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BRITISH SCHOOL IN THE LEBANON

Fourteenth Meeting of the Board of Governors
held on Tuesday, 28th May, 1963
at the British Council

Present: Dr Joseph Hitti (Chairman) Mr Mikaoui
H.E. Sir Moore Crosthwaite Dean F. Hanania
Mr H.A.A. Hankey Mr H.B. Sinclair (Treasurer)
Mr G. Heseldin Mr J.H. Grimes.
Mr N. Joly

Apologies: Sheikh Najib Alamuddin
Dr Fouad Bustani
Mr A.J. Catoni
Mr G. Tueni.

1. The Minutes of the Thirteenth Meeting were approved.

2. Mr Hankey presented the report of the Sub-committee formed at the Thirteenth Meeting (minutes 7 and 8) and explained that unfortunately Mr Hanania had been unable to assist the Sub-committee in its work owing to his absence from Lebanon. There had been some divergence of views in the Sub-committee, but the report represented the consensus of opinion although Mr Mikaoui had certain amendments to suggest in paragraph 14 which have been duly entered into the report.

3. Mr Mikaoui explained the legal implications of altering the original purpose by devoting our funds to the expansion of an existing school and stressed the need for referring such a project to the donors in order to obtain their consent. In the discussion which followed, Mr Hanania expressed the view that too much should not be demanded from Brummana in changing their Constitution to meet the aims of our project. Some members expressed objection to the aim of Brummana High School of providing education based on Quaker religious principles, but it was pointed out that the education of all British public schools was based on religious principles of one denomination or another. Suggestions that it was undesirable to have mainly Quaker teachers at the school and that some of the teachers made a bad impression by their personal appearance, were met by explanations of improved salary scales and conditions of service, at present under consideration by the school authorities, which would attract to the posts a wider field of well qualified applicants. It was pointed out that assistance in improving sixth form work and the preparation of pupils for British universities together with the betterment of the terms and conditions of service of the teaching staff should form part of our plans for improving and expanding the school. Sir Moore Crosthwaite

agreed that there were obviously limits to the extent to which Brummana could be expected to amend their draft constitution. But he thought we should aim at having the draft modified if possible so that the definition of the aims and purposes of the school took account of the slightly different aims and purposes as defined in the constitution for the British School and, more important still, so as to provide for representation on the Brummana School Committee of two or three persons representing the aspirations of those who had sought to establish the British School.

4. Mr Heseldin reported that he had mentioned to one of the donors, Mr Abdallah Khoury, the possibility of funds being devoted to Brummana. Mr Khoury had expressed great disappointment that the original project should not be carried through and felt that people in Britain had not been sufficiently canvassed. He thought that the necessary funds could have been found to build the school and help maintain what he called the last bastion of British influence in the Middle East.

5. The Board took note of the legal opinion expressed in the Sub-committee's report and accepted the Sub-committee's recommendations in principle. It asked the Sub-committee to continue discussions with the authorities of Brummana High School in order to produce:

- (a) a detailed scheme of expansion and improvement, and
- (b) an amendment of the draft constitution, both approximating as nearly as possible to our original aims and acceptable to the Brummana High School authorities for consideration by the Board.

These proposals, when approved, would subsequently be presented to the donors.

6. The Sub-committee should proceed in the light of the proposals in paragraph 11 of their report and their scheme should aim at improving the quality of the education at Brummana and also increasing the number of pupils. In budgeting for the scheme, the Sub-committee's plans should be phased to include ultimate expenditure of the estimated proceeds of the sale of the site at Damour and also to allow for a contingency fund to be available against possible requests from donors for the return of their contributions.

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Joseph St. Kitts

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