

8 MAY 1937

C 123676⁶⁻¹⁰³⁻¹_{4(F)}
m. King

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SECRET.

E.(P.Q.)(37).

1st Meeting.

COPY NO. 17.

IMPERIAL CONFERENCE, 1937.
COMMITTEE ON POLAR QUESTIONS.

DRAFT NOTES of the First Meeting of the Committee held
in Conference Room 'C' at 2, Whitehall Gardens, S.W.1,
on Wednesday, 26th May, 1937, at 5.30 p.m.

P R E S E N T:-

The Hon. R.G. Casey, M.P.,
(Commonwealth of Australia). (In the Chair.)

UNITED KINGDOM.

Mr. R.A. Wiseman, Dominions Office.
Mr. A.J. Dawe, Colonial Office.
Mr. J.O. Borley, Colonial Office.
Rear-Admiral J.A. Edgell, Admiralty.
Mr. G.G. Fitzmaurice, Foreign Office.
Mr. J. Thomson, Ministry of Agriculture
and Fisheries.

NEW ZEALAND.

Mr. C.A. Berendsen.

CANADA.

Mr. N.A. Robertson.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

Mr. G.S. Knowles.

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

Dr. A.J. Stals.
Mr. D.G. Malan.

Lt. Colonel W.R. Hodgson (Commonwealth of Australia)) Joint Secretaries
Mr. G.W. Tory (United Kingdom)) to the Committee.

W.L.M. King Papers, Memoranda and Notes, 1933-1939
(M.G. 26, J 4, volume 174, pages C123201-C124159)

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CANADA

The first question to be discussed by the Committee was whether or not the French claim to an Adélie Land Sector extending from the coast to the South Pole should be resisted by the Commonwealth Government on the grounds set out in Memorandum E. (37)22.

THE AUSTRALIAN REPRESENTATIVE outlined the developments which have led to the submission of the document under discussion and the reasons for the resistance of the application of the Sector principle to Adélie Land.

THE UNITED KINGDOM REPRESENTATIVES explained that there were a considerable number of areas in the Australian and, to a lesser extent, in the Falkland Islands Sector, the title to which could hardly be supported otherwise than by the application of the Sector principle. The British title to these areas, if based on other grounds, appeared in fact to be less substantial, if anything, than the French title to Adélie Land. Resistance to the French claim to a Sector, by setting at issue the Sector principle in the Antarctic generally, might, it was thought, render the British title to much of the Antarctic Continent liable to challenge.

THE CANADIAN REPRESENTATIVE stated that the Canadian Government, for their part, would strongly deprecate any denial of the Sector principle in relation to Adélie Land, since it might have embarrassing repercussions in the Arctic.

THE UNION REPRESENTATIVE called attention to paragraph 4 of the note printed as Annex IV in E. (37)6 and asked whether the assurances there given to the Norwegian Government meant that the area mentioned was reserved for Norwegian exploitation. He was told that that was the case, but that it appeared from paragraph 2 of the note referred to that the assurances had been given after

consultation with the Union Government. MR. WISEMAN undertook to confirm this point.

The Committee concluded that it would be advisable, on grounds of policy, to recognise the French Sector but, at the same time, to secure, if possible, an arrangement with the French Government whereby a free right of passage across the sector would be recognized. The Committee noted the views expressed in E.(37)22 as regards the limits of longitude which the Commonwealth Government proposed to recognize to the French Sector and had no observations to make in regard to them.

THE UNITED KINGDOM REPRESENTATIVES agreed that a sound case existed for the limitations mentioned by the Commonwealth Government. THE COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES agreed, however, that the Commonwealth Government would waive the claim to the 1° in dispute on the Western boundary, viz., accept the longitudinal boundary as being 136° in lieu of $136\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$.

THE COMMITTEE then discussed the future of the "Discovery II". It was stated that the funds available for the vessel were nearing exhaustion, that a final circum-polar voyage had been contemplated this coming Summer, but that the project had proved to be beyond the resources still at the disposal of the Discovery Committee. After a brief discussion it was decided that a sub-committee, composed of representatives of the United Kingdom, Commonwealth and New Zealand Governments, should be convened by Colonel Hodgson to discuss the possibilities of co-operation in the future programme of the "Discovery II" between the three Governments and to report on this matter to the Committee.

In the course of an account by MR. BORLEY of certain useful activities which might well be undertaken by all the

Governments concerned and which would, at the same time, assist in consolidating their title, emphasis was laid on the fact that such eminent meteorologists as Dr. Simpson and Mr. Mossman considered that valuable meteorological work could be done in the Antarctic. The Committee decided that, as this was a matter of the greatest interest to all the Governments represented, an authoritative report should be obtained from the Air Ministry as to the direct scientific value of meteorological work in the Antarctic.

It was finally decided that the Committee should meet again when the required reports were available.

2, Whitehall Gardens, S.W. 1.

27th May, 1937.

2 JUN 1937

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27th May, 1937.

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4 JUN 1937.

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S E C R E T.

E. (M.H.) (37) 1.

COPY NO. 17

IMPERIAL CONFERENCE, 1937.
COMMITTEE ON POLAR QUESTIONS.

A copy of the draft report of the above Committee
is transmitted herewith for consideration.

(Signed) W.R. HODGSON } Secretaries
 G.W. TORY } to the
 } Committee.

2, Whitehall Gardens, S.W.1.

4th June, 1937.

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IMPERIAL CONFERENCE 1937.
COMMITTEE ON POLAR QUESTIONS.

R E P O R T.

At its opening meeting on the 14th May 1937, the Imperial Conference appointed a Committee to consider Polar Questions. The Committee submit the following report:-

The Committee have considered their reference with special relation to Adélie Land and the other general Antarctic questions raised in the Commonwealth Government's memorandum (E(37)22).

As regards the former the attention of the Committee was directed to the question whether any French claim to a sector for Adélie Land should be recognised. The Commonwealth Government desired to resist such a claim for reasons set out in their memorandum, and as elaborated at meetings of the Committee.

There are however a considerable number of areas in the Australian and Falkland Islands Sectors the title to which appears to the Committee to be dependent upon the Sector Principle, and it is considered that, although a case could be made for restricting the boundaries of the French area to the limits suggested by the Commonwealth Government in their memorandum, claims of a similar character might well be put forward by other foreign powers to areas within the territories of the British Commonwealth which it would be difficult to meet if the general validity of the sector principle in the Antarctic had once been impugned. The Canadian representative desired to associate himself with this attitude

attitude in relation to the maintenance of the sector principle for the Arctic.

The Committee therefore recommends on grounds of policy that any French claim to a sector extending south to the Pole should not be challenged; at the same time an arrangement should if possible be made whereby a free right of passage across the Sector between the Australian territories on either side would be recognised by the French Government.

The Committee notes the views expressed by the Commonwealth Government in their memorandum E(37)22 regarding the limits of longitude which they propose to recognise to the French Sector and has no observations to offer in regard to them.

At the request of the Commonwealth Government the Committee have considered what action could in the future be taken by the interested British Governments to consolidate their title to the territories which they administer in the Antarctic. In this connection the possibilities of co-operation in any scientific or economic activities undertaken by or on behalf of any of His Majesty's Governments responsible for the administration of territories in the Antarctic area were also discussed. Valuable suggestions were made in this direction by Mr. Borley speaking on behalf of the Colonial Office and further investigation of the subjects mentioned by him was thought desirable in two different directions:-

(a) the question of establishing meteorological stations in the Antarctic continent

(b) the desirability of co-ordinating the activities of the R.R.S. Discovery II during any voyages which she might be directed by the Discovery Committee to make in the waters north of the territories administered by the Commonwealth or New Zealand Governments, and generally.

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As regards (a) the attention of the Committee was directed to certain scientific reports which indicated the importance of obtaining a continuous supply of meteorological data from the Antarctic for the purpose of increasing the reliability of long-range weather forecasts in other parts of the world. In view of the direct bearing of this matter upon the interests of the southern Dominions, it was decided to request the Director of the Meteorological Office to express his views upon it, and attention is drawn to ~~the~~ Appendix to this report which gives the result of the enquiry made of Sir G. Simpson.

The Committee recommends that the attention of His Majesty's Governments in the Commonwealth of Australia, in New Zealand and in the Union of South Africa should be drawn to this report and in particular to the suggestion that in the interests of the accurate forecasting of weather conditions in all parts of the world there is need for the establishment of at least two permanent meteorological stations in the Antarctic for the accurate recording of daily climatic conditions.

As regards (b) a Sub-Committee was appointed to discuss the possibilities of co-operation in the future programme of the R.R.S. "Discovery II" between the Governments concerned.

This Sub-Committee received a full statement from the United Kingdom representatives regarding the scope of the work undertaken by the "Discovery II". The main purpose of the vessel's investigations is to carry out research on the
economic

economic resources of the Antarctic, and since Whaling is at present the only extensive industry in the Antarctic, its work is primarily concerned with the biology of whales. In order to be able to assess the effect of whaling on the stock of whales it is necessary to have knowledge of the breeding and growth, the distribution, movements and migration of the various species of whales. The chief work of the "Discovery II" has therefore been to build up reliable information as to the reproduction, growth and migration of whales, the nature and distribution of their food, and the hydrography of the waters in which they are found. The marking of whales with a view to deductions as to their movements is another important work undertaken by the Discovery Committee. Further activities of economic importance are experimental trawling to test the possibility of establishing fisheries, investigations concerning seals, the survey of coasts and islands, of the bed of the ocean and of the ice edge, observations on the distribution of icebergs and pack ice, routine meteorological observations and the study of coastal currents.

With regard to the future programme of work, it was explained that it had been originally intended that the "Discovery II" should set out in September or October on a 20 months cruise in the Antarctic. It was feared, however, that the funds still available for the Discovery investigations might not be sufficient to enable this full cruise to be undertaken. It was stated that the Discovery Committee had appointed a Sub-Committee to re-examine the question of the future programme and to see whether by means of a re-arrangement of work sufficient funds could be made available

available to finance the full cruise. Pending the result of that investigation, the Sub-Committee felt that it would be unnecessary to consider whether interested Dominion Governments might be prepared to co-operate in regard to some form of financial assistance.

If it proved possible to undertake the 20 months cruise as originally projected, it was contemplated that the programme of the "Discovery II" should include routine meteorological observations, the confirmation and continuation of work done on previous voyages, a circum-polar cruise in Summer, which, in conjunction with the similar cruise made last Winter, would enable a comparison to be drawn between Winter and Summer conditions, and ^{biological & hydrological} regular hydrographic observations along a series of meridians from the ice edge up to temperate waters with a view to shedding further light on the distribution and movements of the plankton which constitute the food of whales.

With the above information in mind, the Sub-Committee recommends:-

- (1) that the Committee on Polar questions should express the hope that it will be found possible to carry out the extended cruise as originally proposed;
- (2) that after the cruise above mentioned ^{either full or restricted} has been launched, the United Kingdom Government might consider, in conjunction with representatives of the Dominion Governments interested, the programme and policy as to future Antarctic investigation;
- (3- that in the meantime the Dominions concerned should be kept in as close touch as possible with the work of the Discovery Committee and should for that purpose be invited to

to appoint representatives from their permanent staffs in London to attend meetings of the Discovery Committee;

(4) that the Secretary of State for the Colonies should be asked to explore the possibility of inviting the interested Dominion Governments to select a few scientific observers to accompany the "Discovery II" during her next cruise.

The Committee endorses the recommendations of the Sub-Committee and commends them for the approval of the Imperial Conference.

The Committee recommends the inclusion of the following passage in the General Report of the Imperial Conference:-

Representatives of the interested Governments considered what forms of co-operation could best be pursued in connection with any scientific or economic activities which might be undertaken by or on behalf of any one of them in the Antarctic. In particular, their attention was directed to the possibilities of co-operation in the following fields:-

- (a) The establishment of meteorological stations in the Antarctic Continent.
- (b) The activities of the R.R.S. "Discovery II" during any voyage which she might be directed by the Discovery Committee to make in the waters north of the territories administered by the Commonwealth or New Zealand Governments, and generally.

As regards (a), the Conference recommended that the attention of His Majesty's Governments in the Commonwealth of Australia, in New Zealand and in the Union of South Africa

Africa should be drawn to the Report by the Director of the Meteorological Office on this subject* and in particular to the suggestion that in the interests of the accurate forecasting of weather conditions in all parts of the world, there is need for the establishment of at least two permanent meteorological stations in the Antarctic for the accurate recording of daily climatic conditions.

As regards (b), it was hoped that it would be found possible to carry out the twenty months' cruise of the R.R.S. Discovery II planned for the present year, and that if the above-mentioned cruise was launched, the United Kingdom Government would consider, in conjunction with representatives of the Dominion Governments interested, the programme and policy as to future Antarctic investigation.

It was recommended that

(1) in the meantime the Dominions concerned should be kept in as close touch as possible with the work of the Discovery Committee and should for that purpose be invited to appoint representatives from their permanent staffs in London to attend meetings of the Committee.

(2) the United Kingdom Government should explore the possibility of inviting the interested Dominion Governments to select a few scientific observers to accompany the "Discovery II" during her next cruise.

* See Appendices of Proceedings.

COPY.

APPENDIX

C123692

METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE,
AIR MINISTRY,
ADASTRAL HOUSE,
KINGSWAY,
LONDON, W.C.2.

1st June, 1937.

Dear Mr. Wiseman,

With regard to your letter dated 31st May, 1937, in which you ask my opinion on the value of meteorological stations on the Antarctic continent, may I refer you to the papers which were forwarded to the Colonial Office under cover of Air Ministry letter dated 4th April, 1936 (Colonial Office reference 87511/1/36). You will there find a memorandum by me on the subject, from which you will see that I consider that one or two permanent meteorological stations on the Antarctic continent would be very valuable in the investigation of long range or seasonal weather forecasts.

I still hold the same opinion and I really have nothing to add to what I wrote in 1935 except to stress that long range forecasts cannot be made for any country, no matter what its size, by observations taken in that country alone. The weather of Australia and South Africa depends on the movement and condition of the atmosphere as a whole and it is only by studying the conditions outside their own country that they can expect to solve their weather problems.

This is well realised in practically all countries and a great deal of money is being spent on taking

observations

R.A. Wiseman, Esq.,
Dominions Office,
Downing Street, S.W.1.

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observations in sparsely populated parts of the world. I may mention the work which is being done by Russia in the polar regions and by France in the deserts of Africa. I think that both South Africa and Australia realise this feature and are quite prepared to take their share in the world-wide co-operation which a knowledge of the atmosphere involves.

Yours sincerely,
(Signed) G.C. SIMPSON.

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COPYTHE ANTARCTIC CONTINENT.

As the result of observations made on a large number of Antarctic expeditions we have now a fairly complete idea of the general meteorological conditions holding around the coast of the Antarctic Continent. Further spasmodic observations will add little to that general knowledge; what is now required is a long series of observations made at one or two permanent stations.

The chief problem of applied meteorology is the provision of long-range or seasonal forecasts. Droughts and wet seasons are departures from a general climatological mean and it is the general opinion of meteorologists that such variations from the average are not just accidental variations confined to single localities; but that they are local manifestations of some change in the general circulation of the atmosphere. If they are to be foreseen we must have a much more detailed knowledge of the air and its movement in all parts of the world. Each year we are obtaining more and more information from the land and to some extent from the sea; but there are still large areas from which no reliable data are available and the chief of these areas is the Antarctic. The method of approach to long-range forecasting is to examine the records of the past and compare the conditions year by year at places in all parts of the world. This is obviously only possible when the observations in any one place extend over a sufficiently long period for the average conditions to be ascertained from which the seasonal variations can be determined. Whether or not the Antarctic holds the
key

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key to the problem of seasonal forecasting no one is at present in a position to say; but it is quite clear that we shall never know until the observations have been made. It is for this reason that a long series of observations taken in the same place is so urgently required from the Antarctic. I wish it clearly to be understood that no promise can be made that if a station is provided it will give the information required to forecast droughts; all that can be said is that until the observations are made there will always remain the possibility that essential information for the solution of the problem is not being obtained.

Long-range forecasting, however, is only one of the problems which require information from the Antarctic. There are a number of others and until we have regular observations from the Antarctic our knowledge of the atmosphere must be incomplete. The same applies to other geophysical subjects which equally require data from a long series of years: for example, problems of the aurora, terrestrial magnetism and the new studies of the high atmosphere which are so important in the development of wireless communications. All these studies do not require an extended net work of stations; the observations from two or three stations in high latitudes would suffice and the observations from one station would be of very great value. I have consistently advocated for a number of years the establishment of two stations, on opposite sides of the Antarctic Continent, to be established by international co-operation. The best form of this

co-operation

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co-operation would be for South Africa and Australia each to establish a station working in co-operation and then later the countries of South America might join and provide a third. This plan might well eventuate if South Africa would lead the way by establishing a station in the African section of the Antarctic.

The station would be established at some position on the coast which could normally be reached each year. At first it would be housed in a wooden hut, but later a permanent house might be built after the site had proved satisfactory. The usual meteorological observations, both surface and upper air, would be made and a complete record of terrestrial magnetism would be obtained by self-recording instruments. Other investigations would be undertaken according to the staff available; but no doubt observations on the aurora, atmospheric electricity and radio transmission would be included in the programme. A staff of five would be required, one of whom would be a trained scientist and the others trained as observers and capable of looking after all the instruments including the wireless installation.

With regard to cost: the initial outlay would be for the hut, the instrumental equipment and the wireless installation. The hut would no doubt be built of wood in South Africa and transported in sections and I can give no estimate of cost. The instrumental equipment would be of the order of £2,000 and a suitable wireless set complete with generator, masts, etc., would cost about £2,000.

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The recurring expenses would be the cost of -

- (a) Personnel.
- (b) Consumable stores.
- (c) Transport.

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A G E N D A.

Consideration of the draft report of the Committee which was circulated on the 4th June, under reference E(P.Q.)(37) 1.

(Signed) W.R. HODGSON } Joint
G.W. TORY. } Secretaries.

2, Whitehall Gardens, S.W.1.

7th June, 1937.

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Mr. Paul Fontaine.

NEW ZEALAND.

Mr. C.A. Berendsen.
Sir Cecil Day.

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

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COLONEL HODGSON explained briefly the recommendations made by the Sub-Committee which was appointed at the first meeting to discuss the possibilities of co-operation in the future programme of the Discovery II, and drew attention to the appendix to the draft report, which was the result of the enquiry made of Sir George Simpson as to the scientific value of meteorological work in the Antarctic.

MR. WISEMAN stated that he had already informed the South African delegate that the 1935 memorandum referred to by Sir George Simpson, of which an extract was included in the appendix, had been communicated to the South African Government in another connection at the time when it was written.

In reply to an enquiry from the Chairman, MR. WISEMAN undertook to request the Meteorological Office to supply further technical information to the Australian Government should they request this in order to enable them to arrive at a decision with regard to the establishment of a meteorological station in the Antarctic.

In the course of discussion of the Sub-Committee's recommendations the South African delegate stated that the word "observers" in line 3 of recommendation (4) on page 6 of the draft report appeared to imply that Dominion representatives who might accompany the Discovery II would not take an active part in that vessel's investigations.

MR. DAWE explained that this had not been intended, and at his suggestion the phrase "scientific or other workers" was substituted for "scientific observers". He

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took this opportunity of asking the Dominion representatives to note that when the United Kingdom Government came to consider the possibility of Dominion co-operation in the work of the Discovery II they might find it necessary to raise the question of a financial contribution on the part of the interested Dominions. It was only right that this possibility should be stated at an early stage. It had been contemplated that the next cruise of the vessel would be the last, as the funds at the disposal of the Discovery Committee were nearing exhaustion.

Subject to several other drafting amendments, the draft report of the Committee to the Imperial Conference was finally adopted.

2, Whitehall Gardens, S.W.1.,
9th June, 1937.

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2nd Meeting.

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IMPERIAL CONFERENCE, 1937.

COMMITTEE ON POLAR QUESTIONS.

NOTES of the Second Meeting of the Committee held
in Conference Room 'C' at 2, Whitehall Gardens, S.W.1,
on Tuesday, 8th June, 1937, at 5.0 p.m.

P R E S E N T :-

The Hon. R.G. Casey, M.P.,
(Commonwealth of Australia). (In the Chair).

UNITED KINGDOM.

Mr. R.A. Wiseman, Dominions Office.
Mr. A.J. Dawe, Colonial Office.
Mr. J.O. Borley, Colonial Office.
Rear-Admiral J.A. Edgell, Admiralty.
Mr. G.G. Fitzmaurice, Foreign Office.
Mr. J. Thomson, Ministry of Agriculture
and Fisheries.

CANADA.

Mr. N.A. Robertson.
Mr. Paul Fontaine.

NEW ZEALAND.

Mr. C.A. Berendsen.
Sir Cecil Day.

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

Dr. A.J. Stals.
Mr. D.G. Malan.

Lt. Colonel W.R. Hodgson (Commonwealth of Australia))
Mr. G.W. Tory (United Kingdom))
Joint Secretaries to the Committee.

W.L.M. King Papers, Memoranda and Notes, 1933-1939
(M.G. 26, J 4, volume 174, pages C123201-C124159)

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COLONEL HODGSON explained briefly the recommendations made by the Sub-Committee which was appointed at the first meeting to discuss the possibilities of co-operation in the future programme of the Discovery II, and drew attention to the appendix to the draft report, which was the result of the enquiry made of Sir George Simpson as to the scientific value of meteorological work in the Antarctic.

MR. WISEMAN stated that he had already informed the South African delegate that the 1935 memorandum referred to by Sir George Simpson, of which an extract was included in the appendix, had been communicated to the South African Government in another connection at the time when it was written.

In reply to an enquiry from the Chairman, MR. WISEMAN undertook to request the Meteorological Office to supply further technical information to the Australian or other interested Dominion Government should they request this in order to enable them to arrive at a decision with regard to the establishment of a meteorological station in the Antarctic.

In the course of discussion of the Sub-Committee's recommendations the South African delegate stated that the word "observers" in line 3 of recommendation (4) on page 6 of the draft report appeared to imply that Dominion representatives who might accompany the Discovery II would not take an active part in that vessel's investigations.

MR. DAWE explained that this had not been intended, and at his suggestion the phrase "scientific or other workers" was substituted for "scientific observers". He

took this opportunity of asking the Dominion representatives to note that when the United Kingdom Government came to consider the possibility of Dominion co-operation in the work of the Discovery II they might find it necessary to raise the question of a financial contribution on the part of the interested Dominions. It was only right that this possibility should be stated at an early stage. It had been contemplated that the next cruise of the vessel would be the last, as the funds at the disposal of the Discovery Committee were nearing exhaustion.

Subject to several other drafting amendments, the draft report of the Committee to the Imperial Conference was finally adopted.

2, Whitehall Gardens, S.W.1.,
9th June, 1937.

IRAQ.

April 16, 1945.

CONFIDENTIAL.

SECTION 1.

[E 2431/195/93]

Copy No. 368a

Sir K. Cornwallis to Mr. Eden.—(Received 16th April.)

(No. 134.)

Bagdad, 30th March, 1945.

Sir,

ON the eve of my departure from Bagdad, it may be of interest if I briefly review the situation as it stands to-day at the end of the four years during which I have had the honour to be head of this mission.

2. When I arrived in April 1941 Rashid Ali al Gailani had established a stranglehold on administration throughout the country. His chief supporters were a clique of ambitious politicians and army officers who had been brought up under the old Turkish régime. Rashid Ali was not a popular leader, but by methods which by now have unfortunately become only too familiar, he established an armed dictatorship, and the people, cowed into acquiescence, could offer no resistance. Few Iraqis dared to visit me during that month.

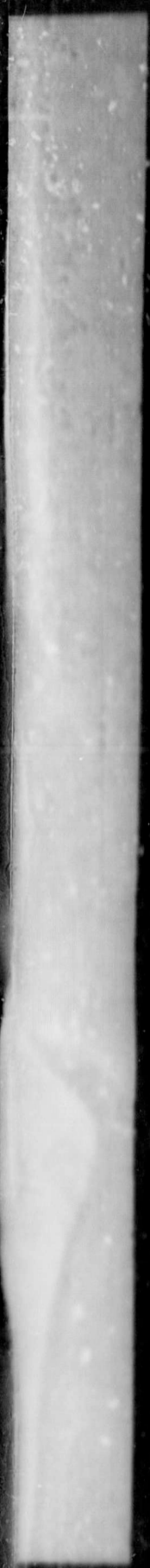
3. The fundamental reasons for this state of affairs were four. First must be put the gradual weakening of the administration and of the authority of the Government over a period of eight years which was punctuated by *coups d'Etat*. Next was the fact that, with the death of King Faisal in 1933, the country lost its chief unifying force. His son, King Ghazi, was wild and unbalanced, and when he met his death in 1938 the Crown passed to a child of 4. The latter's uncle, the Amir Abdul'Illah, who became Regent, was completely inexperienced, a stranger to the country, and hampered by shyness and hesitancy. Nor had he any sensible or capable supporters to help him in establishing his position. He thus fell an easy prey to an unscrupulous gang. Thirdly, there were the Germans. Their old plans for eastern expansion were being revived; and they sent here as their minister a most industrious, experienced and energetic propagandist in Dr. Grobba. In contrast to the task of his British diplomatic colleagues, who sought to guide the footsteps of a mercurial people on to constructive paths, his rôle was easy: he had to undermine and destroy. In this he was powerfully assisted by the growing might of Germany and by the dynamism that emanated from Berlin and Rome. Britain, on the other hand, seemed to be sunk in apathy. Fourthly, to crown all, came the Arab rebellion in Palestine, and the harsh, but ineffective, measures which we were taking to suppress it. Day after day the German and Italian radio would denounce our actions, and day after day we made no attempt to justify them. Our foreign policy in general was weak and vacillating and our prestige sank steadily.

4. At the same time the contrast between Iraq and other parts of the Arab world was striking. In Saudi Arabia a strong man was in control of a kingdom which he himself had made, a kingdom which had never been the object of German ambitions. In Egypt and in Palestine we had maintained appreciable military forces for strategic reasons. In Syria the people were under control of the French army. In Iraq, however, despite its paramount importance, there were a few British aircraft but no British troops and no effective organisation to fight enemy activities. Over a period of seven or eight years we had sat back and watched our influence decline. It was small wonder that, comparing our apparent weakness and ineffectiveness with the dominating position we had held only ten years before, the people of Iraq considered that, much as some might regret it, our time was done.

5. It was obvious in April 1941 that Rashid Ali hoped, by feigning loyalty to the Anglo-Iraqi Treaty, to keep His Majesty's Government in play until such time as the Germans were able to send forces to Iraq. The prompt decision of His Majesty's Government to send troops to Basra saved the situation and placed Rashid Ali in a quandary. If he allowed British troops to come to Bagdad he would perish; if he opposed them before the Germans were ready, he could not rely on the help of his secret ally. The arrival at Basra from India of a second brigade forced his hand and he decided to attack while our forces were still weak. The tribes which had waited and watched during April continued inactive during May, deaf to all his exhortations.

[65—56]

B



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6. When Bagdad was freed at the end of May 1941 by a small column that could scarcely have reached here had the desert tribes thrown in their lot with Rashid Ali, it became clear that the country in the main was with us, and was much relieved to see the last of that traitor and his gang. But many pro-German pockets still existed, especially in the towns, and there was still the danger of German invasion—invasion from two sides, for at the end of 1941 the enemy stood both upon the frontiers of Egypt and in the foothills of the Caucasus. In these circumstances my aim was—

- (a) To secure full facilities for our war requirements and unimpeded opportunities for training and defensive measures by our navy, army and Royal Air Force.
- (b) To root out pro-Nazis and bring about a change in public feeling, both to facilitate (a) and, looking further ahead, to consolidate our future position by making people realise the advantage of alliance with us.
- (c) Unofficially and in the hope of helping to create greater stability, to influence the administration as far as possible, but not to the extent of causing a crisis and so jeopardising (a) and (b). Owing to my personal knowledge of the working of the governmental machine and my old friendship with Ministers, shaikhs and others, I happened to be favourably placed for this.

7. To attain (a) and (b) it was necessary to get in touch with all classes of society, who had been neglected for years, and to proceed by a co-ordinated plan. Accordingly, I formed a political advisory staff, whose duty was to act as liaison officers between our army and Iraqi officials, especially in the provinces, to fight enemy propaganda, to make friends with leaders and, generally, to restore British influence. I was extremely fortunate in securing the services of several officers who had long experience of Iraq and were liked and respected by its inhabitants. They, with their young assistants, have produced remarkable results. They quickly helped to stabilise the country, and they are now frequently invited to assist in administrative problems. They have worked closely with the Public Relations staff, which, in addition to ordinary propaganda work of press and radio, has done much to increase knowledge of Britain and the British by the establishment of reading rooms, the operation of travelling cinemas, and above all by establishing personal contact with people in all walks of life. The Ikhwan al Hurriyah, or Brotherhood of Freedom, is a third organisation which has helped to establish touch with the people, not only in Bagdad but in provincial towns also. Fourthly, in Bagdad, Mosul, Basra and Kirkuk the British Council has made a valuable contribution in bringing about a better understanding of our country and its aims. Finally, tribute must be paid to the work of the British military mission, of British advisers and many other of the Iraqi Government officials, and of the area liaison officers under the orders of Combined Intelligence Centre, Iraq. Nor must mention be omitted of the British army, which, by its traditional straight dealing and good behaviour, has done a great deal to heal old wounds. It is, indeed, a source of gratification to me, and a real tribute to the personnel concerned, that all these different bodies have worked closely and amicably together and with general headquarters and this embassy.

8. In short, it has been my endeavour to establish, through every possible means, closer relations between Iraqis of all classes and individual Britons, and I now have the satisfaction of recording that to-day Britons and Iraqis mix far more than they ever did before. My task has been made easier by the fact that Iraqis as a whole were not with Rashid Ali, and that his revolt came as a profound shock to them. They were ashamed, and wanted to make amends. Consequently we received full co-operation, both from the Government and from the people as a whole, even in the most difficult days of 1941 and 1942. As a proof of this, it is to be noted that suspects of all kinds were energetically rounded up and interned, that the Iraqi authorities themselves, of their own motion, tried and hanged three of the four members of the Golden Square who fell into their hands, and that all Rashid Ali's Ministers who are not in exile are in prison. Not a murmur has been heard from anyone against the execution of these drastic sentences.

9. As regards the question of influencing the Administration, it is not perhaps always realised how difficult Iraq is to govern. Unlike Egypt and the Levant, before the British occupation Iraq had been subject to almost no Western influences. The country consisted in fact of three of the most neglected provinces of a moribund empire. In addition, it was and is divided by secular feuds and differences—the Shia still nurtures his 1,000-year-old resentment

against the Sunni, the Kurd is antagonistic to the Arab, the Christian and Jewish communities (two of the most ancient of their kind in existence anywhere) are apprehensive of the Moslem majority. Townsmen have little in common with tribesmen, who are heavily armed and accustomed from time immemorial to resist by force any encroachment on their privileges. This complex society calls for the highest standard of administration. Moreover, Iraq has many hundred miles of wild land frontiers, with potentially troublesome neighbours, Turkey, Persia and Saudi Arabia. Even in peace-time it is a difficult country to govern, but with the dislocation, mostly economic, which the war has inevitably brought with it, it is small wonder that the people have felt discontented with their Government. To deal with this situation the Iraqi Government had at their disposal a corps of officials, few of whom had received a Western education, and most of whom had been corrupted by ten years of misrule. Working with them was a very small group of British officials. Fortunately, the Iraqi Government realised their own shortcomings and applied increasingly to us for help, with the result that there are now more British officials in the Government than for many years past. Indeed, we cannot supply all the officers that are wanted. Of their own volition the Iraqi Government have, since 1941, placed Britons in executive charge of Imports and Exports, Irrigation, the Veterinary Service and the Transport Service, and we have also Britons as heads of the Port and of the Railways administrations. In all the Ministries where they are employed British advisers are now effectively consulted. This has applied particularly to education, which before was a focus of anti-British agitation. On the whole, therefore, in spite of much corruption and inefficiency, it is only fair to record that the Iraqis have risen well to the occasion. Everywhere public security is good and taxes are collected. There is naturally grumbling about the high cost of living, the shortage of textiles and other commodities, but it is not serious. Only in Kurdistan to-day is there a potentially dangerous tension.

10. While the position is therefore comparatively satisfactory, it would be most misleading to pretend that it will automatically remain so. The problem of government without experienced assistance is too difficult for these people in their present state of development. This is clear now. It will become even clearer when British troops, which have done so much to steady the situation during the last four years, are withdrawn after the war. Besides the inherent stresses which I have described in paragraph 9, there are too many personal hates and rivalries, too little mutual confidence and public spirit, and too much intrigue to ensure stability and continuity, without some external influence. The Regent, although he showed considerable personal courage in 1941, and although his affection for Britain is beyond question, is none the less no leader. He has many of the qualities and defects of his father. With his private friends (most of whom are British) he has an easy, natural manner, and he likes and is liked by the Iraqi army, whose exercises he constantly attends, and which he is determined shall not again, if he can help it, be used against him. But he finds his public duties a very heavy burden, largely because there is no Iraqi in whom he feels he can place implicit confidence. He therefore needs propping up all the time. There is no present alternative to him, and in any case another change in the head of the State would be most unfortunate. It must always be borne in mind that the Regent is far from being a mere figure-head. In fact, though not in theory, almost every appointment, every measure of administration, is subject to his personal wish. The chief politicians with whom, for some few years more, must rest the leadership of the Cabinet are individualists. When they get into office their chief preoccupation is to score off their opponents, and to undermine hostile combinations in the Senate. No Cabinet can endure long enough to produce continuity or stability. It is we who should provide the latter, and I fear that we must do it for some time to come; because the rising generation, while it has produced many ardent critics, has hitherto furnished no men of courage or action. So far as the educated class is concerned, it is a generation of Hamlets. The malcontents of the so-called *intelligentsia* have pretended in this country, as in others, to be attracted to Russian political ideas. There are probably less than a score of people in Iraq who have even the most superficial knowledge of the Russian political system, but "communism" has become a cloak for any critical opinion, whether honestly or dishonestly held. Some old Nazi wolves, wearing Communist clothing, have already established themselves in the "progressive" fold. This problem will increase and will, indeed, become one of the most difficult which we have to face. We have in the past, here as elsewhere, been accused of backing

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"the old gang." To some extent we have done so, but, as I have explained above, it has been a question of *force majeure*, for no new gang has so far emerged; and until it does, if the Government is to be maintained at all, it must be through those who have held sway hitherto. The real trouble lies not with us, but with the rulers themselves, who obstinately refuse to give up any of their privileges or prerogatives to others. There are now signs that they are becoming apprehensive for their future, and I and my staff continually do the best we can to stimulate their apprehension; for unless they do make some concessions, a violent clash between the "haves" and the "have-nots" is inevitable in time.

11. If Iraq were not important to us, it might pay us to get out, but it is, in fact, extremely important. In addition to its strategic position, its oil and its communications, we have a third reason. We cannot afford to neglect Iraq in view of the interest which Russia and the United States are now taking in the Middle East. We no longer hold the field alone. But how are we to maintain our position? What means can we use? The whole tendency of all Middle East countries is, as you are aware, to eliminate foreign influence as soon as possible. Already in Egypt there is clamour for a modification of the treaty. In Iraq extremists are beginning to raise the same cry, though without so far signifying any single particular in which they consider revision desirable. In such an atmosphere it is obvious that any idea of tightening control by force, or of keeping permanently larger forces than those defined in the Anglo-Iraqi Treaty, is completely out of date. Nevertheless, it is possible for us to maintain our place here, and indeed, to enhance it; because there is no doubt whatever that Iraq is fundamentally far more friendly to us than to any other Power, now or at any other time, and it is worth while to keep it so. In his speech of farewell to me last week the Minister for Foreign Affairs publicly declared that the policy of the Iraqi Government was to continue to employ "British scientists and experts in various branches and to train Iraqis in Great Britain to be scientists and experts." In the same speech his Excellency stated that Iraq's friendship with Britain is the cornerstone of her policy. This statement, which would have been branded as "treachery" four years ago, has been widely acclaimed, both in public and in private. This feeling rests on a sound basis; for more and more people in Iraq are coming to see that the treaty, which at the time when it was signed was by many regarded as a bond of servitude, is, in fact, a guarantee of freedom. They realise that by granting us concessions as regards oil and communications (from both of which Iraq materially benefits) they have engaged us to maintain their frontiers; and they acknowledge that in a war in which so many frontiers have been obliterated we have held these inviolate without ever, even after 1941, encroaching on Iraq's internal independence.

12. The desiderata I consider for the maintenance of our present relations are:—

(a) Sympathetic and understanding treatment of Iraq's problems by His Majesty's Government, especially of economic problems and those connected with the change over from war to peace in the next few years. Such treatment will make these people feel that, apart from other considerations, their close associations with us redound to their material benefit. I have been told that some departments in London are antagonistic to Iraq because they think Iraqis are grasping. They are, and so are all Orientals—and perhaps some Westerners too. As Bismarck said of the Balkans: "Liberated nations are not grateful—they are exacting." But it is of British interests that we should think, and we should realise that by downing Iraq we injure ourselves. We should not be weak, but we should be fair and just, and we should avoid like the plague adopting a "tough line" just to be tough. Above all, we should avoid any action which might injure the *amour-propre* of the country and its citizens. They are a small people, at the beginning of their independent existence, and it is natural that they should have an adolescent sensitiveness. Almost over night public opinion can change. An inconsiderate act or speech produces an exaggerated despondency, and a kind word an equally disproportionate buoyancy.

(b) The officials we send here should be of sound character and knowledge. An ambassador's influence must always be limited by the nature of his office. Our real influence should be inside the Government, through British officials. If we provide good men, there is no reason why Iraq should not ask for more, but there is nothing to gain in forcing officials on the Iraqi Government, and we must always remember that Iraqis are very critical of foreigners, whom they

pay so very much higher than their own Ministers, and are quick to spot a second-rater. I have long held that the provision of the most suitable men will be best assured by the creation of a Middle East personnel pool, embracing the Foreign Office, Colonial Office and India Office, from which trained and competent men could be seconded. I trust that some such plan may soon materialise.

(c) It is most important that we should maintain the personal contacts which we have created. We should therefore keep on the organisations of Political Advisorate and Public Relations for as long as possible. When the time comes to give them up, we must hope that there will be some administrative inspectors or land settlement officers in the districts. Failing this, we should consider the establishment of more consulates whose duties would be mainly politico-social. The British Institutes must be encouraged and the more British officials we can get into the Education Department, both in the towns and in the districts, the better. The Oriental Secretariat of this embassy will become more important as the other organisations change or disappear, and it must place high value on personal contacts.

13. A relationship between Iraq and Britain has developed which places us in a strong and enviable position. It will, I consider, be our own fault if we allow that position to deteriorate. We must be continually on our guard and on the alert, for naturally we have many enemies and critics, not all of them Iraqi. Finally, we must take into account in all our actions the new feeling of solidarity and unity which animates the whole Arab world. The Arabs themselves have publicly acknowledged that it is we who have sponsored it and that it is we who have made its realisation possible. It is all the more important, therefore, to consider the Arab world as one, and not as various units on the map, to be handled individually or in sections by different Government departments. Our policy towards the Middle East as a whole, it seems to me, requires greater co-ordination. It may, for example, seem a small thing in London to present the King of Egypt with an aircraft and to make the Regent of Iraq pay for his. But such an incident can have serious consequences as implying favouritism. And, as Lord Killearn has stated, we must be on our guard against the painful gibe that the only way to get anything out of the British is to kick them.

14. Any action which we take in regard to Syria or Palestine, for instance, will, as I have often emphasised, have a direct and immediate bearing on our position, influence and prospects in Iraq; and it is to the maintenance of British interests and British influence that our efforts should be primarily and consistently devoted. It is creditable to any man that he should feel moved to pity and sympathy by the sufferings of the Jews, or the Assyrians, or the Kurds or the Arabs; but you cannot govern by sentiment. Political lines of force do not change, and the laws of geography and history cannot be revoked. Our interests in this part of the world have been identical for more than 200 years. Originally those interests were selfish. They are no longer so, for, whether we will it or not, the lives and fortunes of all the inhabitants of the Middle East are as directly bound up with the maintenance of our position as were those of their ancestors with the existence of the Roman Empire. Were we to be driven from our paramount position here, the Middle East would dissolve in a chaos such as that which enveloped it when the Roman Empire decayed. In time, it may well be, other nations will be willing to share our responsibilities, as they are already eager to share our privileges. But that day has yet to come. Until it dawns, it is for us to maintain our own, and by so doing to preserve and enhance the tranquillity and prosperity of this ancient and historic land.

15. I cannot close this last despatch without recording how much I owe to my own staff. I have endeavoured to show that such success as has been achieved during the last four years has been due to the united efforts of a good many departments and people working in harmony to a definite end. In this concerted plan, the embassy staff had a vital and essential part to play, and I cannot speak too highly of the manner in which, one and all, they have acquitted themselves. I owe them a deep debt of gratitude.

16. I am sending a copy of this despatch to the Minister Resident, Middle East.

I have, &c.

KINAHAN CORNWALLIS.

C129176

JER/SR
2.7.45

*W.L.M.
2/2
2/2*

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRIME MINISTER

Visit of the Regent of Iraq

1. We have had a preliminary discussion with the private secretary to the Lieutenant Governor in Quebec, and it now looks as if it might be possible to advance the Quebec programme as heretofore arranged by two days, so as to enable the party to leave Dorval on Friday, July 6th.

2. Meanwhile, we are holding the party at Montreal tomorrow morning and expect to have confirmation of the Quebec arrangements and also of arrangements by the United Kingdom High Commissioner for having the plane available on Friday.

3. I shall let you know if there is any hitch in these arrangements.

4. In order to shorten up the programme and fit in arrangements with the Lieutenant Governor at Quebec, it may be necessary to borrow your Liberator. I shall let you know before doing so.

JVR

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I R A Q

The Regent of Iraq, H.R.H. Abdul Ilah, G.C.V.O. is the maternal uncle of the King of Iraq, Feisal II. who was born May 2, 1935 and acceded the throne April 4, 1939 following the death of his father, King Feisal I.

Until the end of the 1914-1918 war, the territory which is today Iraq was a part of the old Ottoman (Turkish) Empire. Liberation was carried out by British and Dominion troops, and a provisional government was set up in November 1920. An independent Kingdom was proclaimed on August 23, 1921, when Feisal I was crowned King. (Feisal, third son of ex-King Hussein of the Hejaz) had been a leader in the Arab revolt against Turkish suzerainty.

Great Britain recognized this kingdom by Treaty of October 10, 1922, at the same time assuming a mandate for Iraq on behalf of the League of Nations. This mandate came to an end following the conclusion of a treaty of alliance signed on June 30, 1930, and Iraq was admitted to membership in the League of Nations on October 3, 1932. (Iraq was the first of the "Class A" mandates to obtain recognition in this way as a sovereign nation).

Turkish sovereignty over Iraq had meanwhile been formally renounced under the Treaty of Lausanne (August 6, 1923).

A National Constituent Assembly was convened on March 27, 1924, to draft a constitution which came into force on March 21, 1925.

The Government is now described as a

constitutional hereditary monarchy

(Feisal I. was elected King)

Parliament = Senate, (appointed by the King)
not exceeding 1/5 of
elected chamber.

- elected chamber of 115 deputies
(manhood suffrage)

first Parliament opened by King Feisal July 16, 1925.

On April 4, 1941, Rashid Ali al-Gailani staged a coup d'etat and attempted to establish a pro-Nazi government. The Regent fled, but he returned with British help, at the end of May.

Iraq declared war on Germany, Italy and Japan, on January 17, 1943.

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Area - 186,000 sq.mi. (rather more than twice the combined area of N.S., N.B. and P.E.I.)

Population - 4,500,000 (1939 estimate)

Principal exports - oil, dates, barley, wool, live animals, hides and skins.

" imports - cotton piece-goods, tea, sugar, cereals, iron and steel, textiles.

Extensive developments in cereal cultivation and other field crops have been made possible through large-scale irrigation projects.

(e.g. KUT Barrage, completed 1939
cost £ 1,200,000)

Apart from oil, the principal revenues come from agricultural production, of which cotton and dates are important export items.

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Canadian trade with Iraq has increased phenomenally during the war years. In 1939 Iraq stood ninetieth in order of countries to which Canada exported; in 1942 Iraq had jumped to tenth place in this list, and as compared with 1939, exports had increased in 1942 by the astronomical figure of nearly 48,000%.

In 1943 total Canadian exports to Iraq were a fraction over \$22,000,000. (Total Canadian domestic exports \$2,363,773,000).

Apart from wheat and wheat flour all of the other exports in 1943 had a direct wartime use.

Memorandum for the Prime Minister

Visit of the Regent of Iraq

Invitation List

Dinner by the Prime Minister

Attached is submitted the invitation list, as approved by Mr. Ilsley, of the Prime Minister's dinner tomorrow evening for the Regent of Iraq.

The replies indicate approximately forty acceptances.

Toasts

Dr. Sinderson who, in addition to being physician, is a close friend and adviser of the Regent informs us, in reply to our enquiry, that the formal toast would be to the King of Iraq, and not to the Regent, whose health could, however, be proposed at the conclusion of the ^{informal} remarks of the Chairman.

Speech

Dr. Sinderson said that the Regent is most reluctant to speak in public and much hopes that a speech by the Regent would not be expected. However, Dr. Sinderson thought the Regent would say a few words of acknowledgment of the kind hospitality of the Canadian Government.

JFK

Dinner by the Prime Minister of Canada
Saturday, June 30th, at 8.00 p.m., at the Country Club
Dress: Dinner Jacket or Service Dress

Draft Invitation List (Approved by Mr. Ilsley)
r/m Read.

- A The Rt.Hon. W.L. Mackenzie King, P.C.,
Prime Minister of Canada
- A His Excellency The Rt.Hon. The Earl of Athlone, K.G., P.C., etc.
Governor General of Canada

Guests

- His Royal Highness Prince Abdul Ilah,
Regent of Iraq
- His Excellency Nuri Pasha As Said,
former Prime Minister
- A His Excellency Daoud Pasha Al Haidari,
former Iraq Minister in London
- Brigadier (Dr.) H.C. Sinderson Pasha,
Physician to the Regent
- Lieutenant-Colonel Ubaid Abdullah,
Aide-de-Camp

The Cabinet

- D The Hon. James H. King, M.D.,
Leader of the Government in the Senate
- D The Hon. Ian Mackenzie,
Minister of Veterans Affairs
- A The Hon. J.L. Ilsley,
Minister of Finance
- A The Hon. C.D. Howe, *30y3 Returning from Boston Fri.*
Minister of Munitions and Supply and
Minister of Reconstruction
- D The Hon. J.G. Gardiner,
Minister of Agriculture
- A The Hon. J.A. MacKinnon,
Minister of Trade and Commerce
- D The Hon. Colin Gibson,
Minister of National Defence for Air
- D The Hon. L.S. St-Laurent,
Minister of Justice
- A The Hon. Humphrey Mitchell,
Minister of Labour
- A The Hon. Alphonse Fournier,
Minister of Public Works
- A The Hon. Ernest Bertrand,
Minister of Fisheries
- D The Hon. Brooke Claxton,
Minister of National Health and Welfare
- A The Hon. A.G.L. McNaughton, C.B. *WA*
Minister of National Defence
- D The Hon. J.A. Glen,
Minister of Mines and Resources
- D The Hon. Joseph Jean,
Solicitor General of Canada
- D The Hon. Lionel Chevrier,
Minister of Transport
- D The Hon. Paul Martin,
Secretary of State of Canada
- D The Hon. Douglas Abbott,
Minister of National Defence for Naval Services
- D The Hon. J.J. McCann, M.D.,
Minister of National War Services
- D The Hon. D.L. MacLaren,
Minister of National Revenue

Heads of Mission

- D His Excellency The Hon. Ray Atherton,
Ambassador of the United States of America
- D His Excellency Dr. Liu Shih Shun,
Ambassador of China
- D His Excellency George N. Zaroubin,
Ambassador of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
- A His Excellency Count Jean de Hauteclocque,
Ambassador of France
- A His Excellency Şevki Alhan,
Minister of Turkey

High Commissioners

- ? The Rt.Hon. Malcolm MacDonald, P.C.,
High Commissioner for the United Kingdom
- A Hon. David Wilson,
High Commissioner for New Zealand
- A Hon. John J. Hearne,
High Commissioner for Ireland
- A Dr. Anstey Wynes,
Acting High Commissioner for Australia
- A Mr. Robert Jones,
Acting Accredited Representative for the
Union of South Africa

Others

- A The Rt.Hon. Lord Wakehurst, K.C.M.G.,
- A Mr. Peter Lubbock,
Private Secretary to Lord Wakehurst
- D The Hon. Mr. Justice T. Rinfret, *away*
Chief Justice of Canada
- has accepted* A Mr. John Bracken,
Sec. ~~Leader of the Opposition~~ *omit* *Leader of the Progressive-Conservative Party*
- D Mr. M.J. Coldwell, *away*
Leader of the Cooperative Commonwealth Federation
- A Mr. Willem van Tets,
Private Secretary to H.R.H. Princess Juliana
of the Netherlands
- D Air Marshal Robert Leckie, C.B.,
Chief of the Air Staff
- A Lt.-General J.C. Murchie, C.B.,
Chief of the General Staff
- A Commodore H.G. DeWolfe, D.S.O.,
Chief of the Naval Staff
- A Major-General The Hon. L.R. LaFleche, D.S.O.,
Canadian Ambassador to Greece
- D Major-General M.A. Pope,
away
Military Secretary to the War Committee

- A Mr. J.E. Read,
Acting Under-Secretary of State for
External Affairs
- D Mr. Laurent Beaudry,
Assistant Under-Secretary of State
for External Affairs
- A Mr. Howard Measures,
Protocol Officer, Department of
External Affairs
- A Mr. L. Malania,
Department of External Affairs
- A Mr. G. Sicotte, (accompanying the Regent)
Department of External Affairs
- A Inspector John C. Story (accompanying the Regent)
Royal Canadian Mounted Police
- A Mr. A.D.P. Heeney,
Clerk of the Privy Council
- A Mr. Percy Phillip,
President, Parliamentary Press Gallery
- D Mr. Lorenzo Pare, *away*
Secretary, Parliamentary Press Gallery
- A Mr. F.L.C. Pereira, O.B.E.,
Assistant Secretary to the Governor General
- A Major Geoffrey Eastwood, C.B.E.,
Comptroller of the Household,
Government House
- A Colonel H. Willis O'Connor, C.B.E., D.S.O.,
Principal Aide-de-Camp to the Governor General
- A Captain Neville Ussher,
Aide-de-Camp, Government House
- D Mr. J.W. Pickersgill,
Prime Minister's Office
- A Dr. J.A. Gibson,
Laurier House

40 approx.

C129183

Referred by the Acting Under-Secretary
to the Prime Minister at San
Francisco for information.

Mark

W.L.M. King Papers, Memoranda and Notes, 1933-1939
(M.G. 26, J 4, volume 182, pages C128861-C129464)

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MEMORANDUM

Prime Minister:

Visit of Regent of IRAQ

- 1) The visit to Canada is described as UNOFFICIAL (i.e. there are no salutes owing to the rank of a prince, or other formal attentions of this kind).
- 2) During his stay in Canada the Regent and his party are GUESTS of the Government of Canada. In Ottawa, they are guests of the Governor General at Government House.
- 3) The first suggestion of the visit came from the Foreign Office in London after it became known that the Regent had expressed a wish to visit Canada after his visit to the United States.
- 4) The original invitation to Washington lapsed on President Roosevelt's death; but an invitation was renewed by President Truman and then accepted. The proposal to visit Canada reached us through the Canadian Embassy in Washington.

J.A.G.

June 30/45

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VISIT OF THE REGENT OF IRAQ

His Royal Highness Prince Abdul Ilah,
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Brigadier (Dr.) H. C. Sinderson Pasha,
Physician to the Regent;

Lieutenant-Colonel Ubaid Abdullah, A.D.C.,;

Three non-commissioned officers (Iraqis).

June 29th:

Party arrives in Ottawa to stay at Government House
until July 2nd.

July 2nd:

Leave Ottawa by motor for Seigniory Club.

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His Royal Highness
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C 129187 JAG/Z

Government Dinner
H.R.H. Abdul Ilah, Regent of Iraq
June 30, 1945

Welcome to Prince Regent
and distinguished members of
his party.

First occasion since end of
hostilities in Europe for
welcoming to Capital of Canada
the head of one of the United
Nations.

A striking sidelight on human history -
at a moment when men's minds
are beginning to turn to the
tasks of rebuilding much of a
shattered world
(especially in Europe)

that we should be welcoming here in
a capital of the New World
representatives whose land goes
back to the veritable cradle of
western civilization.

Iraq of today is the "land between the
rivers" (Mesopotamia) of history.

While Europe was still peopled by
Barbarians, an advanced
civilization inhabited the fertile
valleys of the Euphrates and the
Tigris.

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More than 3000 years before the Birth of Christ, this Sumerian civilization had developed astronomy, geometry, engineering.

Many contrasts between that civilization and our way of life today.

All will realize how deeply western civilization has drawn upon the foundations of this ancient land

Will equally appreciate rapid advance in development of Iraq since it achieved independent nationhood.

Today (June 30) is 15th anniversary of signing of treaty regulating relations between Great Britain (as the former mandatory power) and Iraq (which entered League of Nations in 1932).

(Basis of treaty is alliance between two equal and independent states).

Here, at the seat of the Government of Canada, pleased to welcome leaders in the growth of democratic government in Iraq.

Hope they will take away pleasant impressions of their short visit to Canada.

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C 129189

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His Excellency
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Physician to Regent.
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A. D. C.

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W.H.M.
18.vi.45ConfidentialVISIT OF THE REGENT OF IRAQ

PERSONNEL

His Royal Highness Prince Abdul Ilah,
Regent of Iraq;
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Lieutenant-Colonel Ubaid Abdullah, A.D.C.;
Three non-commissioned officers (Iraqis).

TENTATIVE PROGRAMME

- June 27, 8.00 p.m. - Leave Chicago in U.S. pullman cars by C.N.R. Train No. 14.
- June 28, 4.20 a.m. - Arrive Sarnia; Canadian Government assumes transport, financial and other responsibility at this point.
- 8.45 a.m. - Arrive Toronto
Stay at Royal York Hotel.
- Programme for Toronto visit to be arranged in consultation with the Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario, Hon. Albert Matthews.
- June 29, 4.00 p.m. - Leave Toronto in Canadian Government railway car.
10.15 p.m. - Arrive Ottawa.
- June 30,
July 1) - Visit the Governor General, His Excellency the Rt. Hon. the Earl of Athlone.
- July 2, 9.30 a.m. - Leave Ottawa by automobile for Seignior Club, Montebello, Que. as guest of Sir James Dunn. (Journey Ottawa to Seignior Club to Montreal by National Defence motor transport.)
- July 3 - Seignior Club:
- July 4, 10.00 a.m. - Leave Seignior Club by motor for Montreal.
Stay at Windsor Hotel.
- July 5 - Montreal:
- July 6, 9.15 a.m. - Leave Montreal (Windsor Station) in Canadian Government railway car.
1.35 p.m. - Arrive Quebec.
Stay at Spencerwood as guest of the Lieutenant-Governor of Quebec, Maj.-Gen., the Hon. Sir Eugene Fiset.
- July 7 - Quebec:
5.50 p.m. - Leave Quebec in Canadian Government railway car.
10.15 p.m. - Arrive Montreal, Windsor Station.
Stay at Windsor Hotel, pending departure by air for the United Kingdom.

VISIT OF THE REGENT OF IRAQ

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June 30/45

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I R A Q

The Regent of Iraq, H.R.H. Abdul Ilah, G.C.V.O. is the maternal uncle of the King of Iraq, Feisal II. who was born May 2, 1935 and acceded the throne April 4, 1939 following the death of his father, King Feisal I.

Until the end of the 1914-1918 war, the territory which is today Iraq was a part of the old Ottoman (Turkish) Empire. Liberation was carried out by British and Dominion troops, and a provisional government was set up in November 1920. An independent Kingdom was proclaimed on August 23, 1921, when Feisal I was crowned King. (Feisal, third son of ex-King Hussein of the Hejaz) had been a leader in the Arab revolt against Turkish suzerainty.

Great Britain recognized this kingdom by Treaty of October 10, 1922, at the same time assuming a mandate for Iraq on behalf of the League of Nations. This mandate came to an end following the conclusion of a treaty of alliance signed on June 30, 1930, and Iraq was admitted to membership in the League of Nations on October 3, 1932. (Iraq was the first of the "Class A" mandates to obtain recognition in this way as a sovereign nation).

Turkish sovereignty over Iraq had meanwhile been formally renounced under the Treaty of Lausanne (August 6, 1923).

A National Constituent Assembly was convened on March 27, 1924, to draft a constitution which came into force on March 21, 1925.

The Government is now described as a

constitutional hereditary monarchy

(Feisal I. was elected King)

Parliament = Senate, (appointed by the King)
not exceeding 1/5 of
elected chamber.

- elected chamber of 115 deputies
(manhood suffrage)

first Parliament opened by King Feisal July 16, 1925.

On April 4, 1941, Rashid Ali al-Gailani staged a coup d'etat and attempted to establish a pro-Nazi government. The Regent fled, but he returned with British help, at the end of May.

Iraq declared war on Germany, Italy and Japan, on January 17, 1943.

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Area - 116,000 sq.mi. (rather more than twice the combined area of N.S., N.B. and P.E.I.)

Population - 4,500,000 (1939 estimate)

Principal exports - oil, dates, barley, wool, live animals, hides and skins.

" imports - cotton piece-goods, tea, sugar, cereals, iron and steel, textiles.

Extensive developments in cereal cultivation and other field crops have been made possible through large-scale irrigation projects.

(e.g. KUT Barrage, completed 1939
cost £ 1,200,000)

Apart from oil, the principal revenues come from agricultural production, of which cotton and dates are important export items.

- - - - -

Canadian trade with Iraq has increased phenomenally during the war years. In 1939 Iraq stood ninetieth in order of countries to which Canada exported; in 1942 Iraq had jumped to tenth place in this list, and as compared with 1939, exports had increased in 1942 by the astronomical figure of nearly 48,000%.

In 1943 total Canadian exports to Iraq were a fraction over \$22,000,000. (Total Canadian domestic exports \$2,363,773,000).

Apart from wheat and wheat flour all of the other exports in 1943 had a direct wartime use.

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRIME MINISTERThe Regent of Iraq

His Royal Highness Emir Abdul Ilah, Regent of Iraq, is a distinguished Moslem leader, whose chief distinction is his reputation for integrity, industry and devotion to duty. All these are important qualities in a region which has been a special target of Axis propaganda and where political life has been full of intrigue and turbulence.

Abdul Ilah became Regent in May 1939 upon the death of Ghazi I, and his appointment was confirmed the same year by the Parliament of Iraq. He proceeded to purge the entourage of the former King which was riddled with corruption. His policy has been so definitely pro-British that his enemies have called him a British agent. They have referred to the fact that he graduated about 31 years ago from Victoria College in Alexandria and later studied military engineering in Great Britain.

The Regent, is of course, a constitutional ruler and consequently has not played a very active role in politics. His influence, however, has been directed towards ensuring reasonably settled political conditions in Iraq. This, together with his pro-Allied leanings has made possible Iraq's important contribution to the war effort in the form of foodstuffs, oil, transport to Iran, and the quartering of United Kingdom and United States troops in that country. Even more important Iraq has provided the Allies with an area in the Middle East where they could depend upon a friendly people and Government.

On April 4th, 1941, Rashid Ali-al-Gailani established a pro-Axis government by a coup d'etat. The Regent had to flee to Transjordan but returned during the same year with British help. Iraq was the first Arab State to declare war on the three major Axis powers on January 7th, 1943.