

BRITISH SCHOOL IN THE LEBANON

Twentieth Meeting of the Board of Governors held on
Tuesday, 25th February, 1969, at the British Council

Present: Dr Joseph Hitt, Chairman Mr J. Sanders
 Mr G. Heseldin Mr D. Paterson, Treasurer
 Prof. F. Hanania Mr Onslow Tuckley, Secretary.

Apologies were received from:

 Mr A.J. Catoni Me. Jamil Mikaoui
 Sheikh Najib Alamuddin Mr Ghassan Tuani.
 Dr Fouad Bustani

1. The Minutes of the Nineteenth Meeting were taken as approved owing to lapse of time and the fact that only one member of the present Board of Governors had been at the former meeting.

2. Of the building programme at Brummana High School authorised by the British School Board of Governors in 1966, three projects have been completed, namely:-

- (a) Sixth Form Boarding House with accommodation for Principal and assistant housemaster.
- (b) Extension of craft block to provide for technical drawing and metal work including machines and generating sets.
- (c) A new boarding house for 80 - 90 pupils.

Owing to there being insufficient funds readily available, of the three remaining projects, the following two have been partially carried out:-

- (d) Conversion of existing house, Fleisseh, to provide housemaster's accommodation and services connected with (c) and (f)
- (e) Conversion of senior dormitory into library and classroom.

No work has been started on the final project:-

- (f) Second dormitory block.

The School now has fine buildings but money is necessary for the maintenance. It was therefore decided that until such time as the site of land was sold, there could be no question of any farther development. When the land is sold then the position would be reviewed, with the possibility of investing some of the money to provide regular income for the maintenance of the present buildings.

3. The present state of affairs as to the sale of the land at Serjibal was discussed fully and it was decided that if it were possible for the Beirut Executive Committee of the Lebanon Hospital for Mental and Nervous Disorders to purchase the land in instalments, this would be agreeable to the Board of Governors. Dr Hitti agreed to look into this matter.

4. Mr Rashid Tali', son of the late Mr Badri Tali', had recently written to Dr Hitti, asking for the return of the "donation" given by his father; it would appear that Mr Rashid Tali' was acting on behalf of the heirs of the late Mr Badri Tali'. Owing to the somewhat complicated nature of the "donation",

and the fact that the Tali' family were not informed by letter that the School project had been abandoned, it was agreed that further legal advice would be sought by Dr Hitti, who also undertook, in the meantime, to write to Mr Rashid Tali' in order to get some clarification on this matter.

5. The letter received by Mr Heseldin from the architect Mr Assem Salaam asking that the School Committee should consider the revision of the agreement drawn up with him owing to the delay in executing the original building projects was discussed. It was generally agreed that under the terms of the original contract drawn up with Mr Assem Salaam, that he had no legal claim to ask for any revision of this contract. Mr Heseldin agreed to write to Mr Salaam along these lines.

6. Under the heading of any other business, the customs duty on the desks made in England was discussed. It became apparent that though the School now had fine buildings as things stood at present, there was no money for proper maintenance. It was agreed that when the site was sold, there might be a possibility of endowing Brummana with an investment fund to provide a regular income to meet future contingencies.

A request had been received by the British Embassy from a Boy Scouts Association that they might use the site for scouting activities during the summer months. The letter had been sent to H.B.M. Ambassador under the mistaken impression that the use or disposal of the land was the concern of the Embassy. There was no question of the Association paying any rent. This mistaken impression would be corrected by the Embassy and in any case, there was general agreement that scouting activities would not only not enhance the value of the land but might also do the crops positive damage.

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