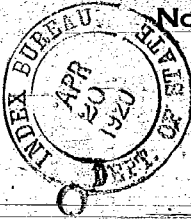
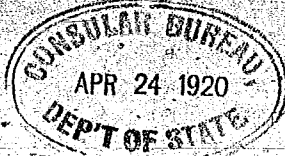


**CONFIDENTIAL.**



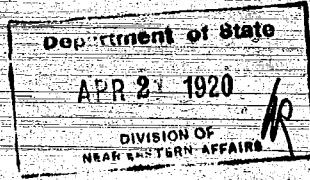
No. 266.

**AMERICAN CONSULATE,**

Bagdad, Mesopotamia, March 10th, 1920.

SUBJECT: Assyrians at Baqubah Refugee Camp.

*A2* MAY 7 1920  
FILE - C. E. S.



THE HONORABLE  
THE SECRETARY OF STATE,  
WASHINGTON.

INDEX BUREAU  
67.10/2

SIR:

I have the honor to enclose herewith copies of telegrams from the Civil Commissioner to the Indian Government at Delhi and to the India Office, London, regarding the journey of Surma Khanum, the sister of the Nestorian Patriarch, Mar Shimun, to England, and the recommendation on the part of the Civil Commissioner that "she be sent to the United States of America under British auspices to clear up certain misunderstandings regarding British policy and regarding the management and origin of the Refugee Camp at Baqubah which appear to prevail in the United States of America amongst Assyrians and others".

MAY 8 1920

Lady Surma Khanum is well educated and speaks English exceedingly well. She is a stronger character than her brother the Patriarch and has great influence with the Assyrian people. She has always been very friendly with the British and grateful for what the British Government has done for her nation in the Refugee Camp at Baqubah.

The copy of the above correspondence was handed to me by an Assyrian. How he obtained it I do not know.

CLASSIFICATION CANCELED AUTHORITY LETTER  
OF 1-8-58 FROM W. H. ANDERSON, STATE DEPT  
BY *Dr. Puzik* DATE *9 Feb 1961*

(2)

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

*Oscar S. Heizer*

American Consul.

Enclosure:-

Copy of correspondence with Indian Government  
and Indian Office, London.

File No. 800.

No. II9/49

OFFICE OF THE CIVIL COMMISSIONER  
IN MESOPOTAMIA  
Baghdad, the 16th February 1920.

To  
The Secretary to the Government of India  
in the Foreign and Political Department,  
Delhi.

MEMORANDUM.

A copy of the undernoted correspondence is for-  
warded with compliments for information, reference your  
D.G. Memo. 292 E.A. of January 30.

Lt. Colonel I.A.  
Ag. Civil Commissioner in Mesopotamia.

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Tel. No. II049. dated 19-9-19 to India Office, London.

" " 14487 " 2-12-19 do.

Memo No. 38416/II9/49, dated 27th December 1919,  
to O.C. Refugees, Ba'qubah.

Telegram Code I916.

From- Civil Commissioner, Bagdad,

To - India Office, London, repeated to Egyptforce, Cairo.

No. II049.

Dated 19-9-19.

Your telegram of July 17th.

Surma Khanum a lady representing ruling Assyrian family with good knowledge of English and fully empowered by her compatriots left Basrah for Suez September 17th, by direct boat under charge of Major Scott, I.M.S., Political Officer, en route London. Please inform Dr. Wigram and request him to be ready to meet her and take charge of her on arrival at Marseilles. Date of arrival there will be communicated to you by Major Scott.

Addressed India Office, London, repeated to Egyptforce Cairo for favour of communication to Major Scott on board Elephanta at Suez.

Civil Commissioner, Bagdad.

Telegram.

From - Political Bagdad,

To - India Office, London.

No. I4487.

Dated 2-12-19.

My telegram of 19th September, II049. Surma Khanum.

I consider it very desirable that she should visit the United States under British auspices before returning to this country in order to clear up certain misunderstandings regarding British policy and regarding the management and origin of the Refugee Camp at Ba'qubah which appear to be prevalent in the United States amongst Assyrians and others. The Metropolitan Mar Shimun and the National Assyrian Committee have sent me a quantity of



of correspondence from Assyrians in America which indicate importance of dissipating the false impressions now apparently prevalent there.

Dr. Wigram would perhaps be willing to accompany.

Political, Baghdad.

Telegram.

From- S. of S. for India, London.

To- Civil Commissioner, Baghdad.

No. nil.

Dated 20th received 29th, December 1919.

Your wire of 2-12-19, 14487- Surma Khanum.

Please give further details and reference to to American publications, if any.

S. of S. for India, London.

Telegram.

From- Civil Commissioner, Baghdad,

To- India Office, London.

No. 15550.

Dated 26-12-19.

Your telegram of 20th December. Surma Khanum.

Firstly. I have seen no unfavorable comments in American publications. Principal Assyrian Vernacular papers in U.S.A.

are:-

Assyrian Herald,  
" American Courier,  
" Shepherd.

Secondly, Purport of reference to misunderstanding referred to in my telegram of 2nd, December are as follows:-

One. The Presbyterian Church in U.S.A. is much opposed to Mar Shimun and in co-operation with us because it is alleged in U.S.A. that he has sold Assyrian Nation to

British

BY *D. P. ...* DATE *9 Feb 1961*

British and our retention of them at Ba'qubah is part of an imperialistic scheme to obtain control over their destinies.

Two. Interested Assyrians are raising subscriptions for their own benefit in U.S.A. using above propaganda as a means of collecting money.

Three. Presence at Ba'qubah of Urman and of Christians of other communities than that of Mar Shimun in made pretext for allegations in U.S.A. that we are utilizing Mar Shimun as stalking ~~xxx~~ horse behind which to secure for ourselves position of protecting power for all Eastern Christians excepting Armenians.

Four. The formation of Urman and Assyrian battalions by the military authorities in connection with repatriation has been similarly represented.

Civil Commissioner, Baghdad.

Office of the Civil Commissioner  
in Mesopotamia.

No. 38416/119/49.

Baghdad 27th, December, 1919.

O.C. Refugees, Ba'qubah.

Copy forwarded for information.

Sd/- A.T. Wilson, Lt. Colonel, I.A.

Ag. Civil Commissioner in Mesopotamia.