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July 16, 1979

Dear Luke:

Thank you for your letter of July 9 inviting me to become a member of the National Committee to Honor the Fourteenth Centennial of Islam.

I am delighted to accept your invitation and will look forward to attending as many meetings as possible. I may be in Europe during September and October, but these plans are not, as yet, finalized.

With best wishes and kindest personal regards, I am

Sincerely,

Melvin R. Laird

Mr. Lucius D. Battle
Chairman
National Committee to Honor
the Fourteenth Centennial of Islam
2551 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20008

National Committee to Honor
The Fourteenth Centennial of Islam

July 9, 1979

The Hon. Melvin R. Laird
The Readers Digest
1730 Rhode Island Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036

MRL
Dear Mr. Secretary:

November 21, 1979 will be the first day of the Muslim year 1400. On that date will begin a worldwide commemoration of the birth and the development of Islam. In order that Americans might participate in this international observance, the National Committee to Honor the Fourteenth Centennial of Islam has been chartered in Washington, D.C. This is my invitation to you to join other distinguished Americans who have agreed to become members of the National Committee.

Our objective is to foster among Americans a greater appreciation of the cultural achievements of the Islamic civilization. To accomplish this, the National Committee has been established as an organization, non-partisan in character and ecumenical of purpose, through which exhibits, publications, films, lectures, and other appropriate activities can be developed and presented to the people of the United States. The National Committee will maintain its headquarters in Washington where the secretariat, headed by Ambassador William R. Crawford, Executive Director, will serve as the administrative arm to coordinate and implement the directives of the Committee.

Formal inauguration of the National Committee will be held in Washington early in the autumn. During the Centennial year members will meet two or three times to oversee the progress of Committee activities. We would welcome your active participation, but are aware that circumstances might prevent you from attending all Committee functions. More important is your continued interest and support, if only expressed through occasional communication by telephone or letter.

Your participation as a National Committee member is an affirmation of our intention to observe the Islamic centennial in the best manner this country can. Our work will be a monument to international understanding and a service to our country. A8President Carter recently wrote in endorsing our efforts: "In honoring an important world faith and culture we do honor to our own traditions of tolerance and compassion."

In this spirit I ask you to join me and other Americans across our land on the National Committee to Honor the Fourteenth Centennial of Islam. I look forward to hearing from you at your early convenience.

Sincerely,

Lucius D. Battle
Lucius D. Battle
Chairman

*Accept
but
inform
them
I may
be in
Europe
in
Sept &
Oct.
MRL*

Directors
J. T. BOYD
C. B. FRILEY
M. E. KISSELL
PETER J. MARKS

PHILLIPS PETROLEUM FOUNDATION, INC.

President
M. E. KISSELL

16th FLOOR PHILLIPS BLDG.
BARTLESVILLE, OKLAHOMA 74004
918 661-6248

March 9, 1983

Mr. James W. Kirkpatrick
Director, Development and Finance
Islam Centennial Fourteen
4900 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.
Washington, Dc 20016

Dear Mr. Kirkpatrick:

Thank you for your letter of February 9, 1983, requesting additional support for "Islam Centennial Fourteen." The accompanying materials were very interesting and Patterns and Precision is a stunning catalogue.

Unfortunately, we must forego the opportunity to further our investment in Islam Centennial Fourteen. A reduced budget and a great many commitments force us to turn down many worthwhile projects such as yours. We wish it were otherwise, but know you understand and appreciate the situation.

With a program as interesting and exciting as Islam Centennial Fourteen, we do not doubt that you will be successful in your fund raising efforts. Thank you for thinking of Phillips.

Sincerely,


John C. West

nbt

Lee: Mr. M. Laird



Islam Centennial Fourteen

National Committee to Honor the Fourteenth Centennial of Islam
4900 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20016 (202) 966-5633 Telex: 904100

The Honorable Melvin R. Laird
Readers Digest Association, Inc.
730 Rhode Island Avenue, NW.
Washington, DC. 20036

February 10, 1983

Dear Mr. Laird:

We greatly appreciated your help with our 1981 approach to Phillips Petroleum. As you will see from the enclosed letter, we are hoping to return to the well in 1983 in support of the Washington engagement of the "Heritage of Islam" exhibition at the Smithsonian this summer.

Should you have occasion to speak with your friend Mr. Kittrell, I hope you might mention our program and the real importance we attach to the Washington component. I'm sure your personal support would considerably enhance our prospects for a 1983 Phillips donation.

Thank you very much for your interest in our work. One of the reasons we are so looking forward to having the exhibition in Washington is to give the Washington members of the National Committee a chance to see and participate in what we have been building over the last four years. Your help in this effort is always appreciated!

Sincerely,

James W. Kirkpatrick
Director, Development & Finance

enc:

January 25, 1984

Dear Luke:

Many thanks for your letter of January 20th inviting me to become a member of the Advisory Council of the new American Institute for Islamic Affairs which is affiliated with the School of International Service at the University.

As much as I would like to participate in this worthwhile effort, I feel that I cannot take on another outside commitment at this time.

With best wishes and kindest personal regards, I am

Sincerely,

Melvin R. Laird

The Honorable Lucius D. Battle
Chairman, Advisory Council
American Institute for Islamic Affairs
4900 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20016



American Institute for Islamic Affairs

School of International Service, The American University
4900 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20016 (202) 966-5633 Telex: 904100

The Honorable Lucius D. Battle
Chairman, Advisory Council

William C. Olson
Dean, SIS

The Honorable Christopher Van Hollen
Director, AIA

Hon. Melvin R. Laird
Readers Digest Assn., Inc.
Suite 212
730 Rhode Island Ave, NW
Washington, D.C 20036

*Send me
letter along
lines of
John*

January 20, 1984

Dear Mel:

I am writing you in your capacity as a member of the National Committee to Honor the Fourteenth Centennial of Islam. As you will recall, you and our associates joined in 1979 in founding Islam Centennial Fourteen to increase American understanding of Islamic civilization and culture.

The centerpiece of the ICF program—the "Heritage of Islam" exhibition—closed in September at the Smithsonian Institution after a very successful national tour. With its conclusion the four-year programs of ICF are drawing to a close. We believe that these programs have made a significant contribution toward increased American understanding of the Muslim world.

President Richard Berendzen of The American University has proposed the creation of an American Institute for Islamic Affairs affiliated with the School of International Service at the University. The ICF Board of Directors has accepted his proposal. I have agreed to serve as Chairman of the Advisory Council of the new Institute; Ambassador (ret.) Christopher Van Hollen will be its Director.

The Institute will continue ICF's goal of increasing American understanding of Islam through educational and cultural programs as well as analytical studies of today's Muslim world. The Institute will not take a position on political or religious issues. As Vice President Bush stated at the Smithsonian opening of the "Heritage of Islam" exhibition: "This Institute represents an important addition not only to American University but to our country."

Your association with Islam Centennial Fourteen has contributed greatly to its success. I hope you will join me and some other members of the ICF National Committee in forming an Advisory Council of the new Institute. This will involve very little of your time. However, your association with the Institute will reflect your continued interest in American understanding of the Muslim world. It will also be an important asset to the Institute in its formative period.

The Institute begins its activities this month. Therefore, I would appreciate it if you would let me know by mid February whether you will become a member of its Advisory Council. I hope you will agree to serve.

Sincerely yours,

Lucius D. Battle
U.S. Ambassador (ret.)

Enc: National Committee Members; ICF Program Review; AIIA Prospectus; Reply card.

National Committee Members

The Honorable Lucius D. Battle
National Chairman

Mr. Frederick H.S. Allen
Mr. Hugh D. Auchincloss
Mr. Sam Ayoub
Mr. Mohamed Baghal
Hon. George W. Ball
Mr. Thomas C. Barger
His Eminence, William Cardinal Baum
Mr. Stephen D. Bechtel, Jr.
Hon. Lucy Wilson Benson
Cardinal Joseph L. Bernardin
Mr. Edwin Binney
Dr. Landrum Bolling
Mr. William N. Bonham
Rabbi Balfour Brickner
Dr. J. Carter Brown
Hon. L. Dean Brown
Mr. Philip Caldwell
Imam Muhammad Jawad Chirri
Mr. Jack G. Clarke
Hon. Esther Coopersmith
Hon. Howard Cottam
Hon. William R. Crawford
Dr. Michael E. DeBakey
Dr. Richard A. Debs
Mr. Robert Dickey, III
Hon. Hermann F. Eilts
Dr. Henry Field
Mr. J. Robert Fluor
Mr. Paolo Fresco
Hon. J. William Fulbright
Mrs. Johnson Garrett
Ms. Georgie Anne Geyer
Dr. Oleg Grabar
Mr. Najeeb E. Halaby
Hon. Raymond A. Hare
Hon. Parker T. Hart
Mr. H. J. Haynes
Rev. Timothy S. Healy, S.J.
Rabbi Arthur Hertzberg.
Rev. Theodore M. Hesburgh, CSC
Mr. Edmond Howar
Dr. Joseph E. Johnson
Mr. Vernon Jordan
Mrs. George C. Keiser
Mr. George M. Keller
Hon. Philip M. Klutznick

The Honorable Christopher Van Hollen
Executive Director

Hon. L. Bruce Laingen
Hon. Melvin R. Laird
Mr. Nicholas S. Ludington
Mr. Walter MacDonald
Hon. John J. McCloy, Sr.
Hon. James A. McClure
Ms. Joanne McKenna
Rev. Frederick R. McManus
Hon. Robert S. McNamara
Hon. William B. Macomber, Jr.
Mr. Douglas Marshall, Sr.
Dr. Afaf Lutfi al-Sayyid Marsot
Mr. Irvan F. Mendenhall
Dr. Martin Meyerson
Dr. Fouad Moughrabi
Imam Warith Deen Muhammad
Mr. David Nalle
Hon. Richard B. Parker
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Hon. John E. Reinhardt
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Mr. David Rockefeller
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Rev. Francis Sayre, Jr.
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Mrs. Ruth Carter Stapleton
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Mr. Roger L. Stevens
Hon. Richard B. Stone
Hon. Stuart Symington
Hon. Phillips Talbot
Hon. Nicholas G. Thacher
Mr. William P. Thompson
The Right Rev. John T. Walker
Mr. Ira D. Wallach
Dr. Cynthia Wedel
Mr. James C. Wheat, Jr.
Mr. Clyde A. Wheeler
Mr. Morton M. Winston
Mr. Charles Wohlstetter
Mr. Elton G. Yates

THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE: ISLAM CENTENNIAL FOURTEEN

PROGRAM REVIEW

The programs of the National Committee: Islam Centennial Fourteen have been broad and varied. They include exhibitions, publications, public discussion and film series, T.V. roundtables, and the production and distribution of print and audio-visual materials. Some programs which the committee has produced, or is currently producing, include:

EXHIBITIONS

The Heritage of Islam

A major traveling exhibition of the arts and sciences of the Islamic world, its tour has included Houston, San Francisco, Pittsburgh, and Washington, D.C. where it was opened by Vice President George Bush. The 250 object show was also accompanied by a prize-winning film, The Peoples of Islam, by a slide show on Islamic architecture, and by a series of public programs covering a variety of subjects in a variety of formats. In a letter of March 2, 1982, President Reagan extended his congratulations, and expressed his "hope that the American people will avail themselves fully of the great experience this exhibition offers."

Symbols of Faith

An exhibition developed jointly by Islam Centennial Fourteen and the National Geographic Society to trace the common roots and aspirations of the world's three leading monotheistic religions, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. It focused on specific examples of the art--the Jewish menorah, Christian icon, and Muslim prayer rug. First displayed at Explorers Hall, National Geographic Society, Washington, D.C., from December 10, 1981 - April 18, 1982, it has been developed for circulation by the Smithsonian Institution's Traveling Exhibition Service for a three-year nationwide tour. In a Congressional Record statement of March 10, 1981, Senator Mathias commended "this unique and beautiful exhibit" to his colleagues and others.

CONFERENCE AND DISCUSSION PROGRAMS

The World of Islam: from Morocco to Indonesia

A jointly sponsored two-day conference on Islam was held in June, 1980 at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies. This conference resulted in the publication of its edited proceedings as the book Change and the Muslim World, and in a briefing packet on Islam developed for conference use and later re-printed and distributed nationwide. The conference was developed by Islam Centennial Fourteen, the Middle East Institute, and the Washington Center of the Asia Society. It was funded, in part, by grants from the United States International Communication Agency and the National Endowment of the Humanities.

Islam: The Heritage We Share

A multi-faceted public library program held at the Bethesda Library, Montgomery County, Maryland; the Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore, Maryland; and the Martin Luther King Memorial Library, Washington, D.C.. This series involved lectures, discussions, films, readings, and a panel exhibit, library resource development, and book displays at these three sites during February and March, 1982; and March - June, 1983. These programs, covering major themes on Islamic faith, arts, sciences, literature, and culture, were funded, in part, by a grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Maryland Humanities Council, and the D.C. Community Humanities Council.

The Aga Khan Architectural Awards Program

A presentation by His Highness the Aga Khan followed by an illustrated discussion program by experts on Islamic architecture to note the first winners of the Architectural Awards. The awards program encourages the preservation of important elements of Islamic design in an environment of modern, technological architecture. The event, sponsored jointly with the Smithsonian Institution, was held at the Hirshhorn Museum, December 10, 1980.

The U.S. and the Muslim World

ICF co-sponsored with the United States Information Agency a seminar designed to inform 8 visiting Middle Eastern leaders about U.S. interest in the culture and history of the Muslim world. As part of the Visitors Program Service, it was held at Meridian House in Washington, D.C. (November 3, 1981).

Islamic Resurgence in the Contemporary Muslim World

A symposium sponsored jointly by ICF and the American University's School of International Service on October 7, 1982. Five international visitors from Morocco, Pakistan, Cairo, Tunisia, and Jordan provided students and faculty of area universities with an opportunity to discuss Islamic Resurgence from a variety of perspectives.

OTHER EVENTSConvocation

The opening meeting of the members of the National Committee to Honor the Fourteenth Centennial of Islam was held at the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden of the Smithsonian Institution. The meeting, attended by members of the National, Academic, and Diplomatic Advisory Committees of ICF, included a welcome by Assistant Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, Paul Perrot, an introductory speech by Ambassador Lucius D. Battle, a reading of President Carter's letter expressing his strong support for the Committee's work, a statement by Ambassador Ali Hedda of Tunisia, senior diplomatic advisor, and a presentation of the Committee's plans and programs. (June 12, 1980).

Open House and Book Presentation

To celebrate its move to new headquarters, ICF held an Open House for The American University administration and faculty. The President of the university, Dr. Richard Berendzen, welcomed ICF noting the importance of Islamic Studies. Dr. Wahbi Al-Hariri-Rifai presented his book Traditional Architecture in Saudi Arabia, a limited edition work of thirty-three detailed renderings of indigenous Saudi architecture, and which will be the cornerstone of an Islamic Studies library (October 20, 1982).

Mirror of Kings: Tales from Kalila wa Dimna

A film premiere of the twelve minute animated color film based on a 14th century Mamluk manuscript. Prince Talal bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud, brother of King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, was the honored guest at this event on March 21, 1983 jointly sponsored by the Smithsonian Institution and Islam Centennial Fourteen.

FILMS AND AUDIO-VISUAL MATERIALS

Islam: An Introduction

A multi-media kit designed as basic background on Islam. The kit includes a 21-minute color presentation which highlights the origins, religious beliefs, and achievements of the Muslim peoples. Available in four formats--filmstrip, slides, film, or videotape--each of which includes a script booklet and the print materials from the Islam: An Introduction print kit (see publications). Funded, in part, by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The Peoples of Islam

An award-winning 16 mm. film produced to accompany the "Heritage of Islam" exhibition. This 24-minute color film about representative Muslims in six countries--Nigeria, Morocco, Egypt, Pakistan, Malaysia, and Indonesia--shows the differences and similarities in these widespread cultures and the traditional Islamic values that unite them. Winner of the 1982 CINE "Golden Eagle" Certificate.

Architecture of the Muslim World

A 15-minute slide presentation on the architecture and design elements of the contemporary Muslim world, produced to accompany the "Heritage of Islam" exhibition.

PUBLICATIONS

Newsletter

A bi-monthly publication of the National Committee designed to publicize cultural programs on Islam and to update readers on ICF programs and activities. The Newsletter also includes briefly-annotated bibliographies of relevant articles selected from 30 publications, and annual listings of book titles of the year.

Change and the Muslim World

A book of the edited proceedings of the international conference "The World of Islam: from Morocco to Indonesia," it provides an introduction to the complexities of contemporary Islam. Seventeen essays focus on the impact of modernization, with emphasis on politics, education, and family life across the Muslim world and among Muslim communities in primarily non-Muslim countries. (Published by Syracuse University Press, 1981).

The World of Islam, Images and Echoes: A Critical Guide to Films and Recordings

An annotated catalogue reviewing some 250 English-language films and selected recordings on the Islamic world. This publication also includes information on where each is available for rental or sale. Developed as part of the Islamic Teaching Materials project funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, and sponsored by the American Council on Learned Societies, its publication was funded by Islam Centennial Fourteen.

Islam: An Introduction

This print packet of materials includes an introductory text, timeline, map, population statistics, glossary, holiday guide, and bibliography.

Symbols of Faith Catalogue

An illustrated essay catalogue which reviews the themes of the Symbols of Faith exhibition.

Patterns and Precision

An illustrated guide to the arts and sciences of Islam designed for the general reader who would like to know more about the materials, instruments, and ideas behind 1400 years of Islamic civilization.

Islam

Foreign Policy Association Headline Series published by the Foreign Policy Association with the cooperation of Islam Centennial Fourteen. A short publication on Islam designed for a lay audience written by Thomas Lippman of the Washington Post.

CLEARINGHOUSE AND INTER-ORGANIZATIONAL RELATIONS

Islam Centennial Fourteen seeks to bring together people, programs, and resources on Islam, as well as to publicize programs of interest in this field. The Committee serves as a focal point for programs dealing with Islam by participating in major conferences, publicizing programs in a Newsletter, and providing assistance to organizations involved with Islam-related programs.

OUTREACH, MATERIALS DISTRIBUTION, AND RESOURCE CENTER

The materials produced by ICF have been distributed nationwide. They have been used by individuals and institutions in over 40 states. A variety of organizations, including colleges, universities, community colleges, and high schools, as well as the U.S. Air Force, the U.S. Army, the Foreign Service Institute, and the Business Council for International Understanding, and museums with Islamic exhibitions have made these materials part of their programs. The print packet Islam: An Introduction has been distributed at a number of major conferences on Islam, in Arizona, Minnesota, New York State, and elsewhere. It has also been deposited in each library in the Montgomery County System. Parts of the print kit have been reproduced in the Saturday Evening Post, the Foreign Policy Association's book on Islam, a U.S. Air Force training manual, the Symbols of Islam university-level video course on Islamic Art History, the Department of Commerce's Overseas Business Reports, and Richard Mortimer's book Faith and Power. Thousands of copies of the print kit and books of ICF, and hundreds of copies of the audiovisual materials have been distributed nationwide in the past two years (including those given to entire school systems in Houston, Texas, and Westchester County, N.Y.) but these numbers do not begin to show the numbers of people who have actually read or viewed these products through loans (around San Francisco, for example, to accompany the "Heritage of Islam" exhibition), through large audiences for each showing of the films, or through extensive circulation (and often reproduction) of printed materials.

PRESS COVERAGE

The work of ICF has received extensive press coverage. More than 100 articles have appeared in periodicals nationwide and abroad. Publications which have dealt with the work of ICF include The New York Times, The Washington Post, The Wall Street Journal, People Magazine, The Gulf Times, The Atlanta Constitution, The Washington Times. Appearances by the Executive Director on radio and T.V. broadcasts, including a nationwide WBS Cable T.V. roundtable on Islam, have also increased the number of people aware of the work of the Committee.

SUPPORTING THE PROGRAMS OF OTHERSThe New School for Social Research (New York, New York)

ICF contributed to the sponsorship of a series of lectures designed to present a broad adult audience with background on Islamic art, science, history, design, and other areas (Fall, 1979; Spring, 1980).

Sunrise Semester

ICF contributed to the funding of 45 half-hour lectures on Islam for nationwide viewing on CBS T.V. (Spring, 1980).

Allegheny College

A videotaped roundtable discussion on Islam with Ambassador Crawford, Professor R. Ramazani, and Ms. Nouha Alhegelan, produced by WQLN at Allegheny College (Meadville, PA), and aired on WQLN in Erie and WOED in Pittsburgh, was sponsored by Islam Centennial Fourteen (February, 1981).

The Smith Archives of Islamic Art

Part of the study collection of the Freer Gallery of Art, Smithsonian Institution, this collection includes a wide variety of photographic prints, negatives, slides, and notes relating primarily to Islamic architecture compiled by Myron Bement Smith when he was in Iran in the 1930's. Funding for the cataloging and indexing of this collection was provided by the King Faisal Foundation under the auspices of Islam Centennial Fourteen.

Images and Echoes

The printing of a film catalogue (described under "publications") was made possible, in part, by a grant from ICF.

Kalila Wa Dimna (the book)

Fables from a fourteenth-century manuscript, this illustrated collection of the Kalila wa Dimna tales (similar to Aesop's Fables) was published by the Smithsonian Institution, funded by the King Faisal Foundation under the auspices of Islam Centennial Fourteen.

Kalila Wa Dimna (the film)

A thirteen minute animated color film, narrated by Omar Sharif, illustrating the fourteenth century Kalila Wa Dimna tales, was produced by the Smithsonian Institution, and funded by the King Faisal Foundation under the auspices of Islam Centennial Fourteen.

Prospectus

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR ISLAMIC AFFAIRS AT THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

Islam, the faith of one-fifth of the world's people, has been more newsworthy than known, more feared than understood in the United States. The word itself is apt to evoke images of Crusades and Khomeini, harems and holy wars -- at best distant and exotic, at worst negative and threatening.

These stereotypes are dangerous. They overlook some 800 million people living in virtually every country of the world. They ignore the world's second largest and fastest growing faith. They perpetuate the centuries-old sense of confrontation between Western and Islamic cultures, effectively obstructing attempts at the two-way communication crucial to world peace and intercultural understanding.

Sensitive to the need for better understanding of Islam, a group of distinguished Americans in 1979 formed the National Committee to Honor the Fourteenth Centennial of Islam. The goal of Islam Centennial Fourteen was to commemorate the 1400th anniversary of the founding of Islam by developing unbiased and informative programs and materials on the entire Muslim world. They appointed as Chairman Lucius D. Battle, former U.S. Ambassador to Egypt, and Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs. The Honorable William R. Crawford, former U.S. Ambassador to Cyprus, the Yemen Arab Republic and Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, was its first Executive Director. With the advice and support of scholars, diplomats, and business executives, Islam Centennial Fourteen has produced major exhibitions, films, books, briefing materials, conferences, and public lecture series.

Observing the success of Islam Centennial Fourteen's programs, and the extent of American interest in the Muslim world, President Richard Berendzen of The American University in Washington, D.C., approached ICF with the idea of co-founding an "American Institute for Islamic Affairs" at the University. It will open on January 1, 1984.

The Institute will devote close attention to the Arab contributions to world civilization and culture and to contemporary Islamic developments in the Middle East. It will also reflect the global sweep of Islam by assessing the role of Muslims in Africa, and South and Southeast Asia. All aspects of Islamic life will be covered: religious, cultural, political, economic, social and legal.

The American University, in the nation's capital, is an ideal setting for the American Institute for Islamic Affairs (AIIA). The Institute will combine the academic strength of The American University and the proven

public outreach capability of Islam Centennial Fourteen with the unparalleled resources of the Washington area. It will draw upon the Executive Branch and Congress, research organizations and public interest groups, Muslim diplomatic missions, other academic institutions, and visiting foreign scholars and public officials.

The programs of AIIA are designed to provide timely and accurate information to the general public, the business community, the media, universities and schools and various civic groups. These programs will include publications, conferences, executive training seminars and special audio-visual presentations.

For donor corporations, the Institute will also provide special information services on a need-to-know basis. The Institute has a significant in-house capability to respond quickly to corporations requesting information about events and conditions in the Islamic world. It can also serve as an information center and clearinghouse to assemble outside expertise.

AIIA will also establish cooperative relationships with institutions in this country and abroad to exchange materials, resources, and scholars. It will also assist departments of The American University in developing a comprehensive interdisciplinary degree program in Islamic Studies.

The programs and publications of the Institute will not advocate political or religious positions. Its first Director will be Christopher Van Hollen (Ph.D., Johns Hopkins), a retired U.S. Ambassador and former Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs.

Based on the success of Islam Centennial Fourteen, prospects for the American Institute for Islamic Affairs are excellent. But the new Institute will require outside financial support.

Since 1979, ICF has raised over \$3.6 million from corporations, institutions and individuals in the United States and abroad; over half of this amount has been used to create and support the traveling "Heritage of Islam" exhibition. The financial needs of the Institute will be more modest. It will require \$400,000 annually for programs and operating expenses. Contributions to AIIA will be tax-deductible.

~~MR~~

RICHARD BERENDZEN
PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY
AND
WILLIAM C. OLSON
DEAN OF THE SCHOOL OF
INTERNATIONAL SERVICE
ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE
THE OPENING OF THE
**AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR
ISLAMIC AFFAIRS**

AT THE SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL SERVICE
OF THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

CHRISTOPHER VAN HOLLEN, PH.D.
U.S. AMBASSADOR, RETIRED
WILL SERVE AS DIRECTOR

AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR ISLAMIC AFFAIRS
4900 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20016

TELEPHONE (202) 966-5633

The American Institute for Islamic Affairs (AIIA) is the successor organization to Islam Centennial Fourteen. The Institute will draw upon the public outreach capability of Islam Centennial Fourteen, the academic strength of The American University, and the unparalleled resources of the Washington area to produce timely and accurate information and programs about the Islamic world.

The Institute will be associated with the School of International Service (SIS), currently celebrating its 25th anniversary. SIS is a member of the Association of Professional Schools of International Affairs.

The Institute will devote close attention to Islamic contributions to world civilization as well as to contemporary developments in the Muslim world—in the Middle East, Asia, Africa, and other areas. It will examine all aspects of life: religious and cultural, political and legal, economic and social.

A variety of programs will be offered for the business community, the media, universities and schools, and the general public. These include:

—Publications: Analytical papers on timely issues in the Muslim world.

—Information Services including:

- A geographic and topical data bank
- A Newsletter and Bibliographies
- Directory of experts, specialists, and speakers
- Basic collection of books, journals, and audio-visual materials

—Conferences and seminars

—Traveling one-day programs on Islam for communities nationwide

—General resource development and distribution.

The programs of AIIA will not advocate any religious or political positions. The Institute believes that improved understanding of the peoples and cultures of Islam, the world's second largest and fastest growing faith, is crucial to our country's evolving relations with the Muslim world.



AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR
ISLAMIC AFFAIRS

4900 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20016



Reply regarding membership on
the Advisory Council of the
American Institute for Islamic
Affairs at The American University.

- I will be pleased to serve as
a member of the Advisory Council
of the American Institute for
Islamic Affairs.
- I regret that I will be unable
to serve.
-

Signature

January, 1984

The most striking characteristic of Islamic art is the dominance of pattern. This richness of design with its rhythmic balance and symmetry covers most every available surface. Animals, birds and human beings were all popular subjects in secular art. The muslim artist manipulated these figures to fill a given space, adapting their shapes to the needs of balanced design.

The restraints against figural art in religious buildings did not extend into the Muslim household whether royal or humble. Crafts flourished, and there was great demand for decorative pottery and textiles. However, those restraints may have contributed to the Muslim artist's mastery of design by creating the stimulus that resulted in the artist drawing his figures disguised in a camouflage of pattern.

All designs of this series were created by artists who lived 500 to 1000 years ago. Islamic pottery, made during the 9th to the 15th century A.D. is the source of design. A few exceptions are from textiles, notably the Egyptian tapestry design of a goose made in the 10th or 11th century and printed below as a decorative emblem. All designs have been redrawn and adapted for this printing. Occasional attempts have been made to restore a long lost image. These efforts are offered humbly with an apology to the artist.

PEACOCK

From bowl about 14 inch dia. luster painted
Mesopotamia, Rakka late 12th or early 13th century
Walters Art Gallery, Baltimore

A very forceful design has been created by the artist. The sweeping curves of the peacock's body conform to the curves of the bowl. The contoured background and leaves emphasize this movement. Had the legs been more definite rather than cross-hatched, they would have detracted from the strong, circular motion. And the bird's feet are all but lost in the pattern of the background.

