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## REPORT PRESENTED TO THE PERMANENT MANDATES CHMISSION BY M. ORTS, MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION, RAPPORTEUR.

At its meeting on September 24th, 1932, the Council pressed the desire that the Mandates Commission should report it as soon as possible on the petitions from the Assyrians Iraq, forwarded to the League by the mandatory Power since the Commission's last session.

The petitions from this source, which have so far eached the Secretariat, are as follows:

Two petitions, dealing with the same subject, dated tober 20th and 23rd, 1931, emanating respectively from certain expresentatives of the Assyrians of Iraq and from the Mar Shimun, orwarded by the United Kingdom Government, together with its eservations, on March 11th, 1932. (Document C.P.M.1282).

Petition, dated June 17th, 1932, from certain Assyrian eaders and representatives of the Assyrian levies in Iraq, brwarded by the United Kingdom Government, together with its eservations, on September 8th, 1932. (Document C.P.M.1296).

Petition from Bishop Yuwalaha, forwarded by the United Ingdom Government, together with its observations, on Septemer 21st, 1932. (<u>Document C.P.M.1298</u>).

Petition, dated September 22nd, 1932, from the Mar nimun, forwarded by the United Kingdom Government on September re forwarded by the United Kingdom Coveranslation. Those of June 17th and Sepremented in English without mention of the were originally drawn up.

I.

The signatories of the petitions of, 1931, assert that it will be imposs. Iraq after the withdrawal of the manda k that arrangements be made for the trailing to a country under the rule of antions, or, if this is not possible, to a

The United Kingdom Government repairs that if the French Government, or any vernment, were prepared to offer the Asstion, to guarantee them fair and permanent ance their transport, and if the Assyriance the offer, neither the mandatory vernment would object.

Such a contingency, however, see ted Kingdom Government did not think it ps in the matter.

With regard to the allegation the the Assyrians to live in Iraq, the Universe to the conclusions of the Permanent Capt. Hormuzd Rassam's petitions. It soon as the Assyrians are convinced the

that the regions from which they came, now in Turkish terriy, be returned to them and the boundaries of Iraq extended so to include them;

that, if it is impossible to fulfil this latter request, a tional home" be set aside for them, and that this home be open all Assyrians who are ex-Ottomans; this home to be organised follows:

- a) the whole of the district of Amedia and the adjacent parts of the districts of Zekhoo, Dohuk and Akra to be created a separate and specificially Assyrian district forming a subdivision of the Liwa of Mosul with an Arab mutassarif and British adviser;
- commission with a view to deciding upon improvements in the position of the Assyrian communities in Iraq. The necessary funds to be placed at the disposal of those communities.

  The land chosen for the settlement of the Assyrians to be conveyed to them as their individual property with regular title-deeds;
- c) priority to be given to assyrians in this administrative sub-division in the selection of public officials, except the mutassarif and technical advisors. The official language to be Syriac side by side with Arabic;

that the temporal and ecclesiastical leadership of the Mar

the Iraqi Government for the exection by lences for the Patriarch and Bishops and

- 8) that a hospital and the necessary di
- 9) that men who have served in the Assy

The United Mingdom Government state

rs represent the majority of those Assyr rkey, the autochthonous Assyrians are Regarding their various claims, the

kes the following observations:

) A special national status could not thout arousing demands for similar trenguistic and religious minorities. The ald thus be endangered.

Further, unoccupied land does not expriens could be settled as an autonomizant settlement, administrative autonomizant settlement, administrative autonomizant the united Kingdom Core the Council, the United Kingdom Collands where the home villa es of the tof which were ultimately allotted to Iraq.

The best solution would undoubtedly rians to the Hakkiari Mountains. The

a) The area claimed by the petitioners for the creation of an Assyrian national home contains about 77,000 inhabitants, of whom 57,000 are Kurds and 16,000 Christians; of the latter about 60% are Assyrians. The four qadhas mentioned in the petition have been recognised as predominantly Kurdish within the meaning of Article 9 of the Iraqi Government's declaration to the Council.

b) With regard to the request for an investigation into the

condition of the Assyrian colonies, it is pointed out that a special Committee has already been set up for this purpose. On the basis of this Committee's conclusions, the Iraqi Government has drawn up a plan for the settlement of the Assyrians. The question of the registration of title is the subject of a scheme based on data supplied by an expert. The grant of title to Assyrian refugees on preferential terms would, however, provoke resentment among the other inhabitants.

It would be inadvisable to give the Assyrians a privileged position in an area where they represent only one-fifth of

the population. The request that Syriac should be recognised as the official language is inacceptable for similar reasons and, moreover, ignores the provisions of the Local Languages Law.

The Mar Shimun is actually recognised as the spiritual head

Assyrians. He receives a monthly allowance from the Iraqi ment. The Assyrians enjoy complete autonomy in matters of pertatus, religion and education, and the maintenance of this in future is assured by Article 6 of the declaration made by qi Government to the Council. In any case no temporal authority a granted to the Mar Shimun which might prevent the application

the law provides that two Christian sul Liwa. To guarantee that one of an Assyrian would be contrary to at among the other Christian communications.

The educational rights of minoriti

of the Iraqi Declaration. The Ir consider the possibility of incre schools.

could be obtained, it could be bettern tof the Assyrians and the estate the building of residences for the At present there are dispensaries pensaries are to be established in meeting the various Assyrian vill to be taken to the Mosul hospital There has been no suggestion that assyrian levies should be taken from

III.

third petition is signed by 58 gamilies in all. Its object is to gamilies and the Mar are the the mar all th

Regulations have legalised the r

itish Army pattern rifles.

rian community, that he is seeking of the first see

al to the Iraqi Government, which has assisted them in various has given them various privileges, and has secured them justice, rity and safety.

he guarantees concerning minorities which Iraq has furnished to ague of Nations are sufficient to safeguard their rights. They that the Mar Shimun's demands should not be taken into considerand that they should be permitted to live in peace under the lag.

ing the various signatories of the petition and their qualifications gives particulars ing the various signatories of the petition and their qualifications speak on behalf of the Assyrian people. The petitioners' claim resent 2,395 families is certainly exaggerated. In that Government's however, the petition shows that a considerable body of the Assyrian net in sympathy with the Patriarch's policy and do not share eged dissatisfaction of the Assyrian people with their situation he Traqi Government.

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the last petition the Patriarch refers to the recommendations of mission sent by the League to Iraq in 1925 in connection with the atonomy of the Assyrians. It was, he says, those recommendations the Assyrians to vote for Iraq when the plebiscite for the Mosules taken. The Commission's recommendations however were not follow-the mandatory Power has revealed its intention of leaving the as of Iraq in their present state of insecurity.

Assyrians, he alleges, have a right to claim from the United Government, for which they fought in 1918, either the return original homes or, failing that, the grant of another area as a national home.

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The League of Nations has assumed pect, inashuch as it has assigned the ritance of their forefathers - to prians assurences of receiving their ayet. They therefore request that given back to the Assyrians and inclinistrative system, or else the congrian people as an autonomous body June 17th (No.II).

Conclusions,\*

The conclusions are reproduced above annexed to the Opinion of the Committee