

PRESIDENT RECEIVES MAR SHIMUN ROARING WELCOME FOR THE EASTERN CHURCH PATRIARCH

**MASS ASSYRIAN RALLY IN FRONT OF
PRESIDENTIAL PALACE: PRESIDENT THANKED
FOR RESTORING THE PATRIARCH HIS CITIZENSHIP**

PRESIDENT AHMED HASSAN AL-BAKER WAVED TO MASSES OF IRAQI ASSYRIANS WHO ON FRIDAY EVENING ASSEMBLED IN FRONT OF THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE TO EXPRESS THANKS FOR RESTORING THE IRAQI CITIZENSHIP TO MAR ESHA SHIMON, PATRIARCH OF THE EASTERN CHURCH

of the President and placards stressing the solidarity of the Assyrians with the socialist July 17 Revolution, the revolution of unity, liberty and socialism.

The President had earlier met the Patriarch on his return to Iraq from exile. During the meeting which lasted about half an hour, the Patriarch stressed that the Assyrians, as loyal citizens, were prepared to offer all sacrifices for preserving the progressive July 17 Revolution.

The Patriarch who arrived from Beirut earlier the same day, was greeted at the airport by Sd. Hamid al-Ani, Under-Secretary of the Ministry of Interior and leading members of the clergy.

For the past 40 years he had been living in exile in the United States - his Iraqi citizenship having been withdrawn under the monarchic regime.

In a statement to the Iraqi News Agency the Patriarch thanked the Revolutionary Command Council, with President Ahmed Hassan al-Baker at the top for restoring to him his Iraqi nationality.



*His Excellency Ahmed Hassan al - Baker,
President of Iraq receives His Holiness.*

When the President appeared on the balcony of the palace, the crowds erupted in ovations for the Arab Baath Socialist Party and the Revolutionary Command Council. The crowds were carrying portraits

He added: "I should call upon all Assyrians in Iraq to give every boost to the revolutionary regime and devote themselves to serving their homeland."



Procession to the Presidential Palace

He also expressed hope for the establishment of peace in the world and in the Arab region in particular, and added,

"The Arabs have made notable contributions to mankind. Baghdad shone with

civilization at a time when Europe was living in darkness. The Eastern Church has also contributed to the service of mankind."

It would be recalled that on Monday last week the Revolutionary Command Council passed a resolution restoring to Patriarch Mar Esha Shimon his Iraqi citizenship.

The patriarch had been seen off at Beirut airport by Sd. Abdul Fattah Mohamed Amin al-Yassin, Iraq's Ambassador to Lebanon, and masses of the Assyrian community in Lebanon.

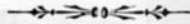
In the meantime, General Sa'adun Ghaidan, Minister of Interior, has issued the following order: "In accordance with the requirements of public interest, our order No. 1620 dated September 11, 1968, is hereby repealed. All Assyrian Churches specified in the above mentioned order should be turned over to Bishop Yousef Khanisho or to whoever he delegates."

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Note.

The Iraqi Government's order No. 1620 dated September 11, 1968 put some of the Churches and properties of the Church of the East in the possession of the suspended Metropolitan, Dharmo. By the order of the Minister of Interior, issued in

April, 1970, repealing the order of September 11, 1968, these churches and properties were restored to His Holiness the Patriarch, and accordingly His Grace Mar Yosip Khanishoo, Metropolitan of Rustaqa and the real Patriarchal representative in Iraq got possession of these Churches.



"ARAB TRAVELLERS, AMONG THE GREATEST OF THEIR KIND, GO TO FAR COUNTRIES TO FIND OUT WHAT OTHER PEOPLES WERE DOING AND THINKING, TO STUDY AND UNDERSTAND THEIR PHILOSOPHIES AND SCIENCES AND WAYS OF LIFE, AND THEN TO DEVELOP THEIR OWN THOUGHT. SCHOLARS AND BOOKS FROM ABROAD WERE BROUGHT TO BAGHDAD AND THE KHALIF al-MANSUR (Middle Eighth Century) ESTABLISHED A RESEARCH AND TRANSLATION BUREAU WHERE TRANSLATIONS WERE MADE FROM GREEK, SYRIAC, ZENDE, LATIN, AND SANSKRIT. OLD MONASTERIES IN SYRIA, ASIA MINOR, AND THE LEVANT WERE RANSACKED FOR MANUSCRIPTS. THE OLD ALEXANDRIAN SCHOOLS HAD BEEN CLOSED BY CHRISTIAN BISHOPS AND THEIR SCHOLARS HAD BEEN DRIVEN OUT. MANY OF THESE EXILES HAD DRIFTED TO PERSIA AND ELSEWHERE. THEY NOW FOUND A WELCOME AND A SAFE HAVEN IN BAGHDAD AND THEY BROUGHT GREEK PHILOSOPHY AND SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS WITH THEM—PLATO AND ARISTOTLE, PTOLEMY AND EUCLID. THERE WERE NESTORIAN AND JEWISH SCHOLARS AND INDIAN PHYSICIANS; PHILOSOPHERS AND MATHEMATICIANS. ALL THIS CONTINUED AND DEVELOPED DURING THE REIGN OF THE KHALIFS HARUN-al RASHID AND al-MAMUN (Eighth and Ninth Centuries) AND BAGHDAD BECAME THE BIGGEST INTELLECTUAL CENTRE OF THE CIVILIZED WORLD."

'The Discovery of India'
By JAWAHARLAL NEHRU