

C O P Y

FROM: MR. HOWARD THOMAS.

TO: MR. G. T. CUMMINS.

PRODUCER-IN-CHIEF.

EDITOR: N/REEL DEPT.

HT/IJM

8th November,

51.

PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL.

Basra Pipeline (Iraq)

Confirming the set-up on this job at Basra:-

- 1) We will send a cameraman on January 5th in a charter plane to Basra (arriving January 7th/8th). His main job will be to film the official opening of the new pipeline.
- 2) The cameraman will be flown to Basra and back by Iraq Petroleum Co. They will also provide a large saloon car with driver and interpreter-liaison officer; a restroom at the oil field; local electricians; accommodation. Details are attached.
- 3) We shall supply all newreels (including British News, with material, charging them processing costs, plus a share of any out-of-pocket costs. Whether we shall supply B.B.C. Television has yet to be decided.
- 4) We shall produce, under contract, a special newreel (PATHE NEWS - IRAQ EDITION) in Arabic, consisting of 950 feet, made up of 600 feet on this story, supplemented by current newreel stories, and will ship eight prints to Iraq. 16 mm. copies will also be required. We shall get about £600.0s.0d. for this.

This is being organised through Film Centre and Sir Arthur Elton is arranging with Iraq Radio to get a tape recording of the ceremony in case we need it for the longer version.

I am enclosing extra copies of the details so that you can hand one over to the cameraman.

The first move is to notify the Iraq Petroleum Co. of details of the cameraman and particulars of the equipment (including photofloods) he will take.

Enc: Details

(SGD) HOWARD THOMAS.

## IRAQ

### 1. British Newsreel Coverage.

A. The ceremony takes place in the Basra area on January 10th. It is of the highest economic and strategic significance. From a newsreel point of view, there seems to be three high spots:-

- 1) During the morning of the 10th, the oil field at Zubair (about 12 miles from Basra, to which it is connected by a good road), and the pipeline to the Shat el Arab (about 70 miles away) will be officially opened. The ceremony takes place in the open air. A local notability will open a valve, or start the pumps running. This will be photogenic, since the valve wheel is two or three feet in diameter, is painted with aluminium paint and stands up from the ground.
- 2) Later in the day there is lunch at Makinah, about two miles from Basra, when objects will be presented to various important people. This will take place in a big shed, under cover, and it will be necessary to take a small set of photofloods. It will not be possible to light the whole building, but a small lighting set should be sufficient to cover the details of the presentation in mid-shot to semi-close-up.
- 3) The pipeline runs to Fao on the Shat el Arab, about 60 miles away. There is a brand new docking area where tankers are moored to landing stages and filled with oil. This also is photogenic from a scenic point of view, though there is not much movement.

B. The cameraman will leave England by IPC charter flight on January 5th, reaching Basra on the 7th or early in the morning of the 8th. This will give him time to make any necessary arrangements. The Company will supply him with a large saloon car to himself, with a driver and an interpreter-liaison officer. The management at the oil field will have ready a small rostrum about 5 ft. high and 5 ft. square. He may not need this, but we might as well have it standing by. The Company's technical headquarters are at Makinah, and two electricians (or more) will be put at his disposal. There are plenty of facilities there, and he should have no difficulty in having the photofloods serviced and hooked up to electric supply points. The voltage is 230 single phase 50 cycle AC. Fao is about 60 miles away and connected with Makinah by a fairly good though rather bumpy road. All the shooting at Fao will be exterior.

C. It will be necessary for the Iraq Petroleum Company to have, well in advance, the name of the cameraman, the weight of the equipment, the identification numbers of the camera and lenses and information about the film stock so that they can make all arrangements with the Iraqi customs people, both for import and export. The cameraman's passport should reach IPC not later than the end of November, giving them time to get the necessary visas. He should consult the IPC doctor about inoculation.

D. The cameraman will not have to carry any special clothing though he might take a raincoat and a stout pair of shoes. Since life at Basra has its formal side, he might take a dinner jacket. Dr. Barber, the IPC Public Relations Officer in London, will give a final opinion as to whether dinner clothes are necessary.

E. Though the unexposed film and the cameras can be flown into Iraq by the Company's charter flights, it would be wise to send the exposed material out by B.O.A.C. so that there will be no difficulty about British customs and clearance. The charter flight lands at Blackbushe, and it is doubtful whether its officers know the ins and outs of film importing, and it seems improbable that Northern Transport will have agents there. If one of the orthodox air routes is used from Basra, IPC will probably cover the freight charges as well.

F. The IPC Public Relations Officer is Dr. C.T. Barber. His address is The Iraq Petroleum Co. Ltd., 214, Oxford Street, W.1. and his telephone number is Museum 8010. George Seager will look after Film Centre interests.

G. The IPC Passage Department will look after passports, bookings, freight and the rest. The contact is Mr. D.L. Hutchinson (Museum 8010). I have asked Dr. Barber to let us have, at the earliest moment, as much background information as possible, in order for you to prepare the story in advance.

H. We are asking the Company whether it would be possible for them to put up their aerial survey aeroplanes so that you can get air shots of the oil field, Fao and, perhaps, the Makinah depot.

## 2. Special Iraq Newsreel.

a) It is proposed to issue a special reel in Iraq. It might consist of two or three short items picked from the ordinary newsreel of the particular week in question, and about 600 feet of the oil story. This reel should not only give background material, but should also introduce those personalities who would be excluded from the ordinary reels. Its precise form and titles can be decided later.

b) To make up this special item, it will be necessary for the cameraman to shoot rather more material than he would ordinarily cover for the reel. This material would be put together in London and commented by an Iraqi. A number of copies would be flown out for simultaneous presentation in Mosul, Kirkuk, Baghdad and Basra. 16 mm. copies would be furnished to the British Information Services, USIS and the various pipeline cinemas maintained by IPC itself. It will be extremely important to get the material out quickly, and the Arabic titles might be prepared in advance. The question of the speaker is important, and we shall have to look to IPC for special assistance in this matter. It will probably be desirable to use someone with an Iraqi and not an Egyptian accent, which means that we shall not be able to fall back on the usual Arabic commentators. Probably the written language is conventional Arabic, so the titles could be designed by the people who usually do Egyptian versions. The distribution of the film will have to be handled locally by IPC.