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AGREED MINUTESSECOND SESSION OF THE JOINT COMMISSION ON  
TRADE, ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION  
BETWEEN THE SWISS CONFEDERATION AND THE  
REPUBLIC OF IRAQ

In accordance with Article thirteen of the Agreement on trade, economic and technical cooperation signed on February 11, 1978, the second session of the Joint Commission between the Swiss Confederation and the Republic of Iraq was held in Baghdad from the 6th to the 10th November, 1979.

The Swiss delegation was headed by H.E. Federal Councillor Fritz Honegger, Head of the Federal Ministry of Public Economy.

The Iraqi delegation was headed by H.E. Hassan Ali, Member of the Revolutionary Command Council, Minister of Trade.

The names of the members of the two delegations are listed in annex I and II attached to the agreed minutes.

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1. H.E. Saddam Hussein, Chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council, President of the Republic of Iraq, received in audience on Saturday 10th November, 1979, H.E. Federal Councillor Fritz Honegger, Head of the Swiss Federal Ministry of Public Economy.
2. H.E. Mr. Fritz Honegger met Their Excellencies Mr. Taha Yassin Ramadhan, RCC member, First Deputy Prime Minister,

6.

Mr. Tahir Tawfiq, RCC member, Minister of Industry and Minerals, Dr. Taha Ibrahim Al-Abdullah, Minister of Planning, and had useful talks with them in the direction of furthering bilateral cooperation between Iraq and Switzerland.

3. During their stay, the Swiss delegation had visited a number of Iraqi commercial, agricultural as well as touristic centers and had useful discussions with their representatives and agreed on strengthening cooperation between Swiss enterprises and their Iraqi counterparts.
4. In the plenary session the chairmen of both Sides emphasized the excellent relations which happily exist between Iraq and Switzerland. They examined the development of trade and economic relations between the two countries and agreed that there is a vast potential for further trade exchange as well as development and strengthening of economic and technical cooperation between Iraq and Switzerland.
5. The Swiss Side expressed their full comprehension for the development process undergoing in Iraq and stated their desire to participate in its further implementation.
6. The Joint Commission organized its work in the following groups:
  - Trade
  - Economic cooperation
  - Technical cooperation
7. The working groups reached the following conclusions and recommendations which were approved by the Joint Commission.

## I. TRADE

1. Both Sides emphasized once again the importance of promoting the mutual extension and diversification of trade. Note was taken of the fact that, since the last meeting of the Joint Commission in September 1978, Swiss exports to the Republic of Iraq had increased, whereas Iraqi exports to Switzerland had remained stagnant. It was agreed that Swiss firms should be urged to make efforts to reduce the trade gap between the two countries.

In the opinion of the Swiss Side, this will hardly be possible without oil imports, in addition to those other commodities referred to in paragraph I/3 below. The willingness expressed by national Swiss oil importers to buy, on a long term basis, substantial quantities of Iraqi crude oil for local consumption, could contribute to achieve this aim.

2. The Swiss Side drew attention to the role played by Swiss world trading companies, which either through direct imports or purchases for shipment to third countries could contribute substantially to an increase of Iraqi exports.
3. With regard to various products available for export from Iraq, such as sulphur, fertilizers, dates, dates syrup, textiles including woollen and acrylic blankets, carpets (Hand and machine made), liquorice extracts and handicrafts, the Swiss Side agreed to provide the Iraqi Side with additional information on import regulations and marketing opportunities for these products.
4. Both Sides agreed that a distinction should be made between the trade of commodities and the trade of more



sophisticated products. The latter involves various additional factors like, for example, the transfer of know-how, after sales service, training, product information and product liability. The Swiss Side underlined that it considers a close and on-going relationship between customer and supplier as very important.

5. Both Sides pointed out, with satisfaction, that the project of the creation of an efficient after-sales service for watches, as outlined in the Agreed Minutes of the first session of the Swiss-Iraqi Joint Commission, has been realised. The close cooperation between the competent organizations on both Sides in this project has made it possible to inaugurate the watch service center in Baghdad on November 10, 1979, during the second session of the Joint Commission.

It is expected that this might lead to a further increase of Iraqi watch imports from Switzerland.

Both Sides agreed that the setting up of similar centers for servicing Swiss exports to Iraq might have a positive effect on mutual trade between the two countries, as well as facilitating the transfer of technology. Therefore they suggested that the possibility of establishing other similar centers be examined by the competent organisations on the Swiss Side.

6. The Swiss Side announced its intention to participate officially in the 17th Baghdad International Fair in the autumn of 1980. For this purpose it hopes to be allocated a surface increased to approximately 1400 square meters under cover and 1000 square meters open-air.

7. The Iraqi Side informed the Swiss Side of their intention to participate in the "Comptoir Suisse" in Lausanne in September 1980. The Swiss Side while welcoming this decision informed the Iraqi Side that the Republic of Iraq will be guest of honour in the "Comptoir Suisse" of 1980 and assured them of the full support and assistance on the part of the interested Swiss authorities and organisations with this venture.

8. The Iraqi Side drew the attention of the Swiss Side to the paragraph of the Agreed Minutes on trade of the 1st session of the Joint Commission respective to the organisation of the "Iraqi Week" in Switzerland.

The Swiss Side offered the assistance of the Swiss Office for the Development of Trade in the organisation of the "Iraqi Week", preferably in Zurich, to be held immediately following the Iraqi participation in the "Comptoir Suisse" in Lausanne in 1980.

9. The Swiss Side invited the Iraqi Side to consider joining the International ATA- Carnets System, which facilitates the administrative procedures involved in the duty-free, temporary admission of commercial samples.

## II. ECONOMIC COOPERATION

### A. Agriculture :

Both Sides examined mutual cooperation in the fields of animal husbandry, esp. cattle breeding for milk and meat production, pesticide examination and analysis concerning quality and stability.

They discovered that there is a big prospect for expanding cooperation in these fields.

Discussions also took place in the following fields :

1. Plant protection, phytosanitary apparatus, pesticides.  
A visit to Abu Graib was organized in order to familiarize the Swiss Side with the requirements of the Iraqi Side in this field.
2. The Swiss Side submitted information and catalogues on animal husbandry in Switzerland including research for constant improvement of Swiss breeds. It was agreed that a team of Iraqi Experts will visit Switzerland in order to explore possibilities to introduce Swiss cattle into Iraq.

### B. Telecommunication

A review of the minutes of the first session of the Joint Commission was made, and the following points were noted with satisfaction :

1. The direct telephone channels were established between Iraq and Switzerland on the 25/1/79 ahead of scheduled time.



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2. Direct telex and telegraph channels between the two countries were established on the 16/6/1979.
3. Advance steps were taken by both Sides for the preparation of a symposium and a list of subjects of the symposium were submitted to the Iraqi P.T.T. and were agreed upon. This symposium will take place from 12th until 16th of January, 1980.

Iraqi PTT shall take the responsibility to invite all Iraqi organizations specialized in the field of telecommunication to this symposium.

4. Both Sides expressed their readiness to transit the traffic from the respective country of origin (Iraq or Switzerland) to third countries to which the transit country has direct telecommunication channels. The tariffs will be mutually agreed upon between the two Sides in due course.

Future plan for the development of communications between the two countries :

a) Telephony :

	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983
Voice:	5	9	11	13	16
Record:	1	1	1	1	2
Total:	6	10	12	14	18

b) Telegraphy :

1979	8	Telex	circuits
1980	10	"	"
1981	12	"	"
1982	15	"	"
1983	18	"	"

For the implementation of the above mentioned matters, a Joint Meeting shall be arranged between P.T.T. of Iraq, P.T.T. of Switzerland and Radio Suisse.

C. Industry

Reference was made to the Agreed Minutes of the 1st Session of the Joint Commission in respect to industrial cooperation.

It was noted that the problems connected with the Qurna Sac factory project has been dealt with and an agreement was signed between the relevant contracting parties.

With regard to Misan Pulp and Paper Mill Both Sides emphasized that the pending problems should be solved as quickly as possible in order to maintain smooth operation of the plant and early performance test.

Both Sides stressed that sufficient skilled Iraqi operating personnel is essential to achieve this aim.

The Swiss Side expressed their great interest in participating in future industrial projects. The Iraqi Side took note of that.

D. Construction Industry

The Swiss construction industry and contractors are ready to increase their engagement in realizing projects in Iraq, especially those of high technical level, requiring experienced management and a high standard of quality.

The following fields of activities are of special interest to the Swiss Construction Industry :

6.



- Office buildings
- Hotel and tourist facilities
- Industrial and storage buildings
- Bridges
- Sewerage systems and waste water treatment
- Tunnels (Underground and open trench), plants
- Dams
- Piling works
- Structures for Civil Defence

In addition, the Swiss contractors see a possibility to train Iraqi Site Engineers etc. in Switzerland in connection with the execution of future contracts.

#### E. Irrigation

Both Sides discussed and exchanged views concerning irrigation and water storage projects which have been awarded to the Swiss Consultants and the future projects as follows :

1. Design and preparation of the Tender documents for Mosul dam and associated structures.
2. Study and Design of Middle Tigris project.
3. Study and Design of Jazira project.
4. Study of Dams protection in Iraq.
5. Preparation of a report about water management of Tigris river and Tharthar Lake.
6. Study of the development of three irrigation projects : Hilla Kifil, Al-Muthanna and 30 July.

7. Future irrigation and storage projects to be carried out and which requires the cooperation of both Iraqi and Swiss Sides.

Both Sides examined pending problems and their solutions to achieve the implementation of all works according to their programme. The conclusions drawn were as follows :

1. Generally the performance of the studies and designs for the above mentioned projects are in good progress, more efforts are required to finish the works and to submit the reports and designs according to the placed programmes.

The Swiss Consultants promised to achieve this, and they will be entrusted to stick to the said programmes.

2. Information about Lower Euphrates Regulators on Shamiya and Kufa branches and other main structures within Kifl Shanafiya project has been given to the Swiss Side.

#### F. Transportation

The Swiss Side was informed on the important projects of expansion and modernization of the Iraqi Railways system.

The Swiss Side declared its highest interest in the continuation, i.e. detailed design and construction supervision, of the Baghdad Rapid Transit System, for which project Swiss Consultants had worked out the masterplan as well as for the planning of the Baghdad - Arbil - Mosul standard gauge line.

Both Sides expressed their intentions for future closer collaboration and exchange of technical know-how. The Swiss Side made it known that they were ready to train Iraqi Engineers in all fields of guided transport and expressed its high interest in design and supply of their full range of railway equipment.

G. Silos and Mills

1. The two Sides noted that cooperation in the field of silos and flour mills has existed between Swiss enterprises and the State Organization of Grain for the last twenty years with satisfactory results.
2. The Swiss Side pointed out its desire and willingness to participate in Iraq's future plans in the field of grain storage and milling by putting their long and world wide experience at the disposal of Iraq. The Iraqi Side noted that. It promised to put them in the list of companies to be invited.



### III. TECHNICAL COOPERATION

1. The Swiss Side pointed out that since the last meeting of the Joint Commission a considerable number of Iraqi nationals has been trained in Switzerland, especially in the field of tourism.
2. The Swiss Side stated that the programme for training which was discussed during the meeting in Berne in September 1978 could not be implemented satisfactorily due to the lack of detailed and specific information about each requirement, especially the exact description of the kind of training expected. These details have been presented by the Iraqi Side (in annex 3). The Swiss Side agreed to take action in order to present these requests to suitable institutions in accordance with their capacity and ability.
3. The Iraqi Side informed the Swiss Side of the heavy financial impact resulting from the high cost of training Iraqi citizens in Switzerland. They suggested that the Swiss Side look into the possibility of sharing such a cost within the spirit of cooperation and the objectives of the Agreement. The Swiss Side agreed to investigate this possibility, especially as regards the training at Federal Institutes (Swiss Federal Institute of Technology/ETH) and universities. It was pointed out, however, that the provision of funds for boarding and lodging would be the responsibility of the Government of Iraq. Terms and conditions for training will be worked out case by case. This will be especially applying to training opportunities offered by the private sector. In this connection the Swiss Side informed the Iraqi Side that a proposal has been worked out by the Swiss Industrial Development Institute (SIDI)

concerning training of Iraqi citizens in different fields to be qualified as instructors (teachers) in training centers and technical schools to be established in Iraq. This proposal will be communicated to the Iraqi authorities (Ministry of Planning) through diplomatic channels. It has been agreed that the Iraqi Side will study this proposal and contact the Swiss Association of Machinery Manufacturers (VSM) through official channels. The two parties will then exchange their relative points of view in order to find a way to realize such a project.

It has been suggested that similar proposals may be submitted by further partners of the Swiss private sector in other fields.

4. The Iraqi Side pointed out the importance of the quality of preparing of the training programmes according to the level and requirements of Iraqi trainees emphasizing on the practical training when such training courses are established. The Swiss Side agreed to act accordingly, provided more detailed and specific information will be furnished by the Iraqi Side with each application for trainees. In this connection the Swiss Side will present to the Iraqi Side a suitable application form the text of which will provide for all required details necessary to work out a suitable training course and to determine the optimal duration of time of the training.
5. The Swiss Side explained with regret to the Iraqi Side that due to technical difficulties (lack of personnel) it will be unlikely that experts of the Swiss government institutions could be spared to work in Iraq over a longer period of time. Such experts could, however, be provided by the Swiss private sector at terms and conditions to be negotiated case by case.



The Swiss Side agreed to take the initiative to raise this question amongst interested parties through an advertising campaign.

6. As regards the possibilities of technical cooperation in the field of agriculture the Iraqi Side submitted a comprehensive list of wishes concerning agricultural training opportunities for Iraqi citizens in Switzerland, the emphasis being on animal husbandry (milk and beef production) and agricultural inputs (feed, seed, agrochemicals). Requests for Swiss experts to work in Iraq in the agrochemicals' field (quality control and residue analysis in laboratories) were presented by the Iraqi Side.

The Swiss Side assured the Iraqi Side of the willingness to examine thoroughly the various and numerous requests and submit in due course specific proposals on possibilities of realizing part of them case by case.

7. The matter of training Iraqi technicians in the field of milling and silo operation was discussed and the Swiss Side pointed out that a Swiss milling school exists since twenty years or more for the training of chief millers. A training centre for the training of technicians in milling and silo operation and maintenance is being built now and will be completed next summer. The Swiss Side stated that a number of Iraqi technicians to be agreed upon mutually will be accepted in groups at both schools mentioned above.

The Iraqi Side requested the Swiss enterprises to hold training courses for Iraqi technicians in Iraq in the field of milling and silo operation. The Swiss Side pointed out its willingness to do so upon request of the State Organization of Grain at terms to be agreed upon.



8. The two Sides, after having reviewed the existing relations between them in the field of tourism, agreed that even further steps be taken to increase the volume of such cooperation for the benefit of both countries.

The Iraqi Side submitted the following proposals :

a) Training and study in Switzerland

1. Training of a number of Iraqi students in the Swiss tourism institutes for various jobs required by both tourism organization and hotel industry.
2. Also training of a smaller number of Iraqi nominees for tourism planning as well as for projects feasibility studies.
3. Special full training courses for thirty Iraqi students at Lausanne hotel school, for 2 - 3 years.
4. The Swiss Side is invited to set up a hotel training institute in Iraq, within the framework of assistance offered to developing countries.

b) Experts from Switzerland

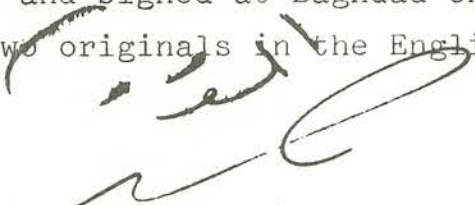
1. Planner with the specific knowledge and expertise in the field of planning of tourist complexes and villages.
2. Economist with knowledge and expertise in tourism planning in general.
3. An expert for tourism marketing in general.

The Swiss Side having considered and discussed these proposals with the Iraqi Side promised to study them carefully with the competent authorities and private institutions in Switzerland and to reply to the Iraqi Side the soonest possible.

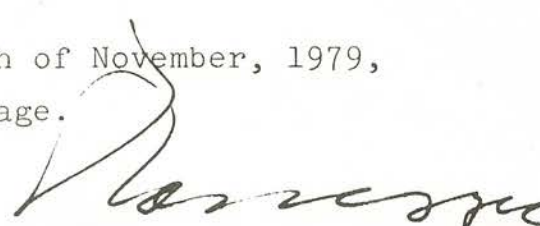
9. Swissair offers the Iraqi Side the possibility to train ten members of the ground personnel, especially in the field of administration, reservation and passenger service.

IV. Both Sides agreed to convene the next session in Berne during the year 1980 at a time to be agreed upon mutually through diplomatic channels.

Done and signed at Baghdad on the 10th of November, 1979,  
in two originals in the English language.



H.E. Mr. Hassan Ali  
Member of the Revolutionary  
Command Council, Minister of  
Trade



H.E. Mr. Fritz Honegger  
Head of the Federal Ministry  
of Public Economy

SECOND MEETING OF THE JOINT COMMISSION ON ECONOMIC COOPERATION  
BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF IRAQ AND THE SWISS CONFEDERATION

NOVEMBER 5 - 11, 1979

Delegation of the Swiss Confederation:

H.E. Federal Councillor Fritz Honegger	Head of the Federal Ministry of Public Economy
H.E. Ambassador Peter Bettschart	Delegate of the Federal Council for Trade Agreements, Federal Office for Foreign Economic Affairs, Ministry of Public Economy
H.E. Ambassador Arnold Hugentobler	Embassy of Switzerland, Baghdad
Max Jaeger, lic. iur.	Federal Office for Foreign Economic Affairs, Ministry of Public Economy
Dr Aloys Heuberger	Federal Office for Foreign Economic Affairs, Ministry of Public Economy
Erich Imm	Embassy of Switzerland, Baghdad
Ulrich Herrmann, lic. rer. pol.	Federal Office for Agriculture, Ministry of Public Economy
Erich Moser	Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Dr Frank Rühl	Secretary of the Directorate of the Swiss Federation of Trade and Industry
Mario Ludwig	Executive Director of the Swiss Office for the Develop- ment of Trade, Zurich
Dr. Rudolph Ulrich	Vice-Director, Swiss Society of Chemical Industries, Zurich
Laurent Favre	Secretary of the Swiss Associa- tion of Machinery Manufacturers, Zurich



Ulrich Ammann	Director of Messrs. U. Ammann Ltd., machine-works, Langenthal
Marcel Züblin	Director General of Messrs. Sulzer Brothers Ltd., machine-works, Winterthur
R. Thomas	Director of Brown, Boveri & Co. International, Baden
Max Bühler	Director of Messrs. Bühler Brothers Ltd., machine-works, Uzwil
André Reymond	Director General of Messrs. Ateliers de Charmilles Ltd., Geneva
Daniel Kellerhals	Director, Federation of Swiss Watch Manufacturers, Biel
Hermann Gossweiler	Delegate of the Swiss Construction Industry Group, Director of Messrs. Hatt-Haller Ltd., Zurich
Max Dreier	Delegate of the Association of Swiss Consulting Engineering Firms and of Swiss Consultants, Director of Messrs. Motor Columbus Ltd., Baden
Dr Reto Passet	President and Delegate of BBG General Contractors Ltd., Basle
Theodor Spaltenstein	Delegate of the Swiss Contractors, President and Delegate of Messrs. Spaltenstein Ltd., Zurich
Urs Wyss	Delegate of the Swiss Construction Conference, Director of the Swiss Central Office for Steel Construction, Zurich
M.F. Hofer	Vice-Director of Telesuisse and of Radio-Schweiz Ltd., Berne
Robert Steity	Delegate of the Association of the Swiss World-Trade Firms, Vice-Director of Messrs. André & Cie., Lausanne

Dr A. Zürcher	Director of Messrs. Ciba-Geigy Ltd., Basle
A. Stucki	Vice-Director of Messrs. Nestlé Alimentana Ltd., Corseaux
Hanspeter Osterwalder accompanied by Hans Luchsinger	Delegate of AVIA Switzerland Petroleum Products Importers, St. Gallen
Daniel Urech	Delegate of the Swiss Bankers Association, Director of the Swiss Bank Corporation, Zurich
Alfred E. Lieb	Delegate of the Swiss Bankers Association, Director of the Swiss Credit Bank, Zurich
Georges Meyer	Delegate of the Swiss Bankers Association, Director of the Union Bank of Switzerland, Zurich
Hansjürg Wagner	Delegate of the Swiss National Tourist Office, Zurich
Peter R. Benz	Vice-Director of Messrs. Ed. Züblin & Cie. Ltd., Zurich
Michel Weber	Delegate of Swiss System Building Constructors, Lausanne
Peter Stebler	Delegate of SWISSRAIL, an export association of firms specialized in guided transport systems and member of the engineering office ACSS Ltd., Zurich

SECOND MEETING OF THE JOINT COMMISSION ON ECONOMIC COOPERATION  
BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF IRAQ AND THE SWISS CONFEDERATION

NOVEMBER 5 - 11, 1979

Delegation of the Republic of Iraq:

H.E. Mr. Hassan Ali	RCC-Member, Minister of Trade
H.E. Ambassador Mundher Ahmed Al-Mutlak	Embassy of Iraq, Berne
Farouq Daoud Salman Al-Ubeidi	Director General for Foreign Relations, Ministry of Trade
Dr Aala Aldin Daoud	Director General, Ministry of Agriculture
Moyassar Hamdoun	Director General of the Establish- ment for Post and Telegraph, Ministry of Communication and Transport
Taleb Ibrahim Abdul Hassan	Chief of the Manpower Planning Commission, Ministry of Planning
Sabah Hamid Shaheen	Foreign Relations Economic Commission
Fatahallah Said Mohammed	Chief Engineer, State Organization for Dams, Ministry of Irrigation
Hani Tawfiq Al-Naeb	Director of Western Section, Ministry of Trade
Mohammed Al-Ameli	First Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Abdul Ghafoud Abdul Halim	Second Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Dr Safa Salim Ali	Commercial Counsellor, Embassy of Iraq, Berne
Ahmad Hazim Yahya	Director of Agreements Section, State Organization for Tourism
Mohammed Idris	Chief of the Petrochemical Section, State Organization for Industrial Design and Construction



Hashim Mustafah	Chief Engineer, State Organization of Grain
Ayad Abdul Razak Aswad	Chief of the Commercial Department, State Organization for Consumer Goods
Abdul Latif Hussein Alshawi	Director of the Marketing Department, State Organization for Capital Goods
Kamal Murshid Saoud	Director of Industrial Products, State Export Company
Talal Abdul Wahab	Foreign Economic Relations, Ministry of Trade