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NEWS IN FLASHES

From Abadan British staff recalled when the oilfields were shut down and taken over by the Persians begin the first stage of their journey back to England as they cross the Shatt-el-Arab to the Anglo-Iranian administrative offices at Korranshahr. From the Transport Office they collect passports and other papers and after a more or less perfunctory customs check it will be all aboard overland-bound for Basra in Iraq whence they'll be flown home. With the Persian threat to withdraw residence-permits of all the Abadan staff, scenes like this may soon be multiplied unless the strong measures Britain has now taken compel Persia to show more reason for her own good.

Geneva

In Geneva, where he was undergoing medical treatment when his father was assassinated, Emir Talal (the late King Abdullah's eldest son) is greeted as the new King of Jordan. 41-years-old King Talal receives Britain's greeting through Sir Patrick Scrivener; and from Jordan comes his brother, Emir Naif, to escort him to the capital, Amman, to be enthroned. Brought up as a true son of the desert so that he should come to know the people he would one day rule, King Talal finished his training at Sandhurst. In those years he grew to like us and it is as a good friend of Britain that we wish godspeed to the new ruler of Jordan.

Sacramento, Calif.

Californian youngsters find a new thrill in their young lives in the form of a toys lending-library. Starting with simple toys (which must be returned in good condition) they qualify for better ones each week. The toys are old ones repaired and repainted at a nearby prison, and they're sterilised after each lending. Girls who take good care of the dolls they borrow are allowed to keep them; and little boys who want to take care of themselves can also be accommodated. For youngsters who have no toys of their own, the toy library is the answer to their wildest dreams.