

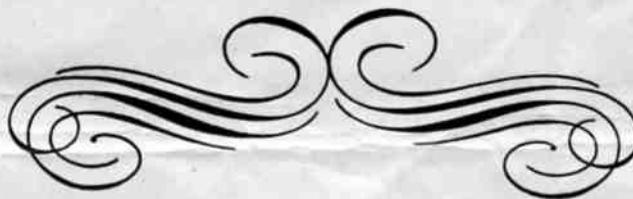
The Patriarchal Council, Inc.

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June 17, 1949



ASSYRIANS REPUDIATE TRAITORS

*The Patriarchal Council Answers Leaflet
Attacking Authority of the Patriarch.*

A leaflet entitled "Assyrians Repudiate Feudal Authority of Mar Eshai Shimun" attacking the Patriarch of the East, has been widely circulated among leading figures of Church, Press, and Diplomatic groups in this and other countries.



PATRIARCH OF THE EAST
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Assyrians Repudiate Traitors

The Patriarchal Council Answers Leaflet
Attacking Authority of the Patriarch.

A leaflet entitled "Assyrians Repudiate Feudal Authority of Mar Eshai Shimun" attacking the Patriarch of the East, has been widely circulated among leading figures of Church, Press and Diplomatic groups in this and other countries.

The author of the said leaflet is Yusuf Malek, whose record of subversive activities is well known throughout the Middle East. Malek is an alias. His real name is Yusuf Jajo; his address P.B. 857, Beirut, Lebanon.

He has attempted continuously to block American friendship with the governments of the Middle East, and has identified himself with the Russian-sponsored movement for Kurdish independence, which jeopardizes the future security of Turkey, Iran, Iraq, and Syria. This movement, if successful, would place the oil deposits of the Middle East in the hands of Moscow. This is a matter of documentary evidence.

He engineered an emigration of Assyrians from Khabour, Syria to Brazil, a scheme which both the Brazilian government and Syria repudiated. A power mill built by the League of Nations on the Khabour mysteriously changed ownership.

The tactics used by Malek to support his scheme can be seen from a letter dated May 25, 1949 to Mr. Zozo Okara, an Assyrian of Syria, who protested strongly against Malek's attacks against the Patriarch: (See Footnote No. 1)

Malek writes--"As you had rendered several services to me in the past, may I advise you to abstain from dabbling in matters likely to wreck your present happiness, and think of your past misery before committing yourself and let the "Messengers of God roam in their darkness."

This is indicative of the man and terroristic methods he employs to achieve his ends. His attacks on the Patriarch and the Patriarchal Council have redoubled since the Patriarch applied for American citizenship. Friendly relations established by His Holiness, acting for the Assyrians with the governments of the Middle East, with the full-knowledge and approval of the State Department of the United States, have materially interfered with Malek's political ambitions. It is this that inspires the present attack.

Malek Attacks Head of the Syrian Government

(See Footnote No. 2)

Malek in his quotation from the paper "Ittihad Al-Lubnani" of February 6, 1949, attacked also the head of the present government of Syria, His Excellency, Husni El-Zaim, who is well known for his policy of friendship with the western powers. Here he calls the Patriarch "Zaim" of the Assyrian Community. The double attack would indicate Malek's policy is to engineer a revolution throughout the Middle East.

Assyrian Leaders Deny Malek's Probity

As regards the value of the document under discussion, the means by which these signatures were obtained, and the numerous false allegations made by the author and his three associates in the gamble, namely, Loco Shlimon Bedawi, Leon Dinkha and Daniel Malik Ismail, the following statements from Assyrian leaders in Syria and Lebanon speak for themselves:

Footnote No. 1

This remark indicates Malek's adherence to the Marxist doctrine that 'Religion is the opium of the people.'

Khabour, Syria
May 4, 1949

His Holiness Mar Shimun,
Catholicos Patriarch
of the East.

Your Holiness:

We the undersigned leaders and the clergy of the Assyrians on the Khabour, the sheep of your flock and the children of your Milet (nation), have heard of the action taken by certain individuals denying the authority of your Fatherhood and all the good that you have done for us your people. God forbid that we have any part in this ingratitude and blasphemy!

Some individuals in their simplicity had placed their signatures to a certain document purported to relate to the immigration to Brazil, and which the signatories were told was being done with the knowledge and authority of Your Holiness. But now that we have learned that this was not true and that, moreover, these men are working against you, we all say with one voice and accord that we are with you, whether it be to life or to death.

Thou art our Patriarch and our Leader, same now as it has been always. We, therefore, reiterate that all that has been written or published in the press to the contrary is false and unfounded.

Yusuf Malek, is the author of these statement & articles, and he has used the names of the signatories referred to, which he and his associates acquired under false pretenses, without their knowledge.

The purpose of Mr. Malek, who is not an Assyrian, is very clear: he is a hired agent and, as his history shows, his actions are always motivated by personal interest. We, therefore, ask everyone who may have received, or may come into contact with the statements and articles that may have emanated or may emanate from this source as false and devoid of all foundation.

As regards our condition, the only complaint we have to make affects our economic situation on the Khabour, and which is due to the periodical droughts and locusts which render it very difficult for us. But we are very grateful to our gracious Syrian government which has done everything possible to help us in this very difficult situation. Moreover, since the establishment of the Syrian republic, we have enjoyed a measure of freedom and security unknown in the past.

In conclusion, we beg to ask Your Fatherhood to forgive your children any mistakes that they may have committed, and to stretch forth your hand from afar and to bless your people, and we know that we shall be blessed.

Footnote: to the foregoing:

In a letter dated May 25, 1949 from Yacob Malik Ismail, Chief of Upper Tiari, giving an example as to how Mr. Malek and his accomplices obtained under false pretenses the names of the Assyrians appearing on the leaflet under discussion, says: "I questioned twelve persons of my own tribe whose names appear on the leaflet, and they stated 'we know nothing concerning the letter that has been written against His Holiness.' Yacob says that this is true of the Assyrians on the Khabour in general. He further states that many of the names represented as 'chiefs' are those of ordinary men; two of these were the names of his own servants. The names marked with a cross were among those that appeared on said leaflet and who now repudiate it. Aprim Mando (Rayis), whose name appeared in the leaflet, has also written repudiating it."

MALIKS

Yacob M. Ismail,
Upper Tiari
x Talya Yosip,
Gawar
Sil-im Shamasha,
Barwar
x Shikho Spindiar,
Diz
David Eshai,
Thkhuma Gawaga
Yonadam Malik Mirkhail
Tkuma
Brikha Malik Khnano,
Tkuma
x Talyp Yosip,
Gawar

PRIESTS & DEACONS

Yokhanan Ishoo (Rev)
x Yosip, Gilyana (Rev)
Yokhanan Oraya (Rev)
Gundikta (Rev)
Ilyas Mama (Rev)
Toma Ruil (Rev)
Basliel Aprim (Rev)
Warda (Rev) Tiari
Yokhanan Khoshaba (Rev)
Masikh, Walto (Rev)
Eliya, Thkhuma (Rev)
x Yonan Adam (Rev)
Ismail Oshana (Deacon)
Khoshaba, Tiari (Deacon)
Dinkha Yalda (Deacon)
Zaya, Nahra (Deacon)

Shiba Dbeth Samano (Deacon)
Mansor Darmo (Deacon)
Mano Hawil (Deacon)
Oshana Yosip (Deacon)
Adam Patros (Deacon)
Yonan Sulaqa (Deacon)
Shamasha Dinkha Malik
Ismail (Deacon)

RAYISIS & LEADERS

Baruta, Gundikta,
Tkuma (Rayis)
Khoshaba, Neesan,
Rumta
Yacob Nano

Continued on page 8

Brikha Malik Khnano, one of the leaders of the Tkhuma tribe, in a letter addressed to His Holiness, the Patriarch, dated April 19, 1949, states: "With a great longing I approach from afar to inform you with sorrow of the actions of these swindlers and robbers who misled and cheated many a sheep of your Holiness' flock, robbing them of the last penny which they had earned with the sweat of their brow (on the pretext of emigrating them to Brazil).

But despite all this, thanks be to God, the people have now awakened up to their deceitful acts and now these men are silent and hiding in their houses. They moreover obtained by fraudulent means the signatures of some of our priests and laymen on a document in French which they could not read, and which they were told represented something quite different.

"We pray that God may grant you long life and raise you as a crown upon our heads and stand in the midst of us and lead your scattered people."

Mr. Yonadam Malik Mirkhail, another of the leaders of the Tkhuma tribe in a letter dated April 25, 1949, confirms the above statement by Brikha Malik Khnano and adds: "We give our word of honor, that there is no intention of disloyalty to your Fatherhood in the minds of the nation in general. They all know of your ceaseless efforts and sacrifices in order to achieve security and happiness for our people, so that we may live according to the principles of our Holy Faith, loyal and faithful to the various governments under whose authority it is God's will that we must live."

Mr. Mirkhail further states: "The Assyrians of the Khabour have all now realized the deceitful acts of these men (namely, Mr. Malek, Mr. Loco S. Bedawi, Mr. Daniel M. Ismail and Mr. Leon Dinkha) who although now hiding themselves from the people yet are endeavoring through their agents to get more money out of the Assyrians."

Rayis Odishoo Narsay, chief of Darawa, Upper Tiari, in a letter dated May 20, 1949, to His Holiness the Patriarch, says:

"After asking for your blessing, I have the honor to notify your Holiness that we Assyrians of the Tribe of Upper Tiari, are all your faithful children and followers of your least servant, Yacob Malik Ismail. We wish further to inform your Holiness, that none of us knows anything concerning a document which we now learn has been circulated against your Holiness. Some ignorant persons had in the past put their names to a document relating to the Brazilian scheme, but none has signed any statement against your Holiness."

People Loyal to the Patriarch

In a joint letter dated May 25, 1949, from Rayis Shalla Mamishoo and Deacon Mansor Darso, representing the people of Marbishop and Iyil, of Tel-Shamran, Khabour, addressed to His Holiness, they state: "After asking for your prayers and your blessings we wish to inform your Holiness, with regard to a document purported to be from Assyrians on the Khabour, Syria, dated December 10, 1948, and in which it has been stated that the Assyrian people on the Khabour do not wish Mar Shimun to speak or act in their behalf in any shape or manner.

"This is indeed very strange and very far from the desire of the nation. The persons responsible for this treacherous action have not consulted the Assyrians on the Khabour. We know this from the history of centuries past, and during the past years of our life time, this nation has been in the hands of your Holiness. We have not changed our mind, nor do we desire to have another Patriarch or representative beside your Holiness.

"We therefore beg you, that in case you have received or may receive such a document in our name, do not believe it, and ignore it completely. Those responsible for these actions are merely bent on creating strife and discord among the people, in order to achieve their own selfish ends. They are for dividing son against father and brother against brother. These men have been the cause of bringing endless suffering to our nation.

Footnote No. 2

Mr. Malek in a letter dated June 25, 1947 addressed to J. J. Durna, President of the Assyrian National Federation of America, referring to an article published in the above paper says:

"The article was drafted by me and Munir was requested to sign it. The articles by Tefeq, were accepted on payment of a sum above the normal fees, I am told by the newspaper concerned.' The question is where does Malek get his money from for the stream of propaganda he has now for over a year been conducting against the Patriarch of the East?

The other paper, namely, 'Al-Mukhtar', which the author of the leaflet quotes extensively, is a paper of no importance whatsoever, published in Baghdad, Iraq, by Petros Nazim, a relative of Mr. Malek. Both Mr. Malek and Nazim are Chaldeans, and the former has in the past attacked viciously the authorities of his own church and the Royal family of Iraq. See Book-'British Betrayal of the Assyrians.'

"We honour, respect and are grateful to our beloved Syrian government, under which we have enjoyed a measure of freedom and security un-known under the French mandate. Our only problem is economical and in that also the government has done all it could to help us."

Document Kept Secret

Dr. Shimun Malke, of Beirut, Lebanon, in a letter dated May 3, 1949, referring to the above leaflet says: "About ten days ago, some Assyrians came to Beirut from Khabour, and they said to the Assyrians in Beirut, many of those signatures appearing on the leaflet are falsified. Some, who may have signed it had no knowledge for what purpose those signatures were put on the paper."

Dr. Malke adds, that M. Malek has kept the above document secret from the Assyrians in Beirut, because since their declaration of loyalty to the Patriarch, Malek does not trust these Assyrians.

(See Light From The East, February-March 1949; a similar statement of loyalty to His Holiness, from Assyrians on the Khabour, has been published in Aramaic section of Light From The East, April-May 1949.)

The above statements are also confirmed by other Assyrian leaders and clergy from the Khabour, such as Yacob Malik Ismail, Chief of Upper Tiari, Malik David of Tkhuma tribe, Rev. Kashisha Yohanan Eshoo, Rev. Elias of Baz, and others.

But the most significant of these letters is an open letter sent to this country addressed to an associate of Mr. Malek in Chicago, written by an ordinary Assyrian by the name of Andrios David Baram, from the village of Tel-Nagha, who described himself as a "mere tiller of the land."

He describes in eloquent terms the loyalty of the Assyrians on the Khabour to their Patriarch, and how they will never forget the sacrifice which His Holiness had made in the behalf of his nation, nor will they be ever separated from him by these traitors and deceivers of the poor and hungry. He blames all the suffering of the Assyrians on men such as these "Judases." He challenges them with the statement-- "You will separate us from our Patriarch when you separate us from our God." He condemns the subversive activities of these men as intended to create bloodshed among the Assyrians.

Speaking about the Brazil hoax, he says: "Let us now come to the subject of Brazil, and which I am relating in all truth. When this movement began (some two years ago) Leon Dinkha (his name appears on page 2 of the leaflet under discussion, letter addressed to "Whom It May Concern.") This "misleader", he says: "For the first time approached us on the subject of immigration to Brazil. We answered him, yes, but on the condition that everything is done with the knowledge and under the direction of Mar Shimun. The misleader answered, certainly, nothing will be done without the knowledge of the Patriarch. We, therefore, all gave our consent...but, now we have found out that these men were not only acting without the knowledge of the Patriarch, but they have also turned against him because he revealed their deceitful actions and shameless lies."

In Foreign Language

Speaking about the signatures appearing on the said leaflet, he says: "Many such signatures have been obtained, during this period, by false pretenses. The document to which these signatures have been attached were in a foreign language, which the signatories could not read. They were told that this was being done with the knowledge of the Patriarch, and now they find these are against the Patriarch. The people having realized this are disturbed in the extreme. How is it that we shall deny our Patriarch?"

Mr. Baram concludes by saying: "If I, a simple man feel thus, what do you think will be the attitude of the priests of the Church or the leaders of the people whose names appear on these documents?"

The Author attributes this to the evil genius of Mr. Yusuf Malek, whose subversive activities are becoming well known to the Assyrians, and to the governments of the Middle East.

Authors Contradict Themselves

(See Footnote No. 3)

As regards the vicious criticism made in this document regarding the appeal made by His Holiness, Mar Eshai Shimun XXIII, Patriarch of the East, the Assyrians CXIX, "To All the Christian People of America," dated April 16, 1948, which was published in the Chicago Tribune and other American papers, it suffices to quote a few of the many letters received on the subject from the various Assyrians on the Khabour, including two of the three associates of Mr. Malek, whose names appear in the leaflet under discussion, in the letter addressed "Whom It May Concern." These three men live on the Khabour.

Footnote No. 3

It should be noted that the document in the leaflet alleged to be from the Assyrian chiefs and clergy on the Khabour, is dated December 10, 1948, at the time when Mr. Malek and his associates were acquiring signatures from Assyrians for the Brazilian scheme. This means some four months before the Patriarch issued his appeal in behalf of the Assyrians of Syria and Iran, and some three months before he exposed the Brazilian hoax. Hence, there was no reason for the alleged signatures to attack His Holiness.

