatch No. 90 dated May 16, 1933, file No. 030, reporting the departure of King Faisal for Europe and to inform the Department that according to the Baghdad press his passage through Trans-Jordan and Palestine seems to have given rise to political ebullitions with regard to Arab aspirations, which, now that they have been openly expressed, might inspire action leading to important developments in Syria, Palestine, and Trans-Jordan.

On

On learning of the expected journey of King Faisal to the Mediterranean, and thence to England via Egypt, many Syrian Nationalists, younger men of southern Syria and Damascus, immediately renewed the agitation for relief against French domination, and circulated a petition addressed to His Majesty asking him to lead Syrian Arabs out of their oppression, or at least to intercede with the French Government in their behalf. When it was announced that the King would not pass through Syria a delegation was selected to journey to Amman to present the petition. (See my despatch No. 106 of June 1, 1933, file No. 800). It is reported that about 150 passports have been issued in Damascus for journey to Amman, and that some 40 petitions have been signed by prominent merchants, professional men, municipal officials, chamber of commerce and administrative council heads, both from interior and littoral districts.

At the same time another delegation, organized by Arab Young men's Conference of Jaffa, and reported to represent many of the influential Arabs of Palestine, set out for Amman with a similar petition to His Majesty asking him to intercede with the British Government in their interests. Their complaint is immigration restrictions and sale of lands to non-Arabs.

King Faisal received the deputations at the Palace of his brother, Emir Abdullah, and as they were apparently not entirely unexpected the King gave them his full attention, and responded to the petitioners as seriously and as tactfully as the occasions warranted.

To the

To the Palestine delegation His Majesty replied that they should not allow the disease of dissension to enter their homes during their struggle with "their strongest enemy", but that if they were sincere in their demands, he in his capacity as an Arab (leader) would promise to do all in his power to assist them. He likened Palestine to a besieged fort which relieving forces cannot reach, but one which would never surrender. He maintained that Palestine shall always remain Arab and that affairs of Zionism constitute a simple historical event that will pass with time.

King Faisal replied to the Syrian delegation that he would not fail to take advantage of any opportunity to treat with Syrian affairs in an endeavor to help them solve their problems, and that he hoped such an opportunity might present itself shortly. He thanked the Syrians for their expression of confidence in him and told them that he would not hesitate to come to their assistance in so far as his condition and circumstances would permit. He admonished them to be of stout courage and pointed out that the many stages through which Iraq has passed in its regeneration have given proof to the world of the preparedness of the Arab peoples.

The King's Ministers and advisers accompanying him were besieged by eager newspaper men at Amman who pressed them with all manner of questions: "What is the purpose of the King's visit to Europe? Will he initiate revision of the Anglo-Iraq Treaty of Alliance?

Will

"Will he discuss Palestine politics with British authorities? Will he visit Paris and discuss Syrian demands with the French Government? What is the purpose of Ex-King Ali(s visit to Europe?" They were so insistent that Emir Abdullah had to remind the reporters that the Iraqis were his guests and not to be molested.

Although no definite program or action was initiated by the presentation of the petitions and King Faisal's replies, serious observers are wondering whether the political pot which has long been simmering under the lid of western domination might not soon be brought to the boiling point and the lid blown off by the steam of Arab nationalism engendered by the added flame of finding a new and powerful leader. While the King has not declared himself the public and press of Syria, Palestine, Trans-Jordan, and Iraq are busily bandying about four definite rumors:

1. That King Faisal will not be elected King of Syria in addition to reigning in Iraq;

2. That Trans-Jordan may be annexed to Iraq and King Faisal proclaimed King of the united territory;

3. That Ex-King Ali may be proclaimed King of Syria;

4. That Emir Abdullah of Trans-Jordan may be proclaimed King of Palestine.

It is believed that these rumors, however fantastic, express the fervent hopes of a good many Arabs in all four countries, but whether any important developments will take place in the near future as the result of the political ebullitions arising from King Faisal's

passage

passage, can only be conjectured. Certainly it would seem that there will have to be further organization of the Arab peoples in the three countries concerned, before anything concrete can be accomplished by them, aside from ineffectual spasmodic political disturbances.

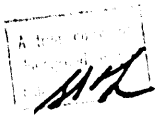
Respectfully yours,

P. Knabenshue.

File No. 800.
MNH/skl.

Copy to:

American Embassy, London.
American Consulate General, Beirut.
American Consulate General, Jerusalem.
E. I. C., Paris.



800/857

No. 145 - Diplomatic. Baghdad, July 27, 1933.

Subject: King Faisal in London - Loan Prospects.

CONFIDENTIAL.

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,

Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to refer to the Legation's despatch No. 125 of June 26, 1933 regarding King Faisal's visit to England, and to report that according to press reports he seems to be experiencing difficulty in obtaining a loan for the Iraq Government. The local press has reprinted British editorial remarks to the effect that King Faisal has prolonged his visit in England in order to obtain financial assistance not only for the construction

of the

of the Baghdad-Haifa Railway but also, it is rumored, for the building of a small fleet, the foundation of which will be two armed sloops for survey work and two light monitors for river patrol. No doubt the acquisition of new gunboats by Persia has stimulated the King's desire for some kind of navy although thus far the Government has not officially considered the establishment of a naval force. The various articles take advantage of the King's reported search for financial backing to point out that of course British bankers and the British Government will not be interested in sinking more money in Iraq unless certain concessions or at least preferential treatment is afforded British interests in that country. As a specific example, one of the British editorials appearing in the local press inveighed against the recent large purchases of Japanese cloth by the Iraq army. It pointed out that Manchester firms had for years supplied khaki and other cloth to the Iraq Government and that the recent loss of a contract for 80,000 meters of khaki drill and 5,000 meters of cord, which was given to Japan, was a serious blow to them and established a grave precedent which should undoubtedly affect the willingness of British financiers to back further Iraqi development projects. The article concluded with:

> "While the Iraq mission is here (London) our Government must ask for and insist upon reciprocity and fair treatment. Japan must not be allowed to walk away with the fruits of all the lives, labor, and money which have been devoted to the building of Iraq on a solid foundation".

The

The Iraq Government replied in the press that it is bound by its international obligations to follow the policy of the open door, that the contract for Japanese cloth was given to a local merchant who submitted the lowest bid to the Government and who was at liberty to supply the specified cloth at the price agreed upon from any country of origin, and that therefore there was no question of discrimination nor of Iraq's intention not to fulfill its undertakings with Great Britain.

King Faisal, who for a month was lionized by London society, also assured the British public through various interviews that he hopes to strengthen Anglo-Iraqi relations, and to continue to benefit by the advice and assistance of Great Britain in carrying out his development schemes in Iraq. He spoke of great possibilities for developing Iraq's mineral and agricultural resources with special reference to Irrigation schemes and transportation and expressed his belief that they could be realized so much more rapidly with British financial assistance. He also mentioned that the projected Baghdad-Haifa Railway (see strictly confidential despatch - Diplomatic - No. 92 of May 18, 1933, file No. 877) was one of his principal interests and a means of bringing Iraq in closer touch with the Mediterranean, and that incidentally it would provide a second and alternative route for Britain to the Far East, making the Suez

Canal

less indispensable. He admitted, however, that his Government is not yet convinced whether it is better to construct the railway or a good motor road to the Mediterranean but seemed confident that the railway project would be chosen, whether or not a motor highway were built later on.

Recent information regarding His Majesty's success in interesting British capital in financing the proposed railway, the Habbaniyah and Gharraf irrigation schemes, Tigris river bridges and the new navy, concern only the first mentioned. According to one London newspaper an agreement was signed concerning the railway construction. No mention was made of the manner in which it is to be financed, nor regarding whether the agreement was reached with British bankers or with the British government. Presumably it is a tentative agreement pending approval of the Iraq Government, upon which the financial assistance will be forthcoming. Subsequent items in the local press, however, deny categorically that any agreement has been signed in London, and that statement is believed correct in local circles. Possibly some agreement was signed to the effect that the railway construction should be undertaken, but it is probable that no financial arrangements have yet been made.

Nor has any success been reported in obtaining loans for the other developments. It is understood that British capitalists are becoming skeptical

regarding

regarding the future of British trade and influence in Iraq. Moreover, their Government is reported to be very desirous of avoiding the needless expense of moving its air base away from Hinaidi to Dhibban, in accordance with the Treaty of Alliance, and that factor will doubtless color any consideration of extending financial aid to Iraq. (See my strictly confidential despatch - Diplomatic - No. 121 of June 19, 1933, file No. 824.5). In this latter connection I have since gleamed further information from officers of the Royal Air Force indicating that there is a growing belief among them that the air base will remain at Hinaidi and not be moved to the proposed new site.

With the present increasing agitation in Parliament toward breaking away from British influence King Faisal will most certainly have his hands full upon his return in convincing opposition members of his Government that it is in the best interest of the country to maintain the Anglo-Iraqi Treaty of Alliance, to allow the British air base to remain at Hinaidi and to give British firms every opportunity to supply goods and expert personnel to the Government in exchange for financial assistance in carrying out national development plans. While he has not made specific promises thus far, the British press infers clearly that he will find it difficult to secure British capital without definite assurances that the anti-British movement will cease.

Moreover,

Moreover, although the press has naturally not criticized the King's journey to England, nor has there been heard much unfavorable comment in public, at the same time it is apparent that those few of the populace that take any interest in international affairs of the Government are politely indifferent with regard to the King's visit. Some feel that it has occasioned a needless expense, while others regard it as a monarch(s prerogative to have a vacation, and travel. At least there is no cry of favoritism because the opposition leader Yassin Pasha was included in the entourage, and his followers are said to be satisfied that as long as he goes to London there must be some need for it, and some benefit may derive to the country. At any rate there is definitely no local enthusiasm over the possible success of the state visit. There is rather even a little apprehension in some quarters that internal dissatisfaction may follow the strengthening of the ties that bind Iraq to Great Britain to the detriment of its professed crusade for complete independence. It will be difficult to ascertain the public's sentiment concerning the King's junket until the political leaders have returned to Baghdad and have announced to their public what its opinion will be.

Respectfully yours,

P. Knabenshue.

File No. 800/851.
LNH/skl.

Copy to American Embassy, London.

No. 147 - Diplomatic Baghdad, July 28, 1933.

Subject: Protests Against Book Entitled: "The Shiahs"; Suspected Foreign Influence; Suspension of Two Papers.

890.00/138

CONFIDENTIAL (file copy only)

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,

Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to refer to my despatch No. 118 dated June 10, 1933, and to report that a Shiah author, Abdul Said Muhammed Hussain as Sadiq, apparently in retaliation for the attack on the Shiahs in the recent publication "Arab Nationalism in the Scale", has written a book entitled "The Shiahs" in which he raises many controversial issues which have already aroused some of the more sensitive Sunnis. While nothing more serious has developed from the publication

than

than a delegation of Ulamas calling on the Prime Minister to express their indignation, leading articles in the vernacular press (Al-Istiklal and Al-Ikha al-Watani) subsequent to the appearance of the book attribute the recent Shiah-Sunni agitation and the Assyrian troubles to foreign (British) influence.

After many platitudinous paragraphs expressing satisfaction at the Government's action in subduing the Assyrian uprising (such commendations by the press have been rather premature as proved by continued disturbances in the north), one paper remarks that while the Iraqi deputation headed by Yassin Pasha, the great leader of the Nation, is negotiating with the British Government for the realization of the country's aspirations, a foreign element is intigating the bad feeling between the Shiahs and Sunnis. Such agitation, the article continued, skillfully manipulated by this foreign power is aimed at destroying the country's unity so that the Iraqi plenipotentiaries will not be so insistent in their demands with the British.

Another paper stated that when it appeared that the Government could handle the Assyrian question, the instigators proceeded to stir up ill-feeling between the Shiahs and Sunnis. The question is asked whether the people believe that these events are coincidental, particularly at a time when the political leaders of the country are absent in England striving for the welfare of Iraq. The articles, with a

warning

warning to the public to disregard all intrigues, and with an invocation that the people unite and work jointly for the common interest of the country.

On July 26th, "Al-Ahrar" and "Al-Istiklal", Shiah and Sunni papers respectively, were suspended for one month as a result of impassioned attacks on each other over religious questions. The Council of Ministers is reported to have passed the suspension resolution unwillingly and only because it feared that continued discussion of controversial religious questions might arouse public feeling to the point where the peace of the country would be threatened.

Respectfully yours,

P. Knabenshue.

File No. 800/891
GWR/jnc.

Copy to American Embassy, London.

A true copy of the signed original

GWR

No. 163 - Diplomatic Baghdad, August 21, 1933.

Subject: Anglo-Iraq Strained Relations.

CONFIDENTIAL.

800/8X00.1

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,

Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to refer to my telegram of August 16th 10 p.m. wherein I reported that the outstanding feature of the situation in Iraq at that time was the strained relations between the British and Iraqis. In my telegram of August 18th 6 p.m., I amplified this theme indicating that important if not serious consequences would undoubtedly result therefrom. I will endeavor to explain the situation as briefly as possible.

As the Department is aware, for several years before

before Iraq finally gained its independence on October 3, 1932, the Iraqis chafed under British rule and constantly agitated for independence. The celebrations attending the entrance of Iraq as a member of the League of Nations had hardly subsided before the Iraqis commenced to clamour for a revision of the Anglo-Iraq treaty claiming that the British thereby still maintained a strangle hold on the country. At the same time a concerted movement was commenced to free the country from British advisers and other officials within less than a year of their independence. The Iraq Government has removed numerous British officials from office and the process of doing so is a continuing policy. British officials have complained to me during the past year that not only have they been shorn of all authority but that their advice is being sought and followed less and less.

At the same time there has been a subtle propaganda carried out calculated to make the public believe that the British have already commenced intrigue to keep the country in a state of unrest such as to make necessary a continuance of British dominance in Iraq. For instance one of the recent rumors is to the effect that, after the famous meeting between the Assyrian leaders and Government representatives at Mosul on July 4th in consequence of which it seemed that the Assyrians had agreed to cooperate with the Government in the matter of the peaceful settlement of the Assyrians, the British, desiring to keep contention alive, incited the recent migration and supplied further

arms

arms and ammunition to the Assyrians. The Iraq Government, it is said, captured several trucks loaded with such munitions which it is claimed were sent via Syria to northern Iraq. I personally believe this to be a fantastic fabrication.

It is also rumored that the British and the French are intriguing to bring about the separation of northern Iraq with an autonimous government under foreign administration in order to take control of the oil and pipe line area out of the hands of the Iraqis, and in order to ensure public security in respect to the Kurds and the Assyrians.

Whether it was in consequence of such specific rumors or whether it was simply a culmination of a growing tendency, the fact remains that with the outbreak of the present Assyrian situation the Iraq Government definitely set aside the British and took matters entirely in their own hands. As reported in my telegram of August 16th 10 p.m. the British Charge d'Affairs told me that the Iraq Government would neither listen to the advice of the British advisers nor keep them informed as to what was going on, and that they were in fact putting every obstacle in the way of their securing such information.

The British Charge d'Affairs also confirmed my previous surmise that the King, upon the eve of his departure for Iraq, promised to carry out certain British defined policies upon his arrival here. But

upon

upon reaching Baghdad he not only failed to do so but publicly approved of everything which had been done by the Government, and announced his intention to return at once to complete his cure in Europe. However, the return of the Assyrians from Syria and the ensuing armed conflict, and the controversy with the French, caused His Majesty to postpone his departure. But within a few days it was given out that the Iraq Government had the matter well in hand and that the King would leave for Europe on Friday, August 18th.

The British Government realizing the inherent gravity of the situation recalled Ambassador Humphrys from his holiday tour in Norway and ordered him to proceed at once to Baghdad. At the same time Sir Kinihan Cornwallis, the Adviser to the Ministry of Interior, and Major-General Rowan Robinson, the Adviser to the Ministry of Defense, both of whom were on leave, were requested to return at once to Baghdad.

The British Charge d'Affairs told me that he had tried to persuade the King to await the arrival of the Ambassador, but that His Majesty refused to do so. He said that he was sure that the King fearing to oppose his Ministers could not face the Ambassador. However he has since told me that the King insisted that the situation was so well in hand that it was no longer necessary for him to remain nor for the Ambassador to return. The Charge d'Affairs gave it as his personal opinion that the King, knowing that

the

[redacted] the whole matter would be brought before the League of Nations, was anxious to get to Geneva as soon as possible to prepare the ground through political contacts and influences for the forthcoming discussions.

However, as reported in my telegram of August 18th 6 p.m. a strongly worded request from the British Government at London persuaded the King to await the arrival of the Ambassador. It was announced that His Majesty required a few days further rest before proceeding on his journey to Europe.

In my telegram of August 18th 10 p.m. I endeavored to forewarn the Department, in as brief a manner as possible, of the basic reasons for possible impending developments. From my very close study of the situation, I have come to the conclusion, which is shared by the British Charge d'Affairs, that very important if not serious developments are about to take place in consequence of present Anglo-Iraq relations, and that we may even be sitting on the edge of a volcano.

In addition to the general principle involved - whether British advice is to be sought and followed - there are undoubtedly a number of specific demands which Ambassador Humphrys will probably make in connection with the present situation which would cause a more or less complete reversal of attitude and policy of the present Cabinet. One of their demands will undoubtedly be for the Court Martial of General Bakir Sidqi bin Shauqi who is

said

said to be directly responsible for the shooting - out of hand - of fifteen Assyrians captured on August 5th, and for the veritable cold blooded massacre of several hundred Assyrians at Simel on August 11th.

Heretofore the British have exercised their influence chiefly through the medium of the King. The question now arises whether he will continue to be so guided or whether he will deem it expedient to follow his people. In the present atmosphere of increased nationalistic and anti- British public sentiment agrivated by religious animosities, which after all are the most potent factors here, it is entirely possible that the nationalists may decide that the time is ripe to defy the British, and that consequently the King will feel forded to continue in line with that policy - having taken the first step in doing so upon his return to Iraq on August 2nd. In this event the British may tighten one or more screws to pinch the Iraq Government into submission. On the other hand should the King decide to follow British lead either through the present Cabinet, or a new Cabinet, in opposition to present public sentiment, trouble would doubtlessly ensue, and a situation would be created which would probably wreck the King's already insecure position and make it impossible for him to continue as the crowned head of Iraq. The fact should not be overlooked that he never had the wholehearted loyal support of the important families

and

and tribal chiefs of Iraq. And should he run counter to public sentiment he might irretrievably lose such support as he now enjoys.

It would seem that, in the present state of public opinion, the nationalists hold the whip hand. The slightest attempt to coerce them could easily be met by retaliations in the form of disturbances taking the form, chiefly, of attacks on Christians, and that could and might set the whole country ablaze. For instance even the attempt to Court Martial General Bakir Sidqi, now a public hero, would doubtless result in an increased agitation against the Assyrians and further widespread massacres without police or other restraint. Besides a Court Martial conducted by Iraqi officers would be a farce for obviously he would be acquitted.

The next question which arises is how far the British are prepared to go to enforce their will upon the Iraqis should their efforts by diplomacy fail. Obviously the British would not resort to force without the sanction of the League of Nations. The events that have taken place in northern Iraq, or possibly subsequent events, might secure this sanction, but it is doubtful. But even so, would British public opinion permit the use of force, to the extent which would be necessary, to reestablish British prestige and influence in Iraq. This is also doubtful.

The question might also be asked why should the British dominate the situation in Iraq. The answer is obvious. The Iraqis are not yet prepared for

independence

independence - that is to say, to administer a country where foreign interests are so important and a country which is in the direct line of foreign intercourse and communications involving foreign interests. Again it is obvious not only that it is the British that are, at least morally, responsible for the proper conduct of the affairs of the country, but their vested interests make it almost imperative.

The picture I have drawn represents an extreme, but not impossible, view. However, I hope and believe that Ambassador Humphrys may find and follow a middle course, which, perhaps with some whitewashing, may solve the problem for the present.

Now that this so called rebellion is suppressed, tension has been relieved, and I believe that I recognize indications of some apprehension on the part of the Government. Viewing the situation with a clearer vision, their tempers having cooled down, they are perhaps beginning to realize that mistakes were made, and consequently they may be more amenable to reason when confronted by Ambassador Humphrys. If his demands are not too drastic and if he allows them to save their faces, and Ibelieve that this will be his policy, he will command the situation. His arrival at this juncture is therefore more propitious than if he had arrived here a week ago.

In my telegrams of August 16th 10 p.m. and August 18th 6 p.m., I expressed the opinion that important if not serious results would arise out of the strained anglo-Iraq relations. If the british win in this controversy the victory may be classified as important. If they

lose

lose it will be serious. At this moment of writing I believe they will win.

Respectfully yours,

P. Knabenshue.

File No. 840.1
PK/GWR

Copy to American Embassy, London.

No. 186 - Diplomatic Baghdad, September 13, 1933.

Subject: Vernacular Press Continue to Inveigh Against Foreign Influence.

800

CONFIDENTIAL

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,

Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to refer to my despatch No. 147 dated July 28, 1933 in which I stated that the local press initiated an editorial campaign against foreign (British) influence directed at creating trouble between the Shiahs and Sunnis. Now the press is directing an attack against foreign intelligence officers in the country.

An editorial in "Al-Istiklal" (independent Nationalist paper) demands that the Government take action to rid the country of foreign intelligence officers (which of course are British) whose presence is not compatible

with

with Iraq's independent status. The articles infer that the intelligence officers instigated the trouble which eventually led to the Assyrian insurrection and asks how long the Government will tolerate their existence. Compulsory military service has become a need of the country, the editorial continues, but what good would it be to create a new army if its movements, plans and secrets are known to these foreign agents? The paper accuses the officers of carrying large quantities of currency notes which they distribute lavishly among the people to incite them to create disturbances.

As a matter of fact the British have a number of agents in Iraq who operate officially as Secret Service Officers under the direction of the Royal Air Force.

It is hard to believe that their object is to incite the people, as claimed by the Iraqis, so as to create a situation in Iraq justifying continued British supervision. It is my belief that they are intended only to keep in close touch with the people so as continually to feel the pulse of the nation, and also, undoubtedly, to furnish useful information to the British military authorities.

Respectfully yours,

P. Knabenshue.

File No. 800
CWR/

Enclosure No. 1 to Despatch No. 186 - Diplomatic - dated September 13, 1933 from the American Legation at Baghdad.

SOURCE: Al-Istiklal,
September 6, 1933
Baghdad.

TRANSLATION.

Foreign Intelligence Officers
The steps we must take to parry their danger.

".....

There is another affair having connection with the compulsory service scheme and that is the presence of foreign Intelligence officers who are scattered here and there in Iraq having in their hand bags of documents, maps and drawings of all the plains, mountains, rivers, caves, forts and strategic points of the whole country. With these maps and drawings they carry large quantities of currency notes which they spend lavishly here and there to deceive the simple-minded and the starving people, perhaps with the idea of inciting them to stir up trouble among the different communities, sects and in other directions. On many occasions it had been ascertained that the troubles and the intrigues which were instigated to handicap the efforts of the Government and to weaken the power of the people were mostly the result of the dinars carried in the purse of these foreign intelligence officers. Is it reasonable and logical for us to permit the scorpion to bite our ribs while we are busy wearing our best clothes?

In 1927, the people had felt the need for a compulsory military service to defend the country, but our abhored mandatory status then was not consistent with it on the one side, neither was the feeling for it as strong as it is now. Furthermore, at the time this scheme was being considered its enemies assumed an open hostile attitude against that movement. In fact, they had even threatened to extend no help to the Government in case the scheme would be opposed and rejected by the people. This threatening had some other meaning. It was then understood that the foreign intelligence officers would be asked to perform the task required of them. Now that that status has been changed altogether, and the malicious circumstances exist no longer, there seems to be no escape from abiding by the will of the people and enforcing compulsory service. Before commencing with this scheme, however, the Government should have a definite understanding with the allied state with regard to the presence of intelligence officers. What do they actually want from us whom they claim are their

friends?

friends? Is there any other independent state in the world in which foreign spies stir up trouble and intrigue as they wish? Death is the penalty for such spies. Why should the Government tolerate their existence? Could these men be able to cross the border of our country and perform their duties in our neighboring states, Turkey, Persia, Syria or Nejd? What duties do they have in this country? They have only the air basis which we have undertaken to protect. What good would it be to mobilize a new army if its movements, plans and secrets are known to the Intelligence officers? A member of the Chamber of Deputies asked the authorities concerned as to the duties of these officers and on whose account they were functioning. To this question he received no satisfactory reply. However, before the session of Parliament was over, the Assyrian trouble which was incited by hands not unknown to the people made its appearance. The Intelligence officers had a great finger in it. How long shall we withstand humiliation, sustain misery and offer sacrifices and oblations at the alter of their colonization ambition.

Compulsory service has become a decided need for the country, but before the Government takes any action in this respect, it should solve the problem of foreign intelligence officers and should reach an agreement with the allied state to end these ugly intrigues performed by these officers on the stage of our country. How can we safeguard our new Army which we propose to organize with such a treason. Is there in this world any army the secrets and plans of which are disclosed in such a way. The penalty of spying is death because spying may lead to the ruin of a whole nation, Will the Government awaken to this essential point."

No. 189 Diplomatic Baghdad, September 13, 1933.

Subject: Statement of Policy by Iraqi Prime Minister

890/820/940.1

CONFIDENTIAL

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,

Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to enclose a clipping from the Iraq Times of September 6, 1933, giving a translation of a speech delivered by the Iraqi Prime Minister at

Mosul

Mosul on August 30, 1933, on the occasion of the review of the army held there on that day.

This speech is a statement of policy of the Iraqi Government. If it is read in conjunction with my despatch No. 170 of August 28, 1933 (Assyrian Problem -- British Policy), it will be seen as obvious that the Prime Minister's speech was inspired by the British Ambassador, and that it is undoubtedly intended to be used in support of Iraq's defense before the League of Nations.

Respectfully yours,

P. Knabenshue

PK/jsm
File No. 800/820/840.1
Enclosure: As stated.
Copy to American Embassy, London.

(Enclosure No. 1 to Despatch - Diplomatic - No. 189 dated September 13, 1933, from American Legation, Baghdad)

Source: Clipping from Baghdad Times dated September 6, 1933.

September 6th, 1933.

THE PREMIER AT MOSUL

CHRISTIANS IN IRAQ

Lessons of the Assyrian Revolt

FUTURE POLICY

The Country's Need of National Service

The following is a translation of a speech made by His Excellency the Prime Minister at a banquet given by the Acting Mutasarrif, Mosul, on August 10th on the occasion of Iraq Army manoeuvres held in Mosul.

After expressing his gratification with the opportunity afforded him by the occasion to express his gratitude to the inhabitants of the Mosul liwa, and to those who had taken the trouble to come from distant places to attend the Army manoeuvres, the Prime Minister proceeded:—

"The pleasure that overwhelms my soul is not due only to the enthusiasm and zeal you have exhibited during the punitive action against the Tiari rebels, but also to the true chivalry and genuine love which have been shown by you towards non-Moslem communities, especially the Christians, including the loyalist Tiari. By this conduct of yours you have placed on record in the annals of history yet another proof of your chivalry, benevolence, and political maturity. The feelings evinced by members of the said Christian communities are likewise worthy of gratitude and appreciation.

Help for Refugees.

"You are aware that the punitive operations were directed only against the Tiari rebels, who have been justly punished. Nevertheless the Government did not forget the obligations of humanity devolving upon them. Inspired by the spirit of chivalry and humanity which is in the blood of the noble people of Iraq, the certain that they hold firmly to the principles they have undertaken to pursue for the consolidation of the country's existence and the safeguarding of its honour. This policy may be summed up in two points:—

"Firstly, anyone who contravenes the law or violates peace and public order the Government holds to be a criminal, deserving of the strongest penalty, regardless of religion or sect;

"Secondly, all those who remain loyal and obedient to the laws and regulations of the State are in perfect safety and security, and will receive from the Government all possible assistance, both moral and material.

A Strong Army.

"Gentlemen, you have co-operated with the Government in the making of sacrifices and in the maintenance of order, thereby winning our gratitude and honour for yourselves. You, no doubt, now appreciate the country's need for a regular force to build up a strong foundation for our existence. I find the present time a suitable opportunity to arouse in your noble souls a feeling of the urgent need for such a force to build up such a strong foundation. By this I mean an Army—yes, an Army! (Loud applause and cheers for the Army, the King, and the Government).

"Yes, the Army should be strengthened in order that it should protect our honour. Service in the Army should be made general and compulsory. This is necessary if we are to safeguard our honour, in defence of which the whole nation has risen up as one man. Every one of us should share in the honour of performing this sacred duty, in order to fulfil the saying, 'If you wish to be honoured, be strong.'

"Let us therefore fortify ourselves by a strong army that befits the self-respect we feel under the

only ...
have been ...
theless the ...
forget the obligations of humanity devolving upon them. Inspired by the spirit of chivalry and humanity which is in the blood of the noble people of Iraq, the Government have provided food and shelter to the destitute women and children whose rebel husbands and fathers had sinned against Iraq. We have forgiven the repentant rebels, and given them shelter and assitance, as becomes a Government that represents a noble people.

"I do not enumerate these acts, full of humanity and benevolence, for the purpose of boasting; my only object being to show that the noble Iraqi people cannot put up with wrong or tolerate humiliation, but at the same time they do not in any way forget the mercy due to the weak and the succour due to the helpless.

Not Anti-Christian.

"Gentlemen, I repeat that the punitive operations were directed exclusively against Tiari rebels, and did not in any way touch the remaining Tiaris who have shown themselves loyal and faithful to this country, or any of the members of the other communities. The affair is very far from being, as depicted by foreign newspapers, an anti-Christian affair. May God forbid that we should have any such thing as an anti-Christian question arising amongst us! The traditional and old-established spirit of brotherhood, to which expression was given during the recent event by members of the various Christian and other communities, is bound to compel those newspapers to recognise actual facts if they are really seeking the truth.

Future Policy.

"I have the pleasure to announce the policy of the Government in order that you should feel 'If you wish to be honoured, be strong.'

"Let us therefore fortify ourselves by a strong army that befits the self-respect we feel under the aegis of His Majesty the King. I do not think that any member of this noble nation realises this need less keenly then it is realized by the sons of other countries, in particular those of our dear neighbours, Turkey and Persia."

The Prime Minister concluded by repeating his thanks to the people of Mosul and his audience.

No. 198 - Diplomatic. Baghdad, September 26, 1933.

Subject: Political Situation in Iraq - Shiah-Sunni Factor.

800/840.1

CONFIDENTIAL.

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,

Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to report that aside from the Assyrian problem and its possible repercussions, the most interesting feature of the political situation in Iraq at the present moment is the Shiah-Sunni dissension. For a number of years this has been a recurring disturbing factor sometimes verging on the serious. Today there are elements in it which might easily reach disturbing proportions.

On September 11, 1933 the AL AHRAR, a Shiah newspaper of Baghdad, published a statement to the effect

that

that the late King Faisal's death was caused by suicide. For so doing the paper was suspended for ten days. On the following day the same paper published an article
2/ bitterly attacking the Government. A copy and translation of the article are enclosed herewith. The Government immediately arrested the editor and suspended the paper, acting under the authority of Section 89-A of
3/ the Iraq Penal Code, a copy of which is enclosed herewith.

Immediately upon the arrest of the editor certain Shiah elements commenced a campaign of protests against the action of the Government. Thousands of telegrams were sent to the Palace not only registering protests but threateningly demanding the release of the editor.
5/ I enclose a copy and translation of a telegram received at this Legation which is identical to those sent to all the other missions.

In spite of the attempted intimidation the Government proceeded with the prosecution of the offending editor, and on September 24th the Baghdad District Magistrate tried and sentenced him to three months rigorous imprisonment and a fine of fifty (50) Dinars. The confiscation was ordered of the issue of the paper wherein the article appeared and the publication of the paper was suspended for three months.

This incident has aggravated the already tense animosity of the Shiahs against the Sunnis, which is growing to proportions which will lead in time to some form of Shiah rebellion. In this connection it is interesting to report a conversation I had last evening with Major A. I. Sargon, who formerly was

Inspector

Inspector of Police at Mosul, but who, because of his alleged pro-Assyrian attitude, was assigned to the Criminal Investigation Department in Baghdad during the early days of the Assyrian uprising.

Major Sargon told me that a few days ago a deputation of several Shiahs called to see him but not wishing to get involved again - this time as an alleged pro-Shiah, he refused to receive them. He ascertained, however, that the object of their visit was to find out if possible what action the British would take in the event of a Shiah rebellion. Major Sargon confirmed a rumor I had heard to the effect that the Shiahs had sent an emissary to Persia. He said "They are always in communication with Persia". In reply to my question as to what form he thought the rebellion might take, he said that it would be confined for the most part to the Euphrates area south of Baghdad.

This information taken in conjunction with a very veiled note I have recently received from an American in the South makes one feel that all is not well in that area. It is looking as though the boil on the tail of the body politic is coming to a head and that sooner or later it is sure to burst - see page 8 of my confidential despatch No. 151 of August 2, 1933.

Respectfully yours,

P. Knabenshue.

Enclosures

Enclosures:

1 & 2. Copy and translation of article in AL AHRAR of September 12, 1933;

3. Section 89-A of Baghdad Penal Code.

4 & 5. Copy and translation of telegram from Shiahs.

File No. 800/840.1
PK/skl.

Copy to:

American Embassy, London.
American Legation, Teheran.

Enclosure No. 1 to despatch No. 198 - Diplomatic - of September 26, 1933, from the American Legation at Baghdad.

SOURCE: "Al-Ahrar",
September 12, 1933,
No. 30, Baghdad.

TRANSLATION.

A WORD FROM AL-AHRAR

TO THE NEW KING

From a people experienced by the trials of life, having full knowledge of men, political groups and parties, well aware of the politics of the Powers and of the administration of kings; from a people which has exposed itself to death and has fought in the defence of its country in peace time and in war.

From a people which has fought for the position of its country, which has lived in the desert of its valley and on the banks of its rivers which are everlasting witnesses to its bravery, courage and heroism; and which has recorded in the history of its life the white days in the sands of "Shuaibah", in the marshes of "Qurnah", in the swamps of "Nasiriyah" and in the valleys of "Kut".

From a people which has risen to defend its independence when the nations were deciding their fate and were renewing their era of independence. It has inscribed for itself an everlastingly honorable position in the history of the regeneration of nations which is attested by the blockhouses of "Samawah", the houses of "Kufa", the railroad stations of "Diwaniyah" and the ravines of "Husaiyib" and "Rarenjiyah".

From a people which has been submissive to authority when obedience was required of it, which has fought when war was declared against it, and which has discussed with the lawful authority its different methods and policies. This people was at all times both alert and cautious.

From a people which has established the throne of this country at the point of the bayonet and the muzzle of rifles, which erected this kingdom on the skulls of its young heroes, and which has contributed to its treasury millions earned by the arms of the Fellahs and the laborers.

From

From the curves of the wretched huts on the banks of the Tigris and the Euphrates; from the encampments of goat hair tents in the desert of Shamiyah and Gharraf; from the ruined mud houses along the course of "Shatt-Ak-Arab"; from those miserable and suffering creatures who have sacrificed their precious blood when blood was the price of freedom, and who have lavishly expended all the money they had earned when money became the price of independence. From these parts and from those areas, nigh or far from you, the people derive their consolation from you. They invoke their blessings upon you on your accession to the throne of your fathers and forefathers, the Khalifs and the kings of Beni Ali and Abbas and Beni Hamdan, and place before you their past grievances and their future hopes and a true picture of their present position with which you might not be unacquainted or which might be described to you contrary to fact.

O new king! In the land of your fathers and ancesters and in the country where your father's throne was and where your own throne is, exists a nation which is loyal to those who are loyal to it, hostile to those wishing it evil and appreciative of the endeavors of the zealous. Regimes and generations have passed during which this nation has experienced the world's oldest and newest governments, and the best and the worst of times, The chain of history reaches your goodself and to your accession to the throne of Al-Rashid and Al-Mamoun, having traversed lean years and periods of darkness. This nation has had no rest since the outbreak of the world war and has not established itself firmly since its fate was decided. For a time it was under military occupation and was ruled by military authority, then it was under mandate, ruled by a doubled administration; at another time it was independent, but foreign advisers were in charge of its affairs and at yet another time it became a member of the League of Nations enjoying full independence and responsibility. Unfortunately, however, this independence became a plaything in the hands of a group interested primarily in filling its own purse, acquiring lands and occupying easy chairs. The loyal sons of the nation have been subjected to defamation, calumny, contempt and insult of which fact, O Young Majesty, you are not unaware.

This is the outward appearance of the country's condition on the day when you ascended the throne and leadership devolved upon you. The inner reality is painful and distressing - a confused administration, capricious rule and wide-spread bribery by which truth becomes falsehood and falsehood becomes truth. Lying

Lying secret reports aiming at the destruction of the loyal sons of the country, are current and there exists a detestable remnant of the old Ottoman Army introduced by the colonizing power and confirmed by the advisory body - a remnant ejected from its own country and now maintaining itself through fawning and flattery. This group of men ascended to the high places of the Government through eavesdropping and nepotism. It surrounded the Palace of his late Majesty and stood as a barrier between the great king and his peaceful subjects. It pictured to him affairs contrary to truth and conditions non-existent. It became influential through its proximity to the throne and its contact with His Majesty.

The struggle between His late Majesty and this group was not less bitter than that which he had with the authority and with the colonizing power. His conflict with this party was not less critical than that with which the power embarrassed him. These men who have been deceiving the people on the one hand and the Palace on the other, have reaped for themselves the profit from this deception and have been pursuing this course in their own interest. His Majesty was dissatisfied with this situation and used to complain about it when alone with his relatives and loyal friends. Look at the villages of Iraq! At its lands, fellahs, laborers, interests and projects! This group of men has made a plaything of them and has exploited them for their own benefit and left them devoid of the necessities of life. They have destroyed villages and demolished homes and upon the ruins they have erected their own palaces. Public projects have been neglected and the state revenues have been spent exclusively for salaries and allowances. Tax gatherers even, have been maltreating the people in collecting taxes.

This is a true picture which the people place before you so that you may see the actual situation and the real facts. The people wish to extend in addition to their heart-felt sympathy and cordial good wishes, their sincere counsel and the valuable result of their experience. May God be to you as you are to the people.

Enclosure No. 3 to despatch No. 198 - Diplomatic - of September 26, 1955 from the American Legation at Baghdad.

SOURCE: Section 89-A of Baghdad Penal Code.

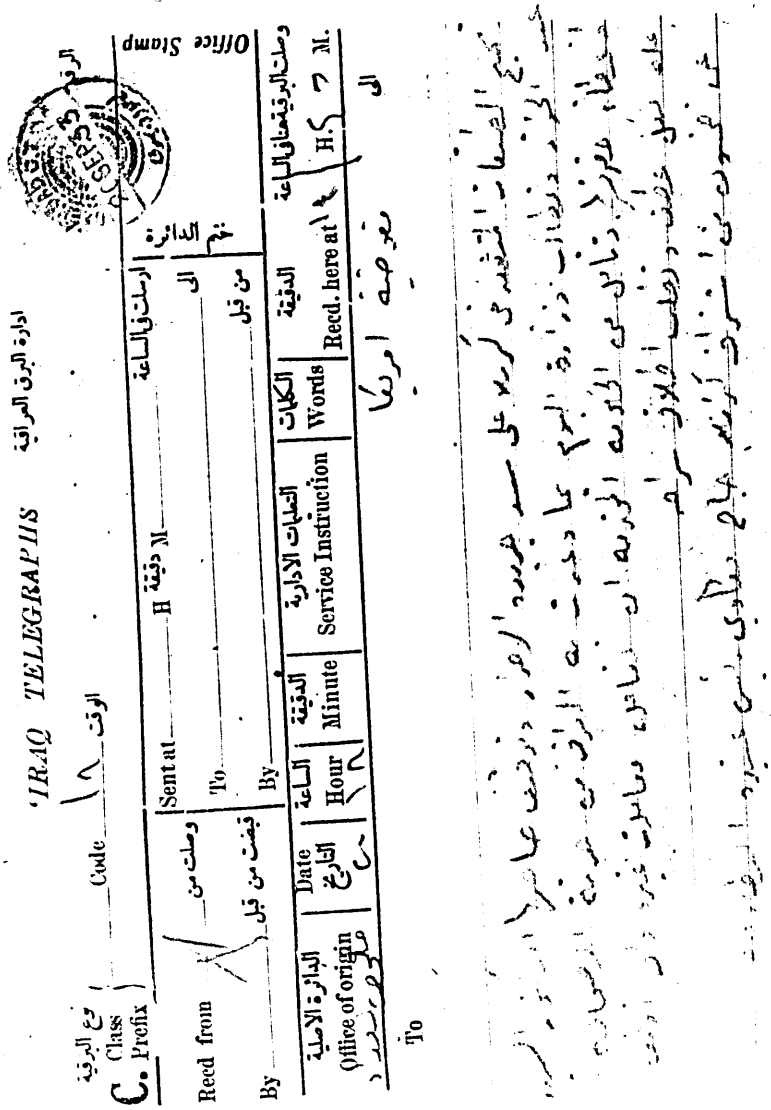
COPY.

(i) Whoever by printing, or causing to be printed or published any newspaper, book or other printed matter, or by any means of publication mentioned in section 78 seeks to excite feelings of hostility or contempt among the inhabitants of Mesopotamia or against the Government or those vested with public authority shall be punished with penal servitude or imprisonment not exceeding seven years or with fine or with both such punishments.

(iv) Further the printed matter shall be confiscated and the printing house shall be liable to be closed either temporarily or permanently according to the gravity of the offence, and, whenever the editor or manager or other person responsible for the publication of a newspaper or periodical is convicted of an offence falling under this chapter or the preceding chapter the judgment may order the suspension of the newspaper or periodical for a period not exceeding one year.

Enclosure No. 4 to despatch No. 198 - Diplomatic - of September 26, 1933, from the American Legation, Baghdad.

SOURCE: Telegram dated September 20, 1933, from Haj Makkawi, Chief of the "Al Natarida" tribe and on behalf of 50 prominent men of Kerbala.



Enclosure No. 6 to despatch No. 198 - Diplomatic - of September 26, 1933 from the American Legation at Baghdad.

SOURCE: Telegram from Haj Makkawi Chief of the Al-Natarida tribe dated September 20, 1933.

TRANSLATION.

American Legation,

All classes in Kerbela unimously protest against the suppression of "Al-Ahrar" newspaper and the arrest of its editor, Dr. Al-Saiyid Abdul Jawad. We demand that the cabinet of the day fulfill the promise it has made to Iraq regarding the freedom and the right of the press. We trust that the respected Government will treat him in the same manner as others and will be benevolent towards him and request that he be released.

Haj Makkawi

Chief of the Al-Natarida tribe
On behalf of 50 prominent men of Kerbela.

No. 219 - Diplomatic Baghdad, November 9, 1933

Subject: Disturbances in Palestine receive the Sympathetic Approval of the Arabs in Iraq.

800/840.1

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,

Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to report that the recent demonstrations in Palestine against the Zionist movement in that country have received the sympathetic approval of the local vernacular press.

Many telegrams received from various organizations and individual Arabs in Palestine have been published in the press. All of these telegrams express resentment against further immigration of Jews and against the falsification by the British of official communiques minimizing the number killed

and

and injured in the recent disturbances. These telegrams state that the British forces in every case have attacked the defenseless Arabs unnecessarily, and request that the Arabs of Iraq lend a sympathetic ear to their troubles and "come to the succour of martyred Palestine which is on the verge of its death".

The Moslems of Baghdad petitioned the Mutassarif for permission to hold mass meetings in the Mosques, to be followed by public demonstrations. At the request of the British Ambassador, Sir Francis Humphrys, no public demonstrations were held. The Mutassarif, however, permitted the petitioners to meet quietly in the Mosques where prayers were said for the martyred dead and for the release of Palestine from the tyranny of the British.

The Legation has received many letters from Moslem Associations throughout Iraq protesting against the Zionist movement and requesting the assistance of the American people in relieving the Arabs of Palestine from the tyrannical policy of the British. Many of these letters have been sent to the foreign missions in Baghdad and printed in the local press. There are enclosed copies and translations of two letters from the Islamic Conference Society and the Iraq Defence Committee which are similar in nature to the others received by this office.

There is also enclosed a copy and translation of an editorial appearing in the AL-IRAQ AL-WATANI of October 31, 1936 which is illustrative of the

feeling

feeling of the Iraqis towards their fellow Moslems of Palestine. The editor's vehement attack upon the Jews resembles the recent outbursts in Germany. He expresses the inherent fear of all Moslems - final subjugation by the Jews.

Resentment against the Jews is growing daily in Baghdad and unfortunately the Jews themselves are aggravating the situation. Recently my German Colleague approached the local cinema houses for permission to show a sound film of the National Movement in Germany and as the three main cinemas are run by Jews his request was refused. The managers stated that they feared the Jews would raid the cinema during the showing of the film. The German Minister, therefore, was compelled to use an old cinema house in the native quarter, which is used entirely by the lower class Moslems.

It is rumored that the Mayor of Baghdad, Mohamed Subhi Beg al Darteri, called the managers of the cinemas to his office and tried to bring pressure to bear upon them by threatening to incite Moslem demonstrations against their establishments. It is said that the Jews reported this threat, in the form of a protest, to the Minister of Interior - which action may result in an investigation. Whether this rumor is true or not it is worth mentioning as an illustration of the feeling of the

Jews

Jews of Baghdad against the Nationalist Movement in Germany. To give publicity to their feeling at this time would seem to be very unwise. The publicity which has resulted from their refusal to show the German film, together with the recent disturbances in Palestine, are but oil cast upon the smoldering fire of hatred which Moslems hold against all Jews and which could easily lead to serious consequences in this country, in spite of the fact that under normal conditions the Jews live and carry on their business in Iraq unmolested.

Respectfully yours,

P. Knabenshue.

File No. 800/840.1
SKL/skl.

Copy to:

American Embassy, London.
American Embassy, Berlin.
American Consulate General, Jerusalem.

Enclosures:
1/ 2/ Copy and translation of letter from Islamic Conference Society, Baghdad, dated Nov. 2, 1933.
3/ 4/ Copy and translation of letter from Iraq Defense Committee, Baghdad, dated Nov. 7, 1933.
5/ 6/ Editorial in Al Ikha Al Watani of October 31, 1933.

Enclosure No. 1 to despatch No. 219, Diplomatic - dated November 9, 1933, from the American Legation, Baghdad.

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جمعية المؤتمر الاسلامي

المركز العام - بغداد عـــدد ٩

بغداد في ١٥ رجب ١٣٥٢ و ٢ تشرين الثاني ١٩٣٣

حضرة معالي المستر نابلشو الوزير المقيم لجمهورية الولايات المتحدة الاميركية المحترم بغداد

يعز على الامة الاسلامية ان تصاب فلسطين وهي قلب الوطن بالآلام المبرحة فتسلط عليها الصهيونية وتصادر حرية اهلها باساليب الترهيب المذرة بالابارة والافناء

وقد جاءت الانباء الاخيرة وهي انباء مزعجة تقض المضاجع وتذهب بصبر الحلماء من تصويب السلاح على جماهير المتاظاهرين لصيانة كرامة الوطن وجرأة قاسية على النساء المتظاهرات وضرب مبرح للشيخ الزعيم الوقور موسى كاظم باشا الحسيني وغيره من شموخ الامة وشبابها الاحرار وما الى ذلك من اساءات واهانات اقترفتها السلطة المحتلة نحو القطر الفلسطيني العربي ونحن نأسف والاسى مالك بنا اعنة القلوب ان يرتكب في عصر المدنية هذه المريقات ونحتج على مصادرة الحريات وسياسة الافناء التي تتبعها السلطة المحتلة في القطر العزيز .

امين الســـــر

التوقيع ؟؟؟؟

Enclosure No. 2 to despatch No. 219 - Diplomatic - of November 9, 1933, from the American Legation at Baghdad.

ISLAMIC CONFERENCE SOCIETY

General Headquarters - Baghdad

No. 9

Baghdad, Rejab 15, 1352
November 2, 1933.

TRANSLATION.

It distresses the Islamic world to see Palestine, the heart of the fatherland, suffering excruciating pains and dominated by zionism, and to see its people deprived of freedom by frightful means which threaten its annihilation and ruin.

Recent reports bring disquieting news which pierces the heart and exhausts the patience of the forbearing: e.g. Firing on people who took part in demonstrations aimed to protect the fair name of the country, a brutal attack on women demonstrators, a sound thrashing administered the venerable Shaikh, Musa Kazim Pasha al-Hussaini, and other elderly and youthful free-born leaders of the nation, and maltreatment of, and insult to, Palestine, the Arab country, by the power in occupation.

With sorrow prevailing in our hearts, we regret seeing such atrocities committed during an era of civilization; and we protest against the suppression of freedom and the ruinous policy adopted by the power occupying the beloved country.

Secretary,

Signature and seal of the Society.

AJL/JSM/jnc.

Enclosure No. 3 to despatch No. 219 - Diplomatic - dated November 9, 1933, from the American Legation, Baghdad.

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بغداد في ٢٠ رجب ١٣٥٢ و٧ تشرين الثاني ١٩٣٣

معالي بول نابنشو الوزير المقيم للجمهورية الولايات المتحدة الاميركية المحترم

تحية وسلاما -

وبعد فان فلسطين جزء من البلاد العربية لا يتجزأ قلبها اولى القبلتين وثالث الحرمين الشريفين اللذان يقدسهما ملايين المسلمين في العالم وكل محاولة تعمل على اقتطاعها من الوطن العربي الاكبر وجعلها وطنا قوميا للصهيونيين انما تعتبره تحد بالشعور العرب والمسلمين وغدوانا صريحا على دينهم وقوميتهم.

وان هذه الهجرة التي فتحت السلطة المحتلة ابوابها لشذاذ الصهيونيين وقسر اخواننا العرب على التخلي لهم عن املاكهم واراضيهم بالحديد والنار واراقة دمائهم في الشوارع وزج زعمائهم في السجون والاعتداء على حرياتهم وكراماتهم. كل ذلك ونحوه مما تقترفه السلطة البريطانية تجاه العرب من المظالم هث بحقوقهم لا يقره العدل ويغضي على كرامتهم لا ترتضيه الانسانية.

وقد جئنا اليكم نحتج - باسم الامة العراقية التي أنابتنا عنها للدفاع عن فلسطين على هذه السياسة الظالمة راجين ان تبلغوا دولتكم المعظمة هذا الاحتجاج الصارخ وتطلب اليها مساعدة اخواننا الفلسطينيين على رفع هذه المظالم الجائرة عنهم وعن وطنهم الشرعي واقبلوا فائق احترامات

لجنة الدفاع العراقية

التوقيع ٤ ٤ ٤

بيك

Enclosure No. 4 to despatch No. 219 - Diplomatic - of November 9, 1933, from the American Legation at Baghdad.

Baghdad, Rejab 29, 1352
November 7, 1933.

His Excellency,
Mr. Paul Knabenshue,
Minister Resident of the
United States of America.

Greetings:

Palestine is an integral part of the Arab countries, the oldest of the two Kiblahs (the point toward which Mohammedans turn their faces in prayer) and the third of the shrines revered by the millions of Mohammedans in the world; and we will consider any attempt to cut it off from the greater Arab fatherland and to make it a national home for the zionists as a challenge to the feelings of the Arabs and Moslems and an open hostility toward their religion and national ideals.

This immigration, for which the power in occupation opened wide the doors to the zionist strangers; this forcing of our Arab brethren by fire and sword to cede their property and lands to them; shedding their blood in the streets; confining their leaders in prison; hostility towards their freedom and honor; all these and similar iniquities committed by the British authorities against the Arabs are abuses which mock their rights and which justice does not countenance. They are an injustice to their honor with which humanity will not be content.

In the name of the Iraqi nation which has designated us to defend Palestine against this unjust policy, we approach you and request that you communicate to your great nation this emphatic protest and ask her aid in relieving our brethren the Palestinians and their lawful country of this tyranny.

Please accept the assurance of our highest respect.

Iraq Defense Committee.

Signed ....

AJL/JB/jne.

Enclosure No. 5 to Despatch No. 219 - Diplomatic - of November 9, 1933 from the American Legation, Baghdad.

SOURCE: AL IKHA AL WATANI,
October 31, 1933.
No. 496 - Baghdad.

CLIPPING

في سبيل الحق والمجد
ما ضحت فلسطين

منيت فلسطين ببلاءين وحلت فيها نكبتان نكبتها بالاستعمار الذى اطلق عليه الانتداب ونكبتها بالصهيونية وما تبتعها من شر وخراب ودمار وقد بحت الاصوات وحفيت الاقلام بضعة عشر عاما في الاستغاثة ودفع البلاء بالحسنى وبسط المطالب العربية المشروعة فاذا الاذان وقر والقلوب كالصخر او اشد، وما قطع من عهود للعرب اثناء الحرب صار بعد عشية وضحاها حبرا على ورق لا قيمة له ولا وزن ولا احترام.

لما نهضت فلسطين هذه المرة حائضة غمار الكفاح الحقيقي كانت جد عالمة بانها لا تقوى وهى عزلاء على خصم شوكة الاستعمار الشاكى السلاح وانها ستخن جراحا وستلبس حلة ارجوانية تقطر دما طاهرا نبيلا ولكنها ارادت بنضالها الاخير ان تشهد العالم المتمدن على فرق القوة الغشوم في الامة الضعيفة وان تلفت انظار الشعوب الى قضيتها العادلة، وهي قضية لم يسمع بها التاريخ ولم يسبق لها مثيل، وقضية امة يراد اجلاؤها عن وطنها، واحلال الشراذم الافاقة في مكانها، ودون ذلك خرط القتاد بل دون ذلك اهوال واي اهوال.

وهو لا يفهم الا لغة القوة او التضحية وقد تجلى هذا في تصريح المندوب السامى لعرب فلسطين بعد الحوادث الدامية الاخيرة فقد روت البرقيات امس الاول انه افضى بان بريطانية لا تفكر في جعل العرب اقلية في فلسطين وهذا تصريح وان كان لا يرضى تلك الامة المجاهدة ولا يدفع عنها الخطر الداهم ولكنه تراجع بارز من السلطات القابضة على خناق ذلك القطر العربي بعد الذي شهدته من العزم والمضاء والتضحية والاستبسال، ونحن موقنون ان فلسطين لن تخدع بعد اليوم ولن تصغ الى سياسة التخدير فهى ترى الخطر واقفا على الابواب والجلاء عن الوطن دعامة صرح السياسة الصهيونية التى تعضدها الجيوش والاساطيل والاموال. فالعرب وان ظلوا الى امد ما اكثرية فالبلاد ستفلت من ايديهم مادامت الاراضى تنتقل الى اليهود بتسهيل وتعضيد من السلطات والمرافق الاقتصادية صناعية وزراعية تقبض على اعنتها يد الصهيونية وحظ الافقين من ميزانية البلاد ومن عناية الحكومة اضعاف اضعاف حظ الوطنيين الاصليين اذا كان صحيحا كما يزعم الاستعمار ان الجنسية تكتسب

ذلك خرط القتاد بل دون ذلك اهوال واي اهوال .

رفات فلسطين هذه المرة ايضا بثوبها الارجواني وواجهت القوة الطاغية لبية عيوفة فسقط شيبها وشبانها شيوخها وعجائزها صرعى في ساحة الجهاد وامتلأت سجونها بالزعماء والمفكرين والذادة عن شرف بلادهم والغر الميامين الذين رفعوا اصواتهم استنكارا للسياسة الغاشمة والهجرة الصهيونية الطاغية ومهما انزل القوي في فلسطين من ارزاء وصب عليها من جامات غضبه ونكاله فان فلسطين ستخرج من المعمعة ظافرة لا محالة وقد بدأت جهادها وهي على ايمان راسخ بانها تذود عن حق صريح ومجد وتاريخ وانها تفعل فعل الامم التي تثأر لكرامتها وتموت دون وطنها وتأبى الان تحيا حياة اولى المجد والعزة والسؤدد .

اعتاد الاستعمار في كل عصر ومصر ان يتصامم عن نداء الامم المظلومة وصراخها وان ينكر عليها حقها في الحياة والوجود

الوطنيين الاصليين اذا كان صحيحا كما يزعم الاستعمار ان الجنسية تكتسب بالطريقة التي يكسب بها المهاجرون الى فلسطين من يهود بولندة ورومانية والمجر والمانية وغيرها ، الجنسية الفلسطينية .

لقد قامت فلسطين بما فرض عليها الواجب الوطني دفاعا عن النفس وذيادا عن الكرامة ، وهب العرب والمسلمون في جميع الاقطار يبدون عطفهم عليها ويشدون ازر ذلك الجزء الباسل من الوطن العربي ولاشك ان في جهاد فلسطين وكفاحها عبرة وعظة للاستعمار وللامم المظلومة على حد سواء . ففي سبيل المجد ما فعلت فلسطين ولبيك لبيك ايها القطر الباسل المحبوب .

Enclosure No. 5 to Despatch No. 219 - Diplomatic - of November 9, 1933 from the American Legation, Baghdad.

في سبيل الحق والمجد ما ضحت
فلسطين

منيت فلسطين بمصائب وحلت فيها نكبتان نكبتها بالاستعمار الذى اطلق عليه الانتداب ونكبتها بالصهيونية وما تبعته لها من شر وخراب ودمار وقد بحت الاصوات وحفيت الاقلام بضعة عشر عاما في الاستغاثة ودفع الملاء بالحسنى وبسط المطالب العربية المشروعة فاذا الاذان وقر والقلوب كالصخر او اشد ! وما قطع من عهود للعرب اثناء الحرب صار بعد عشية وضحاها حبرا على ورق لا قيمة له ولا وزن ولا احترام .

لما نهضت فلسطين هذه المرة خائضة غمار الكفاح الحقيقي كانت بحد عالمة بانها لا تقوى وهى عزلاء على خضم شوكة الاستعمار الشاكي السلاح وانها ستتخن جراحا وستلبس حلة ارجوانية تقطر دما ظاهرا نهلا ولكنها ارادت بنضالها الاخير ان تشهد العالم المتمدن على فصل القوة الغشوم في الامة الضعيفة وان تلفت انظار الشعوب الى قضيتها العادلة وهي قضية لم يسمع بمثلها التاريخ ولم يسبق لها مثيل ! وقضية امة يراد ابتلاؤها عن وطنها ! واحلال الشراذم الافاقة في مكانها ! ودون ذلك خرط القتاد بل دون ذلك اهوال واى اهوال .

رفلت فلسطين هذه المرة ايضا بثوبها الارجواني وواجهت القوة الطاغية ابية عموفة فسقط شهيدها وشبانها شيوخها وعجائزها صرعى في ساحة الجهاد وامتلأت سجونها بالزعماء والمفكرين والذادة عن شرف بلادهم والغر الميامين الذين رفعوا اصواتهم استنكارا للسياسة الغاشمة والهجرة الصهيونية الطاغية ومهما انزل القرى في فلسطين من ارزاء وصب عليها من بليات تشيب وتشاله فان فلسطين ستخرج من المعمعة ظافرة لا محالة وقد بدأت جهادها وهي على ايمان راسخ بانها تذود عن حق صريح ومجد وتاريخ وانها تفعل فعل الامم التي تثأر لكرامتها وتموت دون وطنها وتأبى الا ان تحيا حياة اولى الجد والعزة والسؤدد

اعتاد الاستعمار في كل عصر ومصر ان ينتقم من نداء الامم المظلومة وصراخها وان ينكر عليها حقها في الحياة والوجود وهو لا يفهم الا لغة القوة او التضحية وقد تجلى هذا في تصريح المندوب السامي لعرب فلسطين بعد الحوادث الدامية الاخيرة فقد روت البرقيات امس الاول انه انتقى بان بريطانية لا تفكر في جعل العرب اقلية في فلسطين وهذا تصريح ان [illegible]

الخطر الداهم ولكنه تراجع بارز من السلطات القابضة على خناق ذلك القطر العربي بعد الذى شهدته من العزم والمضاء والتضحية والاستبسال ؛ ونحن موقنون ان فلسطين لن تخدع بعد اليوم ولن تصبح الى سياسة التخدير فهي ترى الخطر واقفا على الابواب والدخلاء عن الوطن دعامة صرح السياسة الصهيونية التي تمدها الجهود والاساطيل والاموال . فالعرب وان ظلوا الى امد ما اكثرية فالبلاد ستفلت من ايديهم ما دامت الاراضي تنتقل الى اليهود بتسهيل وتعضيد من السلطات والمرافق الاقتصادية صناعية وزراعية تقبض على اعنتها يد الصهيونية وحظ الافاقين من مزايا البلاد ومن عناية الحكومة اضعاف اضعاف حظ الوطنيين الاصليين اذا كان صحيحا كما يزعم الاستاذ ان الجنسية تكتسب بالطريقة التي يكسب بها المهاجرون الى فلسطين من يهود بولندة ورومانية والمجر والمانية وغيرها ؛ الجنسية الفلسطينية .

لقد قامت فلسطين بما فرض عليها الواجب الوطني دفاعا عن النفس وذيادا عن الكرامة ؛ وهب العرب والمسلمون في جميع الاقطار يبدون عطفهم عليها ويشدون ازر ذلك الجزء الباسل من الوطن العربي ولاشك ان في جهاد فلسطين وكفاحها عبرة وعظة للاستعمار وللامم المظلومة على حد سواء ففي سبيل المجد ما فعلت فلسطين ولبيك لبيك ايها القطر الباسل المحبوب .

ن ك

Enclosure No. 6 to despatch No. 219 - Diplomatic - of November 9, 1933 from the American Legation at Baghdad.

SOURCE: AL-LIWA AL-WATANI,
October 31, 1933,
No. 496 - Baghdad.

TRANSLATION.

FOR RIGHT AND GLORY THAT PALESTINE MADE ITS SACRIFICES.

Palestine has suffered from two calamities and has been tried by two misfortunes: she has been afflicted with the colonization which the mandate imposed upon her, and with zionism and all the evil, destruction and devastation that go with it. For several decades voices have made themselves hoarse and pens have been worn out imploring aid, magnanimously remedying the misfortunes and expounding the claims of the Arabs. But ears were deaf and hearts were like stone or even harder, and what had been promised the Arabs during the war overnight became a scrap of paper without value, without weight and without respect.

When Palestine rose this time and actually joined in the bloody fray she was fully aware that she was not strong and that she was insufficiently armed to break the grip of a colonizing power armed to the teeth, that she would be covered with wounds and that she would wear a purple mantle dripping with pure and noble blood. But in her recent struggle she wished the civilized world to witness the action of the arbitrary power against a weak nation and to attract the attention of the nations to her just cause: a cause without precedent in history, the cause of a nation which it is desired to expel from its native land and to replace with gangs of adventurers, and furthermore, they are the scum of the earth.

This time also Palestine trailed her purple robe and faced the tyrannous haughty, disdainful power. Her aged and her youthful sons, her old men and women, were stricken on the field of honor. Her prisons were filled with the leaders and thinkers of the country and the defender of its honor, and with her illustrious sons who raised their voices denouncing the unjust policy and the immigration of the impious Zionists. What misfortunes the power has brought upon Palestine and how its anger and exemplary punishment has afflicted her! Without any doubt whatsoever Palestine will emerge from the tumult victorious since she began her struggle with the firm conviction that she was defending her traditions, her glory and her manifest

rights

rights and that she was behaving like the nations who avenge their honor, die outside their native lands, and disdain any life save that of glory, power and sovereignty.

At all times and places the colonizing power has been accustomed to turn a deaf ear to the cries and lamentations of the oppressed nation and to deny its right to life and existence. It understands only the language of force and sacrifice. This was shown in the declaration of the High Commissioner made to the Arabs of Palestine after the recent sanguinary events. In the telegrams of day before yesterday it was seen that he announced that Britain does not intend to make the Arabs a minority in Palestine. Although this statement did not satisfy that struggling nation and did not shield her from the imminent danger, yet it is a clear retraction on the part of the authorities who are tightening the yoke on the neck of that Arab country after having witnessed its resolution, suffering, sacrifice and heroism. We are certain that Palestine will not be deceived henceforth and will not tolerate the policy of hypnotism when she sees the peril standing at the door and sees expulsion from her native land as a fundamental principle of the policy of the Zionists who are supported by the Army, Navy and financial interests.

Although the Arabs may continue for some time as the majority, they will lose the country so long as the lands are transferred to the jews through the facilities and the support extended by the authorities, so long as the economic resources, industry or agriculture, are reins in the hands of the Zionists and so long as the share of the adventurers in the country's budget and government's care is many fold that of the native population, based on the pretension of the colonizing power that valid naturalization may be acquired in the way Polish, Rumanian, Hungarian, German and other jewish immigrants acquire Palestinian Nationality.

Palestine performed its national duty in defending itself and its honor. The Arabs and the Moslems of all countries rose up to express their sympathy with her and strengthen that heroic part of the Arab fatherland. Palestine's struggle is without doubt a lesson and an example to the colonizing power and to oppressed countries as well. What Palestine did was in the path of glory. We are ready to assist you, O beloved and heroic territory.

AJL/JSM/jnc.

No. 243 - Diplomatic. Baghdad, December 28, 1933.

Subject: Saudi Arabia and the Yemen.

890

CONFIDENTIAL

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,

Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to report the substance of my conversation with His Majesty King Ghazi when I presented my new letter of credence to him, as reported in my despatch No. 241 of December 27, 1933.

As I had already been in contact with the young King before and since his elevation to the throne, he received me cordially and we conversed in a friendly informal manner - chiefly of sports. However, one interesting remark was made by His Majesty which may be considered of sufficient importance to note.

Apropos

Apropos of something which was said the King referred to the state of war which seems to be existing, but not declared, between Saudi Arabia and the Yemen, and remarked that in his opinion Ibn Saud would get the worst of it. In response to my remark that it was my understanding that Saudi Arabia had better military equipment and a larger fighting force than the Yemen, His Majesty said that this was not so in respect to equipment for the Yemen had been well supplied by the Italians and that the Yemen would surely win. To one who knows the history of the feud between the Saud and Hashemite families it is plain to see that His Majesty's wish is probably father to his thought.

Since my audience with His Majesty, I have had an opportunity of injecting the subject of Saudi Arabia and the Yemen in a conversation with my Italian and German colleagues. Both of them seem to have received information from their Legations in Cairo to the effect that hostilities are not actually taking place and that the British Governor of Aden is interceding as an intermediary to bring about a peaceful settlement of the question in dispute.

My Italian colleague is quite well informed in respect to Arabian politics, particularly of Central and Southern Arabia, in fact, he fears that he may be sent as Charge d'Affaires to Jidda. In my many conversations with him I have frequently been impressed by his strong intimation of Italian interests in those spheres. In our conversation yesterday he frankly

admitted

admitted that the military equipment of the Yemen was Italian. In response to my query as to the probable outcome of a conflict between Saudi Arabia and the Yemen, he gave it as his opinion that, while man for man the Yemenites would prove to be the better fighting men, and were perhaps better equipped - although, he said, the Saudi Arabians were also well equipped by the British - nevertheless, after perhaps initial successes, the Yemenites would in the long run be defeated.

Respectfully yours,

P. Knabenshue.

File No. 800.
PK/skl.

Copy to:

American Embassy, London.
American Legation, Cairo.
American Embassy, Rome.
American Consulate, Aden.