

Jan 30, 56

British Public School for Lebanon.

Commenting on the statement made in the House of Commons today Monday, Sir Edwin Chapman Andrews, the British Ambassador, said:

A project for building and equipping a boys boarding school in the Lebanon has been under consideration for some time. It is intended that the school should be organised and run on the lines of a public school in England and that it should have a lower and an upper school, catering altogether for some 300 boys between the ages of 11 and 18. Not all the boys would be boarders and in fact the plan is that the majority of the junior boys should live at home while the majority of the senior boys should live in the school in a number of different houses under the control of the house masters as in England. The school will be equipped on the most modern lines with a view to sending boys to a university, preferably one of those already in existence in the Lebanon. Arabic and French will be taught as well as English, and surrounding the school buildings will be extensive playing fields where boys can learn under proper tuition the lessons which only sport can teach. The scheme envisages the creation of an endowment fund for the provision of a number of free places for scholarship boys.

The contribution which the British Government is to make, as announced in the House of Commons, though it amounts to something in the region of £.Lebanese 1 million, is less than half the total required, and the remainder will have to be raised from private donations. It is intended to launch an appeal and it is hoped that the Lebanese communities living overseas, particularly in countries of the British Commonwealth will welcome this initiative and give it their support.

It will be some years before the school is completed, not so much because of the time required to construct buildings as because boys will be accepted at the beginning only in the junior forms so that the school may grow up naturally year by year with them. Many Lebanese have already expressed a warm welcome for this project and it is known that the news that it has at last become a practical proposition will be welcomed in a larger circle. It is hoped that when the school is completed it will provide a liberal and first class education for boys not only in the Lebanon but from other Arab countries.

Information Department,  
British Embassy, Beirut.

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Mr. Anthony Nutting, M.P., Minister of State at the British Foreign Office, replying to a Parliamentary Question about a proposal to establish a school in Lebanon, said:

Her Majesty's Government propose to make a contribution towards the capital cost of this school. The approval of Parliament will be sought through a supplementary estimate to enable a first instalment of £25,000 to be available as from the first April.

2. This provision will enable Her Majesty's Ambassador in Beirut to organise and launch an immediate appeal for the £250,000 needed to build, equip and endow a British boys school in the Lebanon. Towards this total sum Her Majesty's Government are prepared to contribute a maximum of £120,000.

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