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Iraq - 1959-61

23 May - 22 June 59

Jawaed, Mashim (Foreign Minister of Iraq)

- 2 letters from D.H., May-June 59

23 May 1959

As Dr. Sen, Director of the Programme Division of the Technical Assistance Board, is going to visit Iraq for about a week, beginning 6 June 1959, I wish to avail myself of the opportunity to send you my greetings and, at the same time, to mention to you one or two things which I have on my mind.

I have been worried lately by the development of our technical assistance operation in Iraq. In 1958 the programme was projected on the basis of 53 experts at a U.N. cost of \$484,000. We now find ourselves with only 17 experts from all the participating organisations, against our authority to spend approximately the same amount as last year.

Even among the small number of experts presently in Iraq, it seems that some find it difficult to go ahead with the work for which they were requested. I have in mind the restrictions in practice on travel and on contacts with the officials with whom they normally would have to deal. There seems to be the further problem that some experts, requested by your Government under the programme of 1959, have not been able to go to Iraq because, so far, they have not received visas.

It is my hope that Dr. Sen in the course of his visit to Baghdad, with the help and support of your Government and its representatives, will be able to find what joint measures we can take in order to improve the U.N. contribution. That covers also the development of the proposals for technical assistance in 1960.

These various matters are of course important in themselves, but they have attracted my attention in particular at the present juncture because of their significance for the development of the contacts between your Government and the U.N. From our numerous conversations you know how I personally look at those contacts and how much I would like to see them deepened and strengthened. In the circumstances now prevailing I find a further reason for such a strengthening as I believe that it would be in line with what I guess to be your general aims.

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His Excellency
Mr. Hashim Jawad,
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq,
Baghdad, Iraq.

When going to the Middle East in January, and later when I went to Asia in March, I considered stopping over in Baghdad in order to renew my contact with the President and with yourself. However, time was very short, and I had to drop the idea. Now I am going to Geneva on regular U.N. business late in June or early in July. If you would feel that a talk would be useful, of course my visit to Europe at that time might provide an occasion. As you know, I am rather mobile and I would not hesitate to make the additional journey if the President and you were to consider it worthwhile. On the other hand, as a matter of course, you may well feel that you have your hands too full for such a talk at this time when there is no immediate urgent reason which calls for it.

If we were to meet, that might provide also an occasion to talk over the appointment of a new Resident Representative who would coordinate the technical assistance activities of the international agencies working in Iraq. It is my own feeling that, although it is desirable to fill the post as soon as possible, there are, on the other hand, good reasons to wait until the lines are a bit more clear so that he, when coming, can work with full efficiency on the basis of an approach agreed between us.

Dag Hammarskjöld

22 June 1959

Dear Mr. Jawad,

Many thanks for messages received through your Delegation here. I have to be in Geneva from the beginning of July for something like a fortnight. This would have meant that a talk with you would have had to take place either late June or in the third week of July, if it were to be adjusted to my practical possibilities. However, I can well see why those times present certain inconveniences from your point of view. I thank you for your word of welcome, but in the circumstances, we had better shelve the idea for the time being.

As, thus, we may not meet until you, as I hope, come here for the General Assembly, I wish to send you a line regarding the matter to which I referred at the end of the letter to you which Mr. Sen transmitted. I have in mind the question of the appointment of a resident representative. I would have liked to be able to talk this over with you, but I think that we may handle it by letter.

Mr. Sen's discussions, as reported to Headquarters, present a picture of Iraq's reactions to technical assistance which seems to make it timely to put a resident representative in charge of coordination and what else has to be done if we are to follow up the programs as desired. I have never felt that we should wait with the appointment of a resident representative so that other appointments of experts would precede his arrival. But I have considered it desirable, as I said in my letter to you, to wait with the appointment "until the lines are a bit more clear so that he, when coming, can work with full efficiency on the basis of an approach agreed between us". This stage now seems to be reached.

I was very sorry that the plan to place Mr. Nordenson as resident representative in Baghdad came to nothing after you had already accepted him. You know that I have very high thoughts about Mr. Nordenson's competence and qualities which had prompted me to make him my personal candidate for the post, the significance of which I rate very high. However, circumstances outside my control, and outside also the control of the Swedish Government, forced Mr. Nordenson to back down. The decisive factor was a situation which had developed unexpectedly regarding the important corporation of which he was the managing director and from which he would have had to ask for leave of absence, for the time of his Iraq assignment, at a most awkward moment.

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H.E. Mr. Hashim Jawad,
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq,
Baghdad, Iraq.

The plan based on Mr. Nordenson's availability having failed, I have taken it upon myself to try to find another person whom I could regard as a really first-rate man for the job, with the various aspects of it which have to be taken into account. I believe that I have found such a man, but I feel that I should consult you personally about his candidature so as to be sure that you share my view.

The person, whom I would like to see as resident representative with you is Mr. Jens Malling. He is a Swedish diplomat in active service, for a short time second in command in the Permanent Mission of Sweden to the United Nations but before that Ambassador to Djakarta, Indonesia was his second post as head of a diplomatic mission. His first one was in Tel Aviv. You will find other details in the attached curriculum vitae.

Mr. Malling, whom I know well personally, is a diplomat with very good judgment and great ability to establish the right kind of human relations. Although he is not an economist or technician by profession, I feel that his experience of economic policy is broad enough, in connection with his other professional qualities, to qualify him for the job also in that specific respect.

Mr. Malling himself would be happy to go, and in this case there will be no backing down! My proposal has the approval of the Swedish Government. Mr. Malling would be able to come to Baghdad at the end of July. By that time he would have been fully briefed on our technical assistance operations in Iraq, not only here at Headquarters but also with other experts in Geneva.

I am leaving New York at the end of this week. All the same, your reply may best be sent to Headquarters, c/o Mr. Andrew W. Cordier, as you may find it difficult to get in touch with me directly.

I hope this new suggestion will meet with your approval. If not, I shall continue my efforts, although I do not believe that I shall be able to do better from the point of view of your interests. The reasons why I wished to consult you personally are obvious from what I have said, and I do not feel that I need to elaborate.

Sorry to have missed this opportunity to meet with you again, but looking forward to better luck later on,

with best regards to the President and yourself,

Dag Hammarskjöld

Curriculum Vitae

MALLING, Jens Henrik Peder Arnold

Born 11 April 1909

Bachelor of Law and Master of Political Science, 1938

Attachè, Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs, 1938

Swedish Legation, Rome, 1938

Consulate General, Chicago, 1939

Legation Washington, 1940

Second Vice-Consul Consulate General New York, 1943

Second Secretary Ministry for Foreign Affairs, 1944

First Vice-Consul, Consulate Hamburg, 1946

First Secretary and Chargé d'Affaires a.i., Vienna, 1946

First Secretary Ministry for Foreign Affairs, 1948

Counsellor and Chargé d'Affaires, Tel Aviv, 1953; Minister, 1956

Envoy Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Djakarta, Manila, 1956

Kuala Lumpur, 1959

Ambassador, Djakarta, 1958

Minister Plenipotentiary and Deputy Permanent Representative
of Sweden to the United Nations, 1959

Secretary of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Swedish Parliament, 1950-53

Swedish Member of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission in Korea, 1955