

Paris, 17th April 1979

His Excellency
Mr. MOHAMMED MAHJOUR
Minister of Education of
I R A K

Excellency,

Though I have been trying hard, I still have no words to thank you for all the signs of the kindest hospitality you gave me and my compatriot Mrs. Gomes.

So many beautiful gifts (the last one sent to me here!) are now land-marks to remind me of your culture, your people, your country.

It is an amazing fact to realize that in such a short time so many events took place and that I have had the privilege to be exposed to the cross-roads of the most ancient civilizations. Though regretting my inability to accept your invitation to stay longer in your country to visit the North and the South, I still have the impression that with the help of your kind collaborators I made the most I could of my short staying.

I would like to reaffirm that my admiration for Irak today is as great as the wonder before the signs of such civilizations. In fact, it seems to me that the enthousiasm, efficiency and long-term scope of your Goals are an example which reinforces my own convictions about the possibility of social development aimed at the welfare of the concrete people we are responsible for.



I am particularly grateful to you for the opportunity you gave me to exchange in the most direct way some political concerns.

Notwithstanding the normal bilateral diplomatic channels, I have transmitted to the highest authorities in my country the contents of our exchange. Some paths of collaboration as those mentioned during our conversation, can be taken up during the coming months in the relationships between our two countries. I do hope that these will be channels for an ever-increasing cooperation and mutual encouragement to the cause of "unity, freedom and socialism" which I saw so deeply engraved in the hearts of your people and their leaders.

Thanking you again for this opportunity I ask you to present to your wife my best regards.

Very Sincerely Yours,

Maria de Lourdes Pintasilgo
Permanent Delegate of Portugal
to UNESCO

