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FRONTIER BETWEEN TURKEY AND IRAQ.

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REPORT BY COLONEL JAC AND M.MARKUS.

Note by the Secretary-General.

The following report from Colonel Jac and M. Markus, dated April 12th, is circulated for the information of the Council.

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Report by Colonel Jac and M.Markus.

Translation.

Geneva, April 12th 1926.

When General Laidoner left Mosul on November 23rd, 1925, two members of the Mission- Colonel Jac and M. Markus- remained behind, in accordance with telegraphic instructions received from the Secretary-General, to carry on the mission until the question of the frontier was finally decided by the Council which was to meet in the first fortnight of December. The task of the small Mission remaining in Mosul did not differ from that of the Laidoner Mission, its chief duty being to watch the situation in the disputed territory, the main part of the work namely, the enquiry concerning the situation of the Christians in Goyan and the fixing on the spot of certain disputed points in the frontier district, having already being done by General Laidoner.

During this period the Mission has been able to ascertain, by visiting various localities and by talking with the representatives of the Iraq and British Governments, and with the local population, that peace and order have not been disturbed either on the provisional frontier or in the interior of the territory.

The Council having in December adopted the Brussels line as the final frontier, the Mission, in accordance with the Secretary-General's instructions, remained on the spot until the decision became final, in accordance with the conditions referred to in the Council's resolution.

In the opinion of the Mission, its duties assumed a different character at the end of this first period, its stay at Mosul being prolonged in order that it might observe (1) the manner in which the Council's decision was accepted by the population; (2) the situation on the frontier which had now become the final frontier; and (3) the situation of the Christian refugees in the Goyan district.

The Mission did not consider itself authorised to touch upon the domestic questions referred to in the December decision, being of opinion that these were matters of internal policy.

This second period has been characterised by absolute tranquillity within and without the territory, and by the absence of any incidents which could be regarded as serious.

In particular, the Mission has the honour to report as follows:

1. The decision reached by the Council in December has been accepted with enthusiasm by the educated element of the population and with feelings of satisfaction by the masses. The people are glad to have obtained, after a somewhat protracted period of uncertainty, a solid foundation for the economic restoration of their country. These feelings have found expression not only in the manifestations and ovations with which the Mission was everywhere received by the authorities and the population, but also in a more tangible form; after the decision, the population of the Iiwa of

Mosul paid 99% not merely of the taxation of the last fiscal period but also all taxes in arrears for the last two years, and this without any special action being taken by the authorities.

The Mission would point out in particular that, although it has enjoyed complete freedom and has had every opportunity of coming into direct contact with the population, no single manifestation of discontent with the decision has ever come to its notice.

2. Peace and order in the frontier district has not been disturbed to any serious extent during the whole of this period. The Mission was, it is true, informed that Turkish patrols had visited the villages of Sul and Nuzâur to the south of the frontier on January 14th and January 22nd and again on February 21st and February 25th, that they had spent the night there and had commandeered supplies from the inhabitants. The Mission did not consider these incidents to be of particular importance from the point of view of general peace, because (a) in its opinion the incidents were not organised by the higher Turkish authorities, but rather by local subordinate commandants or even by soldiers individually responsible; (b) in all the cases reported, the number of soldiers was insignificant (3 soldiers); (c) the Iraq Supreme Command can at any time prevent the repetition of these incidents by sending outposts to occupy effectively all the villages in the frontier district which, according to the Council's decision, are without doubt, situated in Iraq territory.

Among the more important events which occurred in the frontier zone during this period, we should mention the emigration from Turkey into Iraq of Naif Bey, Chief of the Kurdish tribe of Miran, with most of his tribe (according to his own estimate about 50,000 men). As the Mission has not been able to ascertain the causes of this exodus, it can only report the fact.

3. The Christians of Gbyan, who were concentrated by the Turkish authorities in the district of Elki last year, continue to cross the frontier in small groups or singly; in most cases they are persons who have maintained relations with the refugees that came into Iraq last year and are now in the concentration camps of Zakho and Bersivi.

The general impression of the Mission leaving the territory is that peace and order reign along the frontier and in the interior of the country under a well-devised administration whose work has been crowned with remarkable success.

In conclusion, the Mission feels bound to make special mention of the extreme cordiality and spirit of co-operation displayed by the Iraq and British authorities. In particular, the Mission tender its thanks to His Excellency, Mr. Bernard Henry Bourdillon, E.M.G., Acting High Commissioner, Mr. Jardine, Administrative Inspector at Mosul and his Excellency Abdul Aziz el Qassib, Mutessarif of Mosul.

(Signed) Lieutenant Colonel Ruđ JAC,  
(Czechoslovakia).

(Signed) N. MAREUS.  
(Esthonia).