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Iraq - 1959-61

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Draft paragraphs regarding Iraq
for Sec. - Gen's consideration.

Mr. Cordier
as requested

DRAFT PARAGRAPHS
REGARDING IRAQ FOR SECRETARY-GENERAL'S CONSIDERATION

While both the Executive Chairman of the Technical Assistance Board and I welcome the opportunity for Dr. Sen, Director of the Programme Division of TAB, to visit Iraq for about a week beginning 6 June 1959, I believe I should tell you quite frankly and sincerely that we are more than a little concerned about the current and future status of our technical assistance in Iraq. Both Mr. Owen and I feel, and I know our view is shared by the participating Specialized Agencies, that a rather larger and more effective UN Technical Assistance Programme would be warranted in Iraq if your Government would wish to request, receive and support, such assistance. You will understand our concern, however, about the fact that while the 1958 Programme was projected on the basis of 53 experts at a UN cost of \$484,000, we now find ourselves with only 17 experts from all the Participating Organizations, against our authority to spend approximately the same amount as last year. It is also my understanding that even among the small groups of experts presently in Iraq, there are a number who are finding it difficult to go ahead with the work for which they were requested, having difficulty in travelling freely to work on their projects, and finding various degrees of interest or lack of interest among the Iraqi officials with whom they would normally be expected to work. I am also told that additional experts, requested and accepted by your Government under the approved 1959 programme, have been unable, for several months, to travel to Iraq owing to our inability to secure Iraqi visas for them.

Now that Dr. Sen is coming to visit your country, we are very hopeful that he can first review the effectiveness of the 1959 Programme to date, and with the help and support of you and other officials of the Iraqi Government, see if there are joint measures we can take to increase our effectiveness. Dr. Sen's second task will be to offer his advice on the development of the Iraqi proposals for technical assistance in the year 1960, and we all hope that this programme will meet urgent needs of the Government, go as far as the UN can within the limited financial resources, and be as constructive and helpful as possible.

I wanted you to have this frank indication, first of my deep desire to see that the UN contributes as generously and effectively as possible through technical assistance and, possibly, in other ways, to Iraq's economic development, and secondly, of my concern that some mutual steps need to be taken to assure these objectives.

The appointment of a new Resident Representative who would coordinate the technical assistance activities of the international agencies working in Iraq is, of course, an important factor in the situation. I am sure that you will agree, however, that it is most desirable that he should not compromise his chances of effective work by arriving before you felt that the time was ripe for a completely new initiative.