

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.	Georgie Daniel representing 54 families Kaaran
Iskharia Goerges representing 30 families of Barwari Bala	Tooma Tusif representing 17 families
Darwish Daoud representing 20 families	Sada Shmoel representing 60 families
Yaqoo Shino representing 20 families	Khoshaba Shmoon representing 22 families
Shlimun Shlimun representing 25 families	Yusif Enwia representing 87 families
Yokhanan Odish representing 20 families	Khoshaba Yokhannan representing 52 families
Kadmo Odish representing 20 families	Khamro Anto representing 16 families
Tawar Israel representing 15 families	Nissan Polis representing 14 families
Shlimun Yaqu representing 40 families	Mooshi Enwia representing 30 families
Karbina Kanji representing 30 families	Ashut Barcham Warda representing 16 families
Chawshino Adam representing 100 families Tiari Sher Lizan	Sliwo Mirza representing 12 families
Rais Khiyo representing 300 families Ashut	Khoshaba Warda representing 32 families
Mirza Gilyana representing 35 families of Barwara Bala	Mushi Haido representing 17 families
Jaji Eshu representing 20 families	Hommi Moshi representing 36 families
Saia Hanna representing 20 families	Goriel Zomala representing 8 families
Esha Oraham representing 15 families	Lazar Goro representing 7 families
Slaiman Georgis representing 14 families	Toma Marogil representing 12 families
Khamis Shammoo representing 10 families	Kako Narsi representing 30 families
Keine Oraham representing 25 families	Yaqu Yusif representing 40 families of Nerwa
Zaia Aziz representing 15 families	Rais Shmoel representing 16 families Nerwa
Lazar Kakko representing 10 families	Rais Yokhanna Dargeni representing 40 families Nahla
Zaia Koma representing 10 families	Sultan Eshu Gawani representing 12 families
Yekhanna Yusif representing 30 families	Rais Khoshaba Rowil representing 40 families
Ziyari Jajjo Dinkha representing 15 families	Deri Malik Maxud Lawand representing 200 families
Beni	Gippa
Daoud Shiba representing 15 families	Rais Benyamin Cholo representing 70 families Beni
Daoud Shiba representing 17 families	Gippa
Yukhannis Mannoo representing 8 families	Zaia Malik Nimrud of Jilo representing 400 families.
Kannoo Bakkoo representing 10 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).]

