

Communicated to
the Council.

C.429(1).1934.VII.
Geneva, September 27th, 1934.

SETTLEMENT OF THE ASSYRIANS OF IRAQ. *

Report of the Representative of Spain.

The report of our Committee on the Settlement of the Assyrians of Iraq (C.427.1934.VII) is evidence that the appeal which the Council made to Governments on June 7th, 1934, was not made in vain.

In letters dated September 22nd and 24th, 1934 (C.427.1934.VII), the Governments of the United Kingdom and France have made proposals, which are now being considered by the Committee, for the possible settlement of the Assyrians of Iraq in British Guiana and the bend of the Niger in West Africa. It is also possible that other proposals may be made by the six Governments that have not yet replied.

I am sure you will agree that the Council should tender its heartiest thanks to the Governments of the United Kingdom and France for the valuable co-operation they are offering the Committee.

You will doubtless have noticed the special importance attached by your Committee to preliminary enquiries being made on the spot by persons whose ability and integrity afford every guarantee of the successful settlement of the Assyrians under the League's auspices. The Governments of the United Kingdom and France themselves requested in their letters that these missions of enquiry should be despatched. You will, I feel sure, vote the necessary funds and leave the Committee entirely free to make its choice among the candidates and to come to any other arrangements that may be desirable.

You will certainly wish to express your satisfaction and to congratulate the Governments of France and Iraq on the happy issue of the direct negotiations that have led to the settlement of some 2,000 Assyrians in Syria pending the final decision on the problem as a whole.

I beg to move the following resolution:

The COUNCIL

Approves the Committee's report and the present report;

Thanks the Governments of the United Kingdom and France for the proposals they have made to the Committee for the possible settlement, in the Rupununi area in British Guiana and in the bend of the Niger in West Africa, of such of the Assyrians of Iraq as may express the desire to leave that country.

And authorises the Secretary-General to draw, in accordance with Article 33(2) of the Financial Regulations, a sum not exceeding 50,000 Swiss francs from the item "Working Capital Fund", to meet the cost of preliminary enquiries with a view to the settlement of such Assyrians as may wish to leave Iraq. These expenses will be repaid to the League out of the funds that will be made available for financing the scheme as a whole.

* Note. This text replaces that of C.429 which has already been distributed and which should now be destroyed.