

School  
BRITISH COUNCIL IN THE LEBANON

Twentyfirst Meeting of the Board of Governors held at short notice on Thursday, October 16, 1969, to discuss the financial situation

Present: Dr Joseph Hitti, Chairman      Mr J.A. Bryan  
          Mr G. Heseldin                      Mr O. Tuckley, Secretary.  
          Mr D.W. Paterson, Treasurer

Apologies were received from:

Sheikh Najib Alamuddin      Me. Jamil Mikaoui  
Dr Fouad Boustani            Mr Ghassan Tuani  
Prof. Farid Hanania

1. The state of affairs of the finances of the British School in the Lebanon Funds was thoroughly discussed as there is now an overdraft of LLeb.2000, with recurrent monthly expenditure for the wages of gardener/caretaker of the land at Al Bukay'a, the school property. With the present political instability, there was little likelihood of being able to sell the land; even if a buyer could be found, which is doubtful, the price offered would bound to be very low. The Committee of the Asfourieh Hospital was not in a position to proceed further with an offer for the land.
2. Maître Nassib Bulos with Mr Paterson had inspected the land and had made recommendations which had involved the installation of a water pump at river level and other improvements for more efficient exploitation of the land. In his report to Mr Paterson, he alleged that with these improvements the farm could be transformed into a valuable producing property over a period of not more than three years but the initial investment would be in the nature of LLeb.50,000. The problem was where was this sum to be found. Dr Hitti was against pursuing this idea as he felt that it would lead to too many complications in administration.
3. Mr T. Jabbour's services have now been terminated and his salary up to date and indemnity have been paid; a letter had been received from Mr Jabbour stating he had no further claims on the British School in the Lebanon.
4. Mr Paterson stated he was prepared to allow an overdraft of LLeb.4500. Dr Hitti was asked if he would approach the caretaker/gardener to see if he would agree to take less wages. Dr Hitti made the suggestion that Brummana might be prepared to take over the running of the land.
5. Some concern was expressed over the lack of interest on the part of certain members of the Board of the British School in the Lebanon and Dr Hitti agreed to approach those members who had not attended any meetings for some years to ask if they would prefer to offer their resignations; he also agreed to look into the matter of finding a replacement for Mr Catoni whose untimely death earlier in the year had robbed the Board of a valuable member.

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October 31, 1969.

ojjt/mi