

EXTRAIT D'UNE PETITION ADRESSEE A SIR FRANCIS HUMPHRYS, PAR CERTAINS CHEFS
ASSYRIENS, LE 17 JUIN 1932

Therefore before anything happens the Assyrians are hereby on the correct constituent procedure submitting their claims to Your Excellency which are as follows :

1. That the Assyrians be recognised as a « Millet » (Nation) domiciled in 'Iraq and not merely as a racial or religious community.
2. That our former homes now in the Turkish territory which before the war were politically and administratively known as Sinjak Hikari be returned to us, and the boundaries of 'Iraq extended so as to include them. Numerous petitions were submitted by us on this subject prior to the delimitation of the Turco-'Iraq frontier by the Commission of the League of Nations and we cannot understand why even the place which is the inheritance of our forefathers should have been seized from us.
3. If it is impossible to fulfil our request and claim, as in (2) above, we then from necessity must ask and demand that a home be found for us as a « Millet » and that this new home be open to all Assyrians who are scattered in 'Iraq. That the door of 'Iraq be open to admit any of those Assyrians who are ex-Ottomans and who are living all over the world if they will like to come and dwell with their co-nationalists.

This new home to be arranged as follows :

- (a) To include from the districts of Zakho, Dohuk and Aqra ; parts which are adjacent to Amadia district and the whole of Amadia district. The area so selected be politically and administratively created an Assyrian district and designated as a Sub-Liwa under Mosul Liwa with its Headquarters at Dohuk, under an Arab Mutasarrif and a British Adviser.

Our object in selecting this area is no other than that which is based on the climatic and economic conditions.

- (b) That the present Assyrian settlement be wholly investigated by an authoritative commission with a view to renewing and improving it with necessary funds. The land chosen for the settlement of the Assyrians should be registered on their names as their own property.

This does not mean that it will be necessary to evict certain Kurds from their villages as we are certain that sufficient land can be found for us in the above named area without doing that.

- (c) That 'Iraq Government should give the priority to Assyrians in the selection of officials for the administrative duties of the Sub-Liwa with the exception of the Mutasarrif and technical officials for whom we may not be able to find men. The official language of the Sub-Liwa used along with Arabic should be Syriac.

This claim does not however prevent inhabitant Kurds of the « Assyrian Sub-Liwa » to take administrative appointments.

4. That the temporal and ecclesiastical leadership of H.B. Mar Shimun the Patriarch over the Assyrian « Millet » be officially recognised by the Government. In order that this recognition be established the Mar Shimun should receive from His Majesty the King of 'Iraq a decoration of honour for the distinguished service which his people have rendered to this country, and also an annual subsidy for the maintenance of the Patriarchate similar to those enjoyed by him from the Sultan of Ottoman Empire.

That a power of Mar Shimun the Patriarch in administering his « Millet » temporally and spiritually according to laws and customs descended to us should be officially recognized by the Government.

5. That we should have a member in the House of Deputies to be nominated by the people and the Patriarch.
6. That the Government should establish schools at the places to be decided upon by the Director of Education in consultation with Mar Shimun the Patriarch. The Assyrian Language to be taught in

these schools together with Arabic, the teachers being appointed for this purpose by the Director of Education and the Patriarch.

7. As regards the « Awqaf » (church of property), the Assyrians in their former homes had Monasteries and churches owning lands which were recognised by the Ottoman Government as the property of « Awqaf ». but now since their country was given away to the Turks the Assyrians are left without Monasteries or churches owing lands. The request of the Assyrian « Millet » therefore is that a sum of five hundred thousand rupees be granted from the international fund of the League of Nations or the 'Iraq Government, with which capital we shall be able to erect and build such as Patriarchal residence and the residences for our Metropolitan Bishops churches and schools. This grant be made as an « Awqaf » and the buildings and institutes established with it to be registered as « Awqaf » property of the church of the East (Assyrians).
8. A Civil Hospital be established in the Headquarters of the Sub-Liwa, and necessity dispensaries at the places prescribed within the Sub-Liwa.
9. The rifles which have been earned by the Assyrians by their service in the levies should not be confiscated at any time but they should remain with the owners subject to compliance with the rules and regulations re licenses for carrying fire-arms.

[« Textes des pétitions et observations y relatives des puissances mandataires examinées au cours de la 22^{ème} session de la Commission Permanente des Mandats, tenue à Genève du 3 novembre au 6 décembre 1932 », *Archives de la Société des Nations*, Appendix III, (pas de cotation).]

PETITION ADRESSEE A NURI PASHA AL SA'ID, ET TRANSMISE AU SECRETARIAT DE LA
SOCIETE DES NATIONS PAR SIR FRANCIS HUMPHRYS

As Mar Shamun and certain Assyrians who do not represent the Assyrian Community are seeking nothing but personal advantages in the name of that Community, we represent the following in order to reveal the truth and true facts : We the Assyrians in Iraq both refugees and original inhabitants are very grateful to the Iraqi Government and admit her kindness towards us. She has assisted us very much in our settlement and in employing us in Government appointments in medical treatment and exemption from taxes and similar privileges. Now we are living under her justice in complete peace, prosperity, safety and tranquility, nor is there any difference between us and our Iraqi brothers, and the guarantees concerning minorities which the Iraqi Government has furnished to the respected League of Nations are sufficient to safeguard our rights. In view of these our statements the demands of Mar Shamun have therefore no value as we do not consider them because they are based on unsound principles and founded on his personal aims and wishes as they have not been made at the request of the Assyrians. He made these demands for his own benefit and those of his relatives and friends. He is moreover an ecclesiastic having neither connection with other affairs nor any right to dispose at will of the destinies of the Assyrians. He only represents a small number of his relatives and his own family and we represent the communities and peoples mentioned against our respective signatures. We submit this document and request that Mar Shamun's demands should not be taken into consideration and that we be permitted to live in peace and tranquility under the Iraqi flag.

Signatories

Bishop Yuwalala of Barwari Bala, etc.
Iskharia Goerges representing 30 families of Barwari Bala
Darwish Daoud representing 20 families
Yaqoo Shino representing 20 families
Shlimun Shlimun representing 25 families
Yokhanan Odish representing 20 families
Kadmo Odish representing 20 families
Tawar Israel representing 15 families
Shlimun Yaqu representing 40 families
Karbina Kanji representing 30 families
Chawshino Adam representing 100 families Tiari Sher Lizan
Rais Khiyo representing 300 families Ashut
Mirza Gilyana representing 35 families of Barwara Bala
Jaji Eshu representing 20 families
Saia Hanna representing 20 families
Esha Oraham representing 15 families
Slaiman Georgis representing 14 families
Khamis Shammoo representing 10 families
Keine Oraham representing 25 families
Zaia Aziz representing 15 families
Lazar Kakko representing 10 families
Zaia Koma representing 10 families
Yekhanna Yusif representing 30 families
Ziyari Jajjo Dinkha representing 15 families
Beni
Daoud Shiba representing 15 families
Daoud Shiba representing 17 families
Yukhannis Mannoo representing 8 families
Kannoo Bakkoo representing 10 families

Georgie Daniel representing 54 families Kaaran
Tooma Tusif representing 17 families
Sada Shmoel representing 60 families
Khoshaba Shmoon representing 22 families
Yusif Enwia representing 87 families
Khoshaba Yokhannan representing 52 families
Khamro Anto representing 16 families
Nissan Polis representing 14 families
Mooshi Enwia representing 30 families
Ashut Barcham Warda representing 16 families
Sliwo Mirza representing 12 families
Khoshaba Warda representing 32 families
Mushi Haido representing 17 families
Hommi Moshi representing 36 families
Goriel Zomala representing 8 families
Lazar Goro representing 7 families
Toma Marogil representing 12 families
Kako Narsi representing 30 families
Yaqu Yusif representing 40 families of Nerwa
Rais Shmoel representing 16 families Nerwa
Rais Yokhanna Dargeni representing 40 families Nahla
Sultan Eshu Gawani representing 12 families
Rais Khoshaba Rowil representing 40 families
Deri Malik Maxud Lawand representing 200 families
Gippa
Rais Benyamin Cholo representing 70 families Beni
Gippa
Zaia Malik Nimrud of Jilo representing 400 families.

[« Textes des pétitions et observations y relatives des puissances mandataires examinées au cours de la 22^{ème} session de la Commission Permanente des Mandats, tenue à Genève du 3 novembre au 6 décembre 1932 », *Archives de la Société des Nations*, C.P.M.1298.]

PETITION DE MAR SHIMOUN, ADRESSEE AU MARQUIS THEODOLI LE 16 DECEMBRE 1932

Hotel Nouvelle Gare,
12 Rue Des Alpes, GENEVA.

16th, December, 1932.

To:-

His Excellency
The President of the Permanent
Mandates Commission of the
League of Nations, GENEVA.

Sir,

I beg to bring the following petition before your Excellency.

As the Assyrian petition dated the 17th June, 1932 and subsequent petition dated 22nd September, 1932 were both addressed to you and the procedure followed with regard to them consisted of a consultation of the Mandates Commission as if Iraq was still considered to be under Mandatory Regime in so far as the question of Assyrian Refugees [souligné par l'auteur] was concerned, I most respectfully beg to submit the following for your kind consideration and favourable disposal.

The Resolution passed by the Council of the League of Nations on the 15th December, 1932 is not in conformity with the spirit of the recommendations set forward by your Commission from time to time and does not in any way guarantee the least hope, not only for the future welfare and safeguard of the Assyrians as a whole i.e. in the way of a homogeneous settlement in Iraq, but not event for a quick and urgent relief work for the 15000 Assyrians who are now living without homes and utterly distitute in Irak. The conditions under which this part of Assyrians are at present living are fully explained in the appendix to my letter dated 3rd November, 1932 which replies to observations made by Iraqi Government to Assyrian petition dated 17th June, 1932 (See Note B on numbers unsettled).

Thus after having personally represented the case of my people before you and the members of the Council for a period of three months in every way that has given you the most authentic information of their past and present pathetic state, I am returning and I have to give them the message that they are still to continue under the same state of suffering.

Excellency, I again beg leave to repeat that the resolution of the Council adopted on the 15th December, 1932 will not in any way better the present miserable conditions of the Assyrians in general and especially those in Iraq. It is admitted fact that the Assyrians are still refugees [souligné par l'auteur] in Iraq whose problem the late Mandatory has failed to solve and therefore that problem was left to the League of Nations. At the same time it is incortceivable how this problem is practicable to be solved by a "foreign expert" who is not authorised by the League of Nations itself and directly, and who will simply depend on the facilities given to him by the local authorities in the spot and any local funds that may be forthcoming.

In my opinion a solution of the problem cannot be formed if the carrying out of any plan is entirely left to discretion of Iraqi Government and the « foreign expert » appointed by it. [Souligné par l'auteur].

I therefore implore your Excellency to be so kind as to approach the Council of the League and obtain their consent to the following points.

1. That their decision of the 15th December, 1932 may be reconsidered in the light of full recommendations of your Commission and the needs of the Assyrians as already laid down before it, i.e. granting a full homogeneous settlement under the auspices of a Commission of the League of Nations.

2. If however, a full alteration of the Council's Resolution is impossible I still request that its decision may be modified as follows.

That instead of a « foreign expert » appointed by the Government of Iraq a member of the League of Nations from a disinterested party be appointed for the work fully authorised by the League Council to make the project of a homogeneous settlement operative in so far it will not be prejudicial to the present legal possessors of the land. Moreover, in this connection I beg to point out that, if the scheme is entirely left to Iraqi Government even in its financial aspect, it will never be operative, since that Government has already admitted that « no

funds are available for further settlement operations » (vide reply from H.E. Nuri Pasha to the Assyrian petition addressed to H.E. the British High Commissioner in Iraq - letter No.3083 dated 2nd August, 1932 printed as appendix VI).

In conclusion I beg to add that I have discharged my duty in this respect before the late Mandatory Power and the League of Nations to my utmost, and if the Council will, still in spite of this my humble and last request in the name of my people, refuse to reconsider their last decision the consequences will be inevitable disaster unparalleled in the history of this remnant of the Assyrian Nation and the oldest Christian Church.

If your Excellency is not the Competent Authority to deal with this petition I would be most grateful if you would kindly pass it to the authority concerned.

I have the honour to be
Sir,

Your obedient servant

(signé) Eshai Shimun
By the Grace of God
Catholicos Patriarch
of Assyrians.

[Archives de la Société des Nations, Section des Minorités, Classement 4, 1928-1932,
« Minorities in Iraq », Boîte R2176 (Document n°39437, Série n°35242).]

LETTRE DU MAJOR THOMSON, ADRESSEE A MAR SHIMOUN LE 7 JUIN 1933

Bagdad, 7th June, 1933.

« I am writing to let your know that I am leaving Baghdad this evening on my return to Mosul.

My present intention is to leave Mosul for Amadia on Saturday next and to visit the Assyrian villages, the Dashtazi and other possible areas for Assyrian settlement.

When we had our talk on Monday you will remember you promised to write me a letter setting out your appreciation of the present policy for the Assyrian settlement, with your remarks thereon.

You also promised to send me a list of Assyrian notables whom you would like me to see and with whom I might talk over the general situation, and who would also be willing to act on the Assyrian Advisory Committee in Mosul.

Should any of these gentlemen like to accompany me on my present tour and those in the coming months I should welcome them gladly.

I am looking forward to having the pleasure of meeting you in Mosul in the near future and of further discussing the question of Assyrian settlement. »

[« Major Thomson to Mar Shimun No. T/A/1 dated 7th June, 1933 », *Royal Government of Iraq, correspondence relating to Assyrian settlement from 13th July, 1932 to 5th August 1933*, Baghdad : Printed at the Government Press, 1933, p.22, *Archives de la Société des Nations*, Section des Mandats, Classement 6, 1933-1946, « Protection of Minorities in Iraq », Boîte R4064 (Document n°35243, Série n°35242).]

LETTRE DE MAR SHIMOUN, ADRESSEE AU MAJOR THOMSON LE 7 JUIN 1933

« I hasten to reply to your urgent letter of June 7th, informing me of your immediate departure for Mosul and Districts.

May I inform you that the statements you have recorded in this letter as from me are contrary to what I said.

I certainly did not inform you that I appreciated the Mosul policy towards the Assyrian Settlement of the last months, which could be implied in your letter. I fully explained the importance of the need to change this policy.

I said if you wished I would gather together the people's appointed representatives to meet you at Mosul or you should visit and interview the people themselves to enable you to view the situation rightly. I did not promise to write you a list of names.

I said that if you wished I would be glad to give you in writing my opinion on the present situation and this is now in the course of preparation.

I also informed you that I was awaiting an answer to my letter to his Excellency the Minister of Interior, regarding the Government's interpretation of the Patriarch's 'Temporal Power' and its attitude towards me. My cooperation in the future naturally has to depend on that reply.

It would help me greatly if you could enlighten me as to exactly what your position is. »

[« From His Beatitude Eshai Shimun to Major B.D. Thomson letter dated the 7th June, 1933 », *Royal Government of Iraq, correspondence relating to Assyrian settlement from 13th July, 1932 to 5th August 1933*, Baghdad : Printed at the Government Press, 1933, p.22, *Archives de la Société des Nations*, Section des Mandats, Classement 6, 1933-1946, « Protection of Minorities in Iraq », Boîte R4064 (Document n°35243, Série n°35242).]

DISCOURS DU MOUTESSARIF KHALIL AZMI BEG, PRONONCE LE 10 JUILLET 1933

I would not have wished to summon you from your homes at this time and to cause you to suffer from travelling in summer had there not been an object of great importance, relating to your interests even more than to the interests of the State. I have to thank you for your attendance at the hour fixed for the meeting.

Reasons for holding this meeting :-

The reason for holding this meeting is the earnest desire of the Government to remove the beliefs which some of the Assyrians entertain contrary to the real facts, whether such beliefs were born in their minds directly, or through harmful propaganda. Therefore I say :

1. The signs of a misunderstanding between a section of the Assyrian refugees and the Government authorities did not cease in the past and if the reasons are carefully followed and the main factors which have complicated that misunderstanding examined, it would soon appear to us that a section of Assyrians were the cause, since everybody knows that they have until now been standing aloof and far from an understanding with the Government. As far as I understand, the reason for this isolation is that they are still not assured of their real intention to reside in Iraq (as they still consider themselves to be refugees). Is it within possibility to obtain a special status like autonomy ? This is impossible to attain. But owing to the final decision passed by the League of Nations (which will be read out to you to-day and of which printed copies will be distributed), and in view of the position of the neighbouring States and their clear attitude towards any Assyrian migration, the actual position has become quite different from what they imagine. They will come to know in this meeting the announcements made by those States in respect of Assyrian migration to their countries. Be fully assured that the Iraq Government under the Sovereignty of His Majesty King Faisal the First are still bearing good will towards you and that they have lost no time restoring confidence and ensuring your future prospects. The Government intends to profit by your presence, should you settle in its country and become its loyal subjects. It has determined to accord to you the same treatment as other Iraqis from whom the Kingdom of Iraq is constituted, and also intends to grant you in that case the same privileges. In the meantime, it expects you to be loyal and conform to the laws in force.

2. The Iraqi Government was aware of the demands submitted to the League of Nations by Mar Shimun ; the Government opposed the acceptance of such demands, knowing that they were inconsistent with its sovereignty on the one hand, and did not conform to the requirements of administration on the other. This opposition resulted in the League of Nations rejecting those demands, whose decision will be read out to you in Syriac. It will appear to you from this decision that the League of Nations rejected the demands of Assyrians for a special administration and autonomy also, and was satisfied with the guarantee which was given by the Iraqi Government that it would endeavour to effect settlement of landless persons who actually require settlement, and that it would afford all facilities to those desirous of leaving Iraq for other countries.

The Iraq Government has also promised that it will employ in Government posts suitable persons in the same manner as the Arabs and Kurds are employed ; but in certain cases this will be impossible owing to their ignorance of Kurdish or Arabic.

As regards the question of land settlement, before discussing it I should like to let you know the attitude of the three neighbouring States and their expressions in the event of Assyrians wishing to emigrate to other countries. I will request the Administrative Inspector, Mr. Stafford, to kindly give you explanations from which it will appear that there is no hope for Assyrians in the neighbouring countries ; and it cannot be said that there is any hope elsewhere, owing to the financial depression prevailing in the whole world.

3. Here I would revert to the land settlement question. The Iraq Government promised to recruit a foreign expert to assist in this. It has fulfilled its promise and Major Thomson has been here for over a month. I have requested him to explain to you at this meeting his policy and programme, also what has appeared to him regarding the condition of lands and villages.

4. *Government Policy.* -

This is what the Iraqi Government can do for the Assyrians in respect of treatment and settlement. The Assyrians should conform to the laws of the country, as the Government cannot permit people in its country to violate its laws and regulations, which are applied to all its nationals. The long patience of the Government towards some of the Assyrians of fractious temperament and the leniency shown to them, despite their deviation from the lawful path, is only founded on feelings of humanity towards parties of refugees who have settled in its country. But this does not mean that the Government will remain lenient further, since these ungrateful persons who continue misleading do not deserve to receive good. This is not only its own point of view, but also that of any other nation.

The administrative officials will deal with Assyrians in the same manner as Arabs and Kurds, mainly through the Mukhtars of villages. The Maliks are similar to the Arab Shaikhs and Kurdish Chiefs. The title of an Arab Shaikh and Kurdish Tribal Chief is an honorary one and has no special privileges from the Government, as such title is not regarded by the Government as an official appointment. It makes no difference to the Government if many people in the south describe themselves as Shaikhs (since, according to tribal customs, every member of the Shaikh's family has the right to call himself a Shaikh), but the Government does not undertake the appointment of Shaikh.

5. Complaints have recently been received by the police that there has been a great falling off in the registration of rifles in possession of Assyrians. The Assyrians therefore, should register their rifles in the same way as the Kurds and Arabs register their rifles. The ultimate policy of the Iraq Government is to minimise the number of rifles in possession of tribes throughout Iraq ; when the time comes for the execution of this policy the Assyrians would be required to surrender a number of their rifles at the same time as the Arabs and Kurds do so.
6. Everybody should come to understand that the Iraq Government is anxious for the execution of its orders and that, like other civilised States, it is not desirous of shedding blood ; but it will take all possible steps, when necessary, to maintain its authority.

The Government intended during last month to take effective measures against Malik Yaku Ismail and his followers, when he refused to obey orders to appear before the Dohuk authority. Such action would have been similar to that carried out by the Government against Shaikh Ahmad of Barzan had his case not been satisfactorily settled ; but it should be understood for the last time that the repetition by him of such behaviour is not permissible.

7. It is in the interest of Assyrians who decide to reside in Iraq to obtain nationality certificates, for the Iraq Government cannot allot lands to those who do not consider themselves Iraqis ; such people cannot expect to attain private or Government positions without it.

[« Royal Government of Irak, Correspondance relating to Assyrian Settlement from 13th July, 1932, to 5th August, 1933 », Baghdad : Printed at the Government Press, 1933, pp.41-43, *Archives de la Société des Nations*, Section des Mandats, Classement 6, 1933-1946, « Protection of Minorities in Iraq », Boîte R4064 (Document n°35243, Série n°35242).]

DECLARATION DU MAJOR THOMSON, EFFECTUEE LE 10 JUILLET 1933

« I welcome this opportunity of meeting so many of the Assyrian leaders some of whom I have had the pleasure of seeing before.

I am going to speak to you very frankly and straight forwardly, as I should be neglecting my duty to all Assyrians if I did not explain the present position correctly and accurately.

I also want you to realize the very great importance of this meeting.

Most of you know what my position is, namely that I have been asked by the 'Iraq Government to advise in the settlement of the Assyrians in accordance with a promise made by the Iraq Government to the League of Nations.

You have heard the conclusions of the Council of the League of Nations which were read to you by the Mutasarrif and I would remind you that when I leave this country, whether the settlement is made or not, I must write a full report of all the facts of the case for the 'Iraq Government, who will send a copy to the League of Nations.

When I saw the Mar Shimun in Baghdad at the beginning of June we discussed the question of settlement at some length. He then definitely refused to help or give me the names of any of the Assyrian leaders in Mosul or elsewhere who advised him, and whom I wished to see. He based his refusal to help, on the fact that he did not agree with the Government's policy for settlement quite forgetting that I had come out here to advise the Government and that the Government's policy would depend on that advice. His other reason for refusal was that he had been asked by the 'Iraq Government to give an assurance that he would not take an active part in the Temporal, that is, administrative control of the Assyrians though the Government fully recognised his rights as Spiritual head to deal with all Ecclesiastical matters.

There has been I fear much confusion and misunderstanding over the word Temporal Power, and I will try and explain their meaning as simply as I can.

The request of the Government merely asks that the Mar Shimun will give an assurance that he does not claim the right to exercise powers similar to those of an Administrative Official of the 'Iraq Government in his dealings with Assyrians.

I cannot believe that the Mar Shimun really wishes to claim the right to do these things.

I explained to him that the demand of the Government was a perfectly normal one to ask from any of its subjects and that nowhere in the world was there a Spiritual head of any religion or community who carried Temporal or Administrative powers in addition to his Spiritual ones.

The Mar Shimun then wrote me a letter promising to send me his reasons for differing with the Government's policy. That was over a month ago and I have not yet received his letter.

Meanwhile nothing is being done to facilitate and expedite the settlement, and the Mar Shimun still disagrees with the Government in Baghdad on the question of his personal position.

I cannot but feel that if the Mar Shimun really understands the decision of the Council of the League of Nations and also the request of the Government for his assurance, and if he truly has the welfare of the Assyrians at heart, that he should subordinate this question of personal status and instruct his leaders and advisers here to co-operate with me in every way possible for a speedy settlement of Assyrians.

The result of the present policy of « wait and see » which has now been going on for some 4 or 5 years has been in my opinion disastrous and can only end by alienating the sympathies of the world in general from the cause of the Assyrian people.

An atmosphere of distrust and suspicion has arisen which is entirely uncalled for and unjustified. Many Assyrians have been living on their capital and will soon have none. Had they settled 4 or 5 years ago under the scheme then proposed, they would have had money to build houses, buy cattle &c., and been making an income from their cultivation.

If the leaders consider the presence of the Mar Shimun is essential to the settlement I would beg them to use all their influence in urging the Mar Shimun to agree to the Government's wishes, and so let him help in the settlement of his people, or instruct his leaders to do so.

It is of first importance, if the settlement is to be carried out, that there should be no further delay, of any kind.

Remember I am here to help the Assyrians with my advice in every way possible, and if my advice is not taken then it will be your concern. Of one thing however you can rest assured that there can be no question of another coming to take my place. This is your last scheme.

Make up your minds once and for all that you must settle in Iraq. No other country will offer you the terms and conditions that you are being given by the Iraq Government. Decide to make the best of it without further delay.

As regards the method of settlement, I will endeavour in so far as is possible to arrange for the settlement of each village by members of the same tribe.

The Government has asked for the registration of the names of families wishing for land. Very few names have been registered. Naturally when the time comes for settlement those families who have registered their names will get first preference in the question of land, and those who come late will have to take their chance.

I would therefore urge all those families who wish to cultivate land themselves to register their names without delay.

Those who live in villages which are definitely unhealthy and wish to move will then be considered, when those who have registered and are at present without land are accommodated.

Of course persons in employment in Baghdad or elsewhere who apply for land which they would work by servants or hired labour would not be considered until all the cases of persons who would cultivate themselves have been dealt with.

There are various lands which will be considered for settlement – Dashtazi – Champashi – Gaz Fakhdah ; some land near Mosul and also in certain villages.

I would remind you that the Government had voted 13,000 Iraq Dinars towards the settlement for irrigation and development purpose.

I should gladly welcome the views of Assyrian leaders on the possibilities of these various places for settlement. I have personally visited them and believe that they would be suitable.

The question of the acquirement of the rights of ownership in the case of Government land has already been explained to most of you and also the position of tenant and Agha-landlord in the case of privately owned land.

I am always ready to see any Assyrian and explain any point on which there may be difficulty or doubt.

In conclusion I can assure you the 'Iraq Government wishes to help you in every way possible, and that in Colonel Stafford and myself you have two absolutely fair and impartial persons whose aims is to dispel misunderstandings, bring the Assyrians together again, and settle them happily and contentedly.

I would ask you to put your trust in us and to understand that our one object is to advise and help the Assyrians to the best of our ability in the matter of their settlement in Iraq. »

[« Royal Government of Irak, Correspondance relating to Assyrian Settlement from 13th July, 1932, to 5th August, 1933 », Baghdad : Printed at the Government Press, 1933, pp.44-46, *Archives de la Société des Nations*, Section des Mandats, Classement 6, 1933-1946, « Protection of Minorities in Iraq », Boîte R4064 (Document n°35243, Série n°35242).]