

sure on this group is maintained so will the pressure on the Australians and Canadians also be maintained to accept them as immigrants. I fear therefore that given the continuation of the present political situation in Iraq we must consider that we are at the beginning rather than at the end of our problem."

6. From this Department's viewpoint the Iraqis we have seen and/or admitted to Australia to date appear to be good types of migrants. Broadly we would like the opportunity to consider further applicants in Iraq for unassisted migration to Australia provided suitable arrangements could be made for them to be interviewed and medically examined by Australian officers making periodical visits to Iraq for the purpose.

7. As to the political aspects of the matter it is our understanding that there is no Palestinian refugee problem, as such, in Iraq. We understand that there are only two or three thousand former Palestinians in the country and as no United Nations aid is extended to them, they have apparently been satisfactorily re-settled. Although there appears to be a close relationship between the Governments of Iraq and the United Arab Republic, the fact that the latter has permitted the establishment of an Australian Migration Section within the Australian Embassy at Cairo may influence the Iraqis to agree to periodical visits by Australian selection teams. They appear not to have raised any objection to such visits by Canadian Immigration Officers. To date we have not heard of any case where a person has been unable to leave Iraq after being approved for migration to Australia. The British Embassy, Baghdad, in a letter dated 30th October, 1965, commented -

"I believe the Iraqi Government policy on emigration is to permit all Christian minorities to leave the country without let or hindrance. There is, of course, a general ban on Iraqi Jews leaving the country, and I cannot recall having seen any applications from Muslims".

8. We obviously cannot continue to accumulate unprocessed applications indefinitely, can take appropriate action regarding them only by sending an Australian selection team into Iraq, but appreciate that we can do this and carry out migrant applicant examinations in Iraq only with the knowledge and consent of the Iraqi authorities.

9. With the object of clarifying the situation in relation to potential unassisted migration to Australia from Iraq therefore, it is considered desirable that an approach, similar to the one earlier suggested to the Iranian authorities, be made through the British Foreign Office to the Iraqi Government.

10. Specifically, we have it in mind that the Iraqi Government be asked -

(a) whether there would be any objection to the migration to Australia of those of its nationals who apply to resettle in Australia and who, on examination in Iraq, are found able to meet our migration requirements; and

(b) whether there would be any objection to an Australian selection team from Beirut making periodical visits to Iraq for the purpose of examining such migrant applicants, and, in association with the British Consular authorities, issuing the necessary visas.

11. Subject to your seeing no objection to the proposed approach it would be appreciated if you would please submit the matter to the British Foreign Office with a view to the necessary action in the matter being taken by the British Embassy at Baghdad.

R. J. Haydon
P. R. Haydon.
SECRETARY.