

January 7, 1957

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Maitre Boulos, who had clearly not lost sight of this aspect, suggested that he send in a bill for \$Leb. 2,000. The major portion of the school site - that bought from Judge Tali - is to be vacated by its tenants at the end of their tenure - i.e., I understand after the 1956 harvest is in. The remainder of the site, as you know, has also been bought but at the time of sale the owners, who occupied the houses on it, were told they could continue to occupy them until August, 1957. The main sources of revenue of the land are olives, charcoal and barley. Of the 1956 crops the barley has been harvested, the last of olive harvest is still being collected and most of the charcoal has been delivered to those who had contracted to buy it. It is in the interests of the School Association that some agriculture should continue to be done on the site this year (a) in order to preserve the trees, (b) in order to realise any profits from the crops. The Board of Governors have also agreed that some arrangement should be made for guardianship of the site.

I have now discussed this on behalf of the Board with Maitre Nassib Boulos and the representative of the occupants of the smaller site purchased. We came to the following provisional conclusions, which will come into force unless the Board disagrees: (a) The minor tenants (of what was Judge Tali's land) should evacuate it. We do not want complications caused by their staying on, in whatever capacity. (b) The occupants of the knoll will arrange for the normal work of pruning the olive trees, ploughing the land around them, and collecting and cutting dead wood for conversion into charcoal. (We did not talk of planting barley, for obvious reasons). No firm financial agreement was reached, though the occupant tried for one; but it would be reasonable for us to compensate him for his work when he quits the land.

This will call for current outlay on the hire of labour, and I provisionally agreed with Maitre Boulos that I would arrange for the latter to be paid a sum of \$Leb. 1,000 as an imprest from which to pay out periodically such costs. Maitre Boulos (who is expert in matters of olive-growing) understands what we want and will himself periodically inspect the site to see that our wishes are being carried out. I assume also that he will be willing to act for us when it comes to discussing the 'douceur' (and possibly to advise on the selling of the crop of olives and charcoal).

I also discussed briefly with Maitre Boulos the question of fees for his own services. He acted for us in the actual purchase of the land but his discussions on our behalf with the various owners of the site have gone much beyond this and we would hope to continue to enjoy them.

Maitre/....

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Maitre Boulos, who had clearly not lost sight of this aspect, suggested that he send in a bill for \$Leb.2,000 for services past and future. I said that of course I had no standing to speak on behalf of the Board of Governors; at the same time I know that Maitre Boulos has given a good deal of time to matters concerning the site and I do not think it would be reasonable to dispute his right to a fee over and above what he charged (and I do not believe it is quite clear what he did charge) for his services as agent in the initial land purchase. The accounts and correspondence are I believe with Mr. Edwards of the British Council. I think it can properly be considered that expenditure in this way saves the Board from the full-time employment of a supervisor for the site.

I suggest the Treasurer be authorised as soon as possible to put Maitre Boulos in funds to the extent of \$Leb.1,000 for the maintenance referred to above.

(R.M. Tesh).