

AMERICAN FRIENDS
of the
MIDDLE EAST

Third Annual Report
of the Executive Vice President

to the Board of Directors and the National Council of the
American Friends of the Middle East, Inc.

July 1, 1953 to June 30, 1954

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AMERICAN FRIENDS OF THE MIDDLE EAST, INC.
47 East 67th Street
New York 21, N. Y.

THE AMERICAN FRIENDS OF THE MIDDLE EAST, INC., is an organization of independent Americans, who believe that "peace can be waged," at least in part, by a better understanding of the religious, cultural and social aspirations of people in other parts of the world. Our interest lies in the peoples of the Middle East. We believe that our great civilizations in the Middle East and West derive their strength essentially from the same wellsprings and that a better mutual understanding between Americans and the people living between Morocco and Indonesia will result in greater harmony of action.

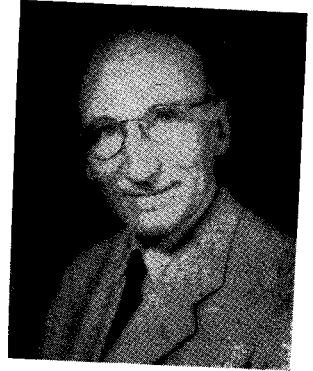


CORDES-PHOTO

MIDDLE EAST HOUSE



GARLAND EVANS HOPKINS
Executive Vice President



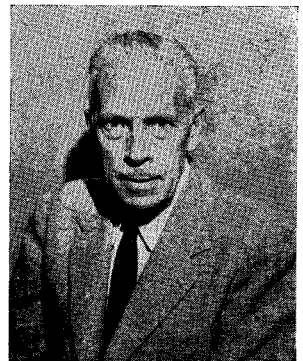
CORNELIUS VAN H. ENGERT
Secretary-Treasurer



DOROTHY THOMPSON
President



EDWARD L. R. ELSON



HAROLD LAMB

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

FRIENDSHIP THROUGH UNDERSTANDING

The preparation of this third annual report to the Board of Directors and National Council of American Friends of the Middle East, Inc., has been a task vastly differing from the preparation of the first annual report. In time, June, 1952, is not so long ago; in AFME history it seems aeons away. Then, the organization was just starting out on one of its first big ventures, which was to assist Arab students in America to organize. My secretary went with me to Ann Arbor to attend that First Arab Student Convention. En route I dictated the *First Annual Report*. Next day she typed it and by week's end, it was printed and in process of distribution.

Much of the material for this report—just two years later—has been coming from half-around the world over the last two months. The job has been to cut down to size and budget requirements the thousands of words our staff—now scattered from Chicago to Teheran—has written in summing up their activities of the past year. I wish all of what they have written could be reproduced here; they have not been wordy, they have simply reported what is going on here in America and out there in the Middle East under AFME auspices.

Behind this development are hundreds of concerned Americans who recognize the importance of good American-Middle Eastern relations. Their interest and money—not to speak of the time they have personally devoted to the organization—have made AFME known to millions of Americans and Middle Easterners. United together in this endeavor to get the facts before the American people, these AFME members have had their share in helping Americans to see the need for and advantages of an American policy towards the Middle East based on impartiality and sympathetic understanding. They have helped create the climate in American public opinion which once again allows newspapers and radios to present the Middle East in its proper perspective. They have given the lie to half-truths and unfactual propaganda spread by special interest groups. They have had a real part in restoring the American way in America. The result is that the dry reservoirs of good will in the Middle East are beginning to fill up once again; true, only in trickles as yet, but the signs for the future are promising.

And behind what AFME has done, too, are thousands of Middle Easterners. We have had gracious and unstinting cooperation from

almost all the Middle Eastern diplomatic and consular representatives to the United States and at the United Nations. The officials of all the Middle Eastern governments have been cooperative and kind; Middle Eastern newsmen, radio broadcasters and public figures have told AFME's story and emphasized our purposes throughout the area. In addition to these, a host of private citizens in all the countries have been helpful, many of them serving voluntarily in our program of trying to help Americans who visit the area to see more than shrines and ruins—to meet people and get an understanding of what the mind of the Middle East is today.

To all of these friends and supporters, both American and Middle Eastern, go warmest thanks and deepest appreciation—and a pledge that we will continue to do our best—from those who work day after day at AFME.

OUR MIDDLE EAST

The question any AFME member faces most frequently is: "What is the Middle East?" Hardly any two definitions agree. The difficulty is that any realistic definition of the Middle East is necessarily in conflict with some generally accepted geographical definition of some other area of the globe—as examples: North Africa, Southern Asia, the Far East. AFME believes other accepted geographical concepts of the area, to the contrary notwithstanding, that the Middle East can best be defined as comprising those countries between the Pillars of Hercules and the Straits of Macassar in which, if an injustice is perpetrated in one, a protest will be raised in the others—plus Israel. We say "plus Israel" because Israel does not today conform to the pattern suggested. However, Israel is in the Middle East and of the Middle East, and must eventually conform to the pattern, or it has no other alternative but to cease to exist. There are many indications that thoughtful Israeli statesmen are beginning to recognize this fact.

This Middle East extends from Morocco through Indonesia. It includes Turkey and Pakistan. It is more a psychological than a geographical area. The intensity of devotion to the same causes is not as great in some countries as in others. There are great intra-area disputes and disagreements; but it is poor statecraft to count on these differences being greater than the common interests shared by all.

The unwillingness to accept the essential unity of this area has led the West into many grievous mistakes in its policy; has led it to believe that one type of policy can be pursued in Indonesia and yet another in Tunis. The result is that the West is on the verge of losing potential allies whose lands form the not necessarily soft underbelly of Europe and Asia whose aggregate populations number over 300 millions and whose loss to communism could well spell the end of Western civilization and the elimination of the concept of democracy from modern world history.

The Middle East has a cultural affinity for the West not shared by other Asian nations. From the Middle East came the ideas that gave birth to Western civilization, and during the European dark age it was the Middle East that stood guardian over and kept alive those ideas, returning them to the West refined and improved. Now that the Middle East is emerging from its own dark age of cultural stagnation, the West has a debt to repay. If a formula can be found to end the present political stalemate in Western-Middle Eastern relationships, the peoples of the Middle East will joyfully accept back from us, refined and improved, what they originally gave to us.

The West needs a friendly Middle East just as surely and urgently as the Middle East needs a friendly West. For either of us the future is indeed dark unless we find mutual trust, cooperation and friendship. I believe this is possible, but only when the Middle East has become aware of its need of the West and the West has realized its need of the Middle East. When mutual need is recognized by both sides, friendly cooperation, which the peoples of both areas want, will be possible.

PROMOTING UNDERSTANDING

Our object in creating AFME was a constructive object: to promote friendship through understanding. Understanding is a two-way street; it can never exist unilaterally. We must understand the Middle East and Middle Easterners, they must understand America and Americans if a sound base is to be found for mutual friendship. During its third year, AFME has continued to work to make this possible through four major program departments: Research and Publication, Student Affairs, Public Relations and Intercultural Relations. These departments, together with Phoenix Newspaper Service, the administrative office and the field offices, have handled a continually expanding program.

One of the highlights of the year was the leasing on December 1 of Middle East House, 47 East 67th Street. It has an excellent location, for in the same neighborhood are a number of Middle Eastern consulates and other international organizations with which AFME has close relationships. The first two floors of the five-story house include an attractive reception hall, a well-equipped kitchen, a lounge well suited for meetings and social affairs, and a large room for AFME's expanding library. These facilities have already made Middle East House a center for group meetings and receptions and afford the Middle East visitor the restful atmosphere of a "home away from home." The three remaining floors contain the offices of the organization. After moving was completed, a series of Open Houses was held, one each week for the different national groups of the Middle East in order to acquaint them with Middle East House and invite them to make full use of its facilities.

On January 28 and 29 AFME held its Second Annual Conference with an average attendance of 150 persons at its sessions. Under the theme "Friendship through Cooperation," the conference heard such outstanding speakers as H. E. Ambassador Abdul Monim al Rifa'i of Jordan; Vincent Sheean, author and lecturer; the Hon. Eric A. Johnston, special ambassador of President Eisenhower to the Middle East; Walter W. Van Kirk, executive director, Department of International Justice and Goodwill, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A.; H. E. Ambassador Moekarto Notowidigdo of Indonesia; and the Hon. Alexander Wiley, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

The participants divided into six groups: Relief and Material Aid, Rehabilitation and Technical Assistance, Educational and Cultural Development, Christian-Muslim Relations, American Policy in the Middle East, and Economic Relations.

A third annual conference is planned to be held at the same time and place during 1955.

During the year two meetings of the National Council were held in different cities so that AFME members and other interested persons in these cities might gain first-hand knowledge of AFME's work and personnel.

The city chosen for the first meeting was Philadelphia. The planning committee consisted of Mrs. Brandon Barringer, chairman of

the Philadelphia Committee, Professor William A. Aiken, secretary of the National Council, and the field secretary. The sessions of the two-day conference were held at Bryn Mawr College on October 22 and 23, and closed with a banquet in the Babylonian Wing, University Museum, University of Pennsylvania.

Among the participants in the program were H. E. Ambassador Musa Al-Shabander of Iraq; H. E. Ambassador Charles Malik of Lebanon; AFME president Dorothy Thompson; John Wilson, distinguished Egyptologist from the University of Chicago; John Badeau, president of the Near East Foundation; Wallace Murray, former American ambassador to Iran; and Carleton Coon, professor of anthropology at the University of Pennsylvania.

Many distinguished visitors from the Middle East attended the meeting together with more than 200 AFME members and friends.

The Spring Meeting of the National Council was held at Lake Forest College, near Chicago, on June 17 and 18, 1954, having as its theme, "Emerging Goals in the Arab World." Emerging goals in education, rural development, social life, industrial development, and politics were discussed, as well as the plight of the Arab refugees and means of properly interpreting the Arab world to Americans. The approximately 150 attendants heard these matters discussed by authorities such as Ambassador Abdul Monim al Rifa'i of Jordan, Father Joseph P. Connell, S. J., of Baghdad, Mohammad El-Zayyat, Cultural Attaché, Embassy of Egypt, Washington, Henry Regnery, Afif Tannous, John J. McDonough, and John A. Wilson.

Much of the success of these National Council conferences was due to the splendid help of our Philadelphia and Chicago AFME Committees, of which Mrs. Brandon Barringer and John A. Wilson, respectively, are chairmen. The Philadelphia Conference was planned by our field secretary, Mrs. Alice B. Whelen¹, and the Lake Forest Conference by our director of the Midwest Regional Office, Mrs. Katharine W. Sellers.² For both of these faithful workers these conferences were, in a sense, farewell affairs.

Mrs. Sellers, wife of National Council member Ovid R. Sellers, resigned as of the end of the year because of Dr. Sellers' retirement

¹ Alice B. Whelen: grad. Smith College; grad. work, University of Pennsylvania. Lived for several years in South America and Europe. During World War II served with the Office of Strategic Services, North African Department.

² Katharine W. Sellers: grad. Vassar College. Visited the Middle East on numerous occasions; taught at the Beirut College for Women 1948-49.

as Dean of McCormick Theological Seminary. This fall the Sellers will make a four-month tour of the Middle East as AFME lecturers. On their return to the United States they will settle in Sante Fe, New Mexico. It is our hope that Mrs. Sellers will then open a Southwest regional office for AFME. The Middle East has few truer friends than Ovid and Katherine Sellers; and there are probably no Americans better loved in the Arab world than they.

As the year closed, AFME also reluctantly accepted the resignation of Mrs. Whelen, who shortly thereafter became the wife of National Council member Walter G. Dunnington. Alice Whelen was the second staff member employed by AFME. Serving as its first executive secretary, she helped the organization through the first few months of its existence. Her contribution to the organization has been great and she will be missed. It was she who added the little touches that have characterized AFME's programs and social functions. Fortunately, she will be nearby and has promised to help us in every way possible.

Throughout the country more AFME committees were organized and more local representatives secured. It is not possible here to record the work of these groups and individuals; a few representative samplings will have to suffice. In a large measure, this whole report is their report; without them the work could not have been done.

The work of Mrs. Brandon Barringer, chairman of the Philadelphia Committee, was outstanding. Not only was the success of the fall National Council meeting largely due to her untiring efforts, but also the success of the Jewad Selim art exhibit at Philadelphia's de Braux gallery and of the visits of other AFME lecturers to the Quaker City, where more time was provided them on television and radio and before public meetings than in any other city in America.

Robert Ogden, director of the Near East Division, Library of Congress, and an old Middle East hand, and Benjamin P. DeWitt, prominent Wall Street attorney and a newer Middle East hand, have rendered yeoman service as chairmen of the Washington and New York Committees, respectively. These two committees are by far the most active—and the most overworked—of all, by virtue of their location. The Washington Committee sponsors monthly luncheons for its members. One of New York's social highlights of the year was the reception tendered Mrs. Antonius at the residence of Mrs. William Marston Seabury.

The Boston Committee, Mrs. George Khiralla, chairman, arranged comprehensive schedules for Emile Samaán of Egypt and Father Joseph P. Connell, S. J., of Baghdad.

Memorable occasions this year were the visits of Dr. G. M. D. Sufi of Karachi, Pakistan, to Portland, Maine, where our chairman, Mrs. Robert Morrisson, planned an all-out community program and to Cortland, New York, where Mayor Robert Kerr personally took charge of a program which was in part in return for the great hospitality extended to him on his recent visit to Pakistan.

The activities of the many local committees in the East, South and Midwest are coordinated by the three regional offices located in New York, Washington and Chicago. Mrs. Whelen has directed the activities of the Eastern Region. Mrs. Sellers has served as director of the Midwest Region, with Mrs. Ivis Nasir³ as her administrative assistant. Mrs. Dorothea Seelye Franck⁴ directs the activities of the Southern Region.

In addition to its other functions, the Midwest Office has served as an information center. Students, teachers and program planners have secured information and materials in the form of books, magazines and leaflets in the office library. Also, the director has acted as a travel consultant, giving advice and introductions to many who were planning trips to the region. Throughout its existence, the walls and shelves of the office have been used to display exhibits illustrating arts and crafts of the Middle East.

In the field of Student Affairs there has been an almost constant relationship. Many student groups have used Chicago's AFME rooms for their meetings and social affairs.

At the high school level, this regional office sponsored an essay contest on the subject, "My Trip To Egypt," with a trip to Washington and New York, including a visit to the United Nations, as the reward. The two winners were Constance Clark of Chicago and Charlotte Sivon of Painesville, Ohio.

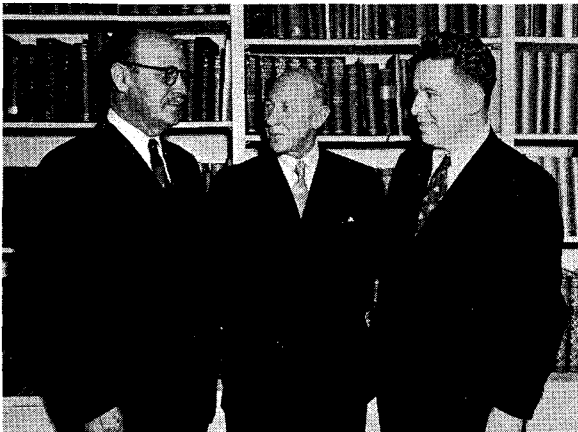
³ Ivis B. Nasir grad: Depauw University; studied Art Institute, Chicago, Ill., and the Twin City Business College, Benton Harbor, Mich.

⁴ Dorothea Seelye Franck (Mrs. Peter G.): grad. St. Lawrence University; M.A. in Social Economy, American University. Lived in Beirut, 1919-1933; served Department of State, Division of Exchange of Persons, officer in charge of exchange of professors and specialists with Near East and Africa, 1944-47; since 1947 has done free lance writing on Middle East.



"The Middle East refuses to assume a secondary role in the scale of things," H. E. Dr. Charles Malik (second from left) told the fall meeting of AFME's National Council in Philadelphia. Other featured speakers were Dr. John Badeau (left), president of the Near East Foundation and Miss Dorothy Thompson. The Hon. Wallace Murray (right), former United States Ambassador to Iran, presided at the dinner meeting.

Presenting a check to Mrs. M. F. Jamali, wife of the former premier of Iraq, is the Hon. Cornelius Van H. Engert, member of AFME's Board of Directors and one of its founding members. Beneficiary of the check is the Ramzi School of Baghdad, Iraq, which ministers to mentally retarded children. Mrs. Jamali who lectured widely in the U. S. and Canada is one of the founding members of the school.



Meeting for the first time prior to departure on their "Mission to the Middle East" are Dr. Harold E. Fey, executive editor of THE CHRISTIAN CENTURY; Dr. Morris S. Lazaron, contributing editor of the JEWISH NEWSLETTER; and Mr. John Cogley, executive editor of THE COMMONWEAL. Asked by AFME to investigate causes of tension in the Middle East and to report their findings to their own readers, they visited six countries.

INTERCULTURAL RELATIONS

Six distinguished Middle Easterners visited America as AFME's guests during the year. Two others, one an American long a resident in the Middle East, were sponsored on lecture tours while in this country. On the other side of the exchange, three editors of religious periodicals in the United States were sent to the Middle East on a reportorial mission; three AFME staff members toured the area; the executive vice president made his annual visit; and, at year's end, Cornelius Van H. Engert was still abroad as the recipient of AFME's annual lectureship in the Middle East.

The first of AFME's visitors was Dr. Samuel Hugo Bergman, professor of philosophy at Hebrew University in Jerusalem, who lectured to college and university groups across the country from October 12 to November 23. He filled twenty-five lecture engagements and met with numerous student and faculty groups.

Mrs. George Antonius, the widow of the author of the famous book, *The Arab Awakening*, herself an outstanding leader of Arab society, and AFME's National Representative in Jerusalem, was the second visitor to come. She was accompanied through the South and Southwest by the field secretary and through the Midwest by the Midwest Regional director. Meeting with social and civic groups, her dynamic and charming personality made a deep impression on all she met. A noteworthy event of the tour was the presentation of fourteen Palestine costume dolls, made by boys at Mrs. Antonius' Dar-Al-Awlad School, to the Museum of International Folk Art at Santa Fe, New Mexico.

The third Middle East visitor was Emile Samaan, a young Egyptian who, after completing graduate work at Northwestern University, had returned to the Middle East. There he made a survey of refugee camps for AFME. Thus he was able to give a first-hand account of the situation among the refugees. Also, having an excellent collection of colored slides on Egypt, he gave many talks on the contrast between old and new Egypt. Favorable comments were received wherever Mr. Samaan went. He spoke mostly to young audiences who responded enthusiastically, and in the case of Philadelphia, urged him to return for further lectures.

From February 1 to March 15 AFME sponsored a lecture tour by Father Joseph P. Connell, S.J. Father Connell had for many

years been Dean of Baghdad College and also served as AFME's American representative in Baghdad. His tour through the East and Midwest included Dallas, St. Louis, Milwaukee, New Orleans, Washington and Philadelphia. In his quiet manner he brought to his audiences a rich personal experience and a wealth of information about the Middle East.

Having aided in the publication in October of Dr. Nejla Izzeddin's *The Arab World*, AFME invited the author, Lebanon's outstanding woman scholar, to visit and lecture under its auspices in the United States. Speaking principally before college and university audiences, she enabled students throughout a dozen states to gain new insight into the recent history and present problems and aspirations of her people.

For two weeks during May, AFME had Madame Hussein Sirry of Egypt as its guest, arranging several speaking engagements for her. Selected as "Mother of the Year" from Egypt, Madame Sirry is president of the Egyptian Feminist Union and for eleven years headed the Women's Committee of the Egyptian Red Crescent. She spoke on "Old and New Egypt," "Advancing Egypt," and "The Rise of Feminism in Egypt."

AFME's last visitor of the year was Dr. G. M. D. Sufi of Pakistan. An educator and historian, Dr. Sufi has published a two-volume history of Kashmir and several works on education in India and Pakistan. He came to the United States, following the Muslim-Christian Convocation, in time to participate in Princeton University's Near East Conference. Besides lecture engagements in Georgia, Washington, D.C., Connecticut, Maine, New York and Chicago, he attended the Pakistan and Afghanistan student conventions, contributing his wisdom to the programs.

Besides these lecturers an artist from Baghdad, Iraq, Jewad Selim, brought examples of his work, including seven sculptures and twenty-one paintings and drawings, to the United States in February. Exhibitions were arranged for him at the L. D. M. Sweat Museum in Portland, Maine, the de Braux Gallery in Philadelphia, the Bellefield Avenue Gallery in Pittsburgh, and the headquarters of the Mid-western office in Chicago. He ended his tour with an exhibition at Middle East House which opened with a private showing and reception for the artist on April 8 and continued until the first of May. Mr. Selim sold a number of his paintings and several sculptures.

He presented "Woman with Watermelon" to Middle East House, where it hangs in the lounge.

While he was here, Mr. Selim attended a number of showings, visited museums, met personalities in the art world and sketched scenes in Central Park. He also did portraits, including one of the Spanish guitarist, Andre Segovia. The artist appeared on a number of television shows, both in New York and on his travels. He endeared himself to everyone he met, not only as an artist, but because of his keen perception, sense of humor and sensitivity to facets of American life.

The three editors whom AFME sent to the Middle East were Mr. John Cogley, executive editor of *The Commonweal*; Dr. Harold E. Fey, executive editor of *The Christian Century*; and Dr. Morris S. Lazaron, contributing editor of *Jewish Newsletter*. On November 4, 1953, they left New York for the Middle East and returned on December 14. During their six-week reportorial survey they visited Egypt, Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, Jordan, Israel and Turkey.

Since their return to the States they have given numerous spoken and written accounts of the situation in the Middle East as they saw it. Because of the importance of their reports, AFME has widely distributed a collection of them published under the title "Mission to the Middle East," and has also prepared and distributed a transcription of their reports for radio use. Dr. Lazaron has almost completed the manuscript of a book about the trip.

Three AFME staff members visited the Middle East during the year: William Archer Wright, Jr. executive secretary; Erich W. Bethmann,⁶ director of research and publication; and Shirley Worcester,⁷ administrative assistant for Muslim-Christian relations.

Mr. Wright visited Tangier, Libya, the Sudan and Ethiopia before going to Lebanon to attend the Muslim-Christian Convocation held

⁵ William Archer Wright, Jr.: grad. Randolph Macon College; B.D. Union Theological Seminary; member of Phi Beta Kappa. Minister of the Methodist Church; assoc. ed., *Twentieth Century Quarterly*.

⁶ Erich W. Bethmann: educated in Berlin; London University; specialized in Islamics, American University at Cairo, Egypt. Lived twenty-one years in the Middle East as educator and regional director of missions in Egypt, Jordan, and Iraq. Has had the longest service on AFME's staff, having come to the organization in June 1951.

⁷ Shirley Worcester: grad. Smith College; grad. work, Union Theological Seminary. Taught at The Brearley School.

at Bhamdoun, Lebanon, about which more will be said later. His job was to establish working contacts for AFME in these areas and several new volunteer representatives were appointed. He also surveyed the work of the American School in Tangier to which AFME contributes, had conversations with governmental and civic leaders and spoke to several groups, explaining AFME's aims and interests and exploring ways of cooperation.

Mr. Bethmann attended the Muslim-Christian Convocation which he served as program director. Following the Convocation he visited Lebanon, Syria, Iraq and Egypt in the interest of the Convocation. He also established working relations with local book dealers for the distribution of AFME publications.

After serving as secretary at the Muslim-Christian Convocation in April, Miss Shirley Worcester traveled in the Middle East for eight weeks on a personal leave of absence, visiting AFME field personnel in Iran and Iraq, traveling in Syria, Lebanon, and Egypt, and spending three weeks in the Holy Land.

Your executive vice president had as his special mission on this year's visit the promotion of the Muslim-Christian Convocation. After that conference, he visited Syria, Jordan, Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Egypt. In each country he conferred with the King or President, the Prime Ministers and Foreign Ministers, and met and discussed Middle Eastern-American relations with many representative citizens. In most of the countries he gave lectures and held press conferences. Frequent social functions were given in his honor.

Cornelius Van H. Engert, a member of AFME's Board of Directors and formerly U. S. Minister to Afghanistan and Ethiopia, was awarded this year's Middle Eastern Lectureship. He spent May and June in Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Iran, and will spend the month of July in Turkey and Europe. He spoke mainly to audiences in universities and colleges, and gave several radio talks. His subjects were: "The Spirit of America: Militant Idealism;" "Responsibilities of Leadership;" "The Bonds of Religion and Ethics;" and "The Threat to Civilization." He kept in close touch with the highest government officials, with all Middle Eastern diplomatic representatives in each capital, as well as with the press, to explain the aims and purposes of AFME. By stressing the cultural ties between East and West he sought to prepare the ground for closer relationships

and greater mutual comprehension of national motives and aspirations.

AFME Travel Program

Besides the travelers AFME dispatches to the Middle East, every year hundreds of others are helped to have a more satisfactory travel experience in the area through the AFME Travel Program.

While we do not sponsor general tours to the Middle East, we cooperate with and give the benefit of our knowledge to individuals, tours and travel agencies. Information files on many aspects of travel in the Middle East have been compiled. We are attempting to accumulate comprehensive information on the entire area, since there are no offices in the United States with travel information on the entire area and most of the Middle Eastern countries do not have tourist information offices in America.

A travel folder announcing AFME's consultation and advisory services, here and abroad, has been widely distributed through travel agencies and transportation companies, consulates and embassies. Through these, many tour operators and travel agencies, as well as individual travelers, learn about AFME and come to us for advice and assistance. This year ten tours have received assistance in making and carrying out their plans.

When tourists write for assistance, a questionnaire is sent to them to ascertain their itinerary and their special interests. Our volunteer national representatives in eighteen of the leading Middle Eastern cities help these tourists to come to a better understanding of their communities by briefing them and helping them to meet people.

More than half of those who have received information and assistance from us have become members of AFME and are now active in its other programs.

AFME's travel program also gives help on domestic travel to Middle Eastern students when they arrive in New York en route to their schools and colleges.

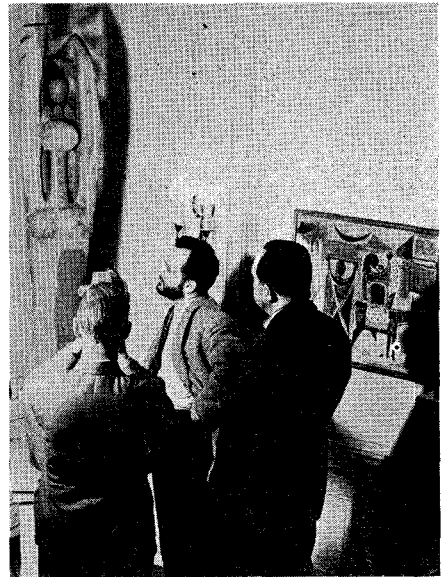
Miss Phyllis Van Horn⁸ is director of the Travel Program.

⁸ Phyllis Van Horn: grad. Pembroke College, Brown University.



Between sessions of the First Pakistan Student Convention at the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago, H. E. Amjad Ali, Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States, chats with three students from Lahore. The Afghan, Arab and Iranian student groups in the United States were also assisted by the Department of Student Affairs of AFME in holding national conventions during the year.

Middle East House became an art gallery for a month during the one-man showing of art and sculpture by Jewad Selim, one of Iraq's foremost artists. Brought to this country by the Department of Intercultural Relations of AFME as a part of its exchange program, Mr. Selim's exhibition and lecture tour also included showings at Portland (Maine), Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and Chicago.



The presence of three ambassadors was a unique feature of the First Afghan-istan Student Convention. Examining AFME literature with Garland Evans Hopkins are the Hon. Harold B. Minor, formerly U. S. Ambassador to Lebanon and one-time head of the Afghan desk of the Department of State; H. E. Mohammad Kabir Ludin, Afghan Ambassador to the United States; and the Hon. Angus Ward, United States Ambassador to Afghanistan.

STUDENT AFFAIRS

AFME was fortunate during the year in acquiring the services of Dr. Edgar J. Fisher⁹ as director of Student Affairs. Coming from long years of experience in working with students from abroad and having lived and taught in the Middle East, he has given wise direction to AFME's rapidly expanding interest in the student field. Miss Dorothy Schreiner,¹⁰ served as Dr. Fisher's secretary, until she was succeeded by Miss Angela Ackley.¹¹

One of the earliest projects of AFME's Department of Student Affairs was to assist Middle Eastern students in the United States in organizing student associations on a national basis. The advantages of such gatherings are obvious. The students are carrying on their intellectual pursuits in a strange academic environment, in a country strange to them in most cases. The bases of their cultures are widely different from our own, and they are thus separated from the social, intellectual and spiritual roots that have nourished their past. They have experienced problems of adjustment to our life in their academic work and in their general social relationships in the United States, so that the opportunity to talk things over with fellow students of their own nationality has great merit and importance for them.

The Second Arab Student Convention was held at Earlham College, Richmond, Indiana, from June 14 to 20, 1953. Aided by experts on Middle Eastern affairs, the students divided into study committees on economy, education, social problems, and national and international affairs. The convention heard addresses by Their Excellencies the Ambassadors of Egypt, Lebanon, and Syria, by Dr. Fayez Sayegh of the Human Rights Division of the United Nations and your executive vice president. The Organization of Arab Students has reached that stage of development where they can expand and stand on their own. With AFME assistance they are planning their third convention for September, 1954. Working closely with them

⁹ Edgar J. Fisher: Professor of Political Science, Dean of Faculty, Robert College, Istanbul, 1913-48; Assistant Director, Institute of International Education, 1935-48; Carter Glass Professor of Government, Sweet Briar College, 1948-53.

¹⁰ Dorothy Schreiner: attended Adelphi College, Garden City, N. Y.; studied Katharine Gibbs Secretarial School, New York.

¹¹ Angela Ackley: grad. Smith College; studied, University of Geneva and Institute des Hautes Etudes Internationales, Geneva.

is Miss Myrtle Williams,¹² field director for Arab and Pakistani student work.

The First Iranian Student Convention was held during the first week of September, 1953, at Denver University, Denver, Colorado. Meeting in the midst of Iran's then current political crisis, the students successfully, although with some difficulty, restrained their own political biases and went on to achieve their goals. These were the study of non-political problems in Iran (in agriculture, industry, education, society and Irano-American understanding), the organization of a nation-wide association and the establishing of a student newspaper, the "Daneshjoo." Approximately 85 students were in attendance. Among the principal speakers at the convention were Dr. Carleton S. Coon, curator of ethnology of the University of Pennsylvania; Dr. Franklin S. Harris, former chief of TCA in Iran; Dr. T. Cuyler Young, professor of foreign affairs at Princeton University; and Sid Ahmed Maybud, former consul general of Iran in the United States. Clifford F. Gurney¹³ is the department's field director for Iranian and Afghan student work.

The First Pakistan Student Convention was held at the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago from June 18 to 20 with 75 students attending out of approximately 300 Pakistanis now studying in the United States. The Pakistan Ambassador to the United States, H. E. Amjad Ali, gave the keynote address, and the Pakistan Cultural Attaché, Mr. M. Khaliq and Mrs. Khaliq, played a very active and helpful role throughout the Convention. Other speakers were Dr. Sufi; Dr. Paul Turk, pastor of the Euclid Avenue Methodist Church and a delegate to the Bhamdoun Muslim-Christian Convocation; Mr. Benjamin Schmoker, president of the Association of Foreign Student Advisers, and your executive vice president.

Nearly one-third of the 100 Afghan students in the United States attended the First Afghanistan Student Convention which was held at the University of Wisconsin from June 24 to 26. This Convention was particularly fortunate in having H. E. Ambassador Mohammad Kabir Ludin make not only one of the keynote addresses, but also remain throughout the meetings. The United States Ambassador to Afghanistan, Angus Ward, was also present, together with Harold

¹² Myrtle Williams: grad. Richmond Professional Institute, College of William and Mary, Richmond, Va. Taught in Virginia public schools.

¹³ Clifford F. Gurney: grad. Wooster College, Ohio; M.A. Columbia University. Taught in American School in Teheran, Iran.

B. Minor, former Ambassador to Lebanon; Herrick B. Young, president of Western College for Women; Frank Laubach, vice chairman of the Committee on World Literacy and Christian Literature; John Wilbur, head of M.I.T.'s Department of Civil and Sanitary Engineering; and William K. Archer, former teacher at the University of Kabul.

Campus Visits

The success of AFME's student program lies in its contacts with the students themselves. They can be reached best through campus visits. The most rewarding periods for such visits are very limited—from about October 1 to Thanksgiving, during the first term, and from early February to Easter during the second term. A considerable amount of campus visiting has been carried out during this year, 43 campuses in the East, South and Midwest having been visited by members of the department's staff. They conferred with the college and university authorities, met with groups of American and Middle Eastern students, spoke to faculty and student groups, and informed all with whom they came in contact about the aims, purposes and projects of the American Friends of the Middle East and its Department of Student Affairs. Mainly, of course, they were counseling Middle Eastern students on problems faced or decisions in the making.

Scholarship Grants and Student Aid

An Inter-Agency Committee for Aid to Palestinian Arab Refugee Students, composed of representatives of some eleven interested agencies, has been organized to assist such students as far as possible. AFME has contributed \$10,000, and it is hoped that additional funds can be secured. Mr. Alvah Miller of the Near East Society is chairman of the Inter-Agency Committee, Miss Myrtle Williams is secretary, and Dr. Edgar J. Fisher, treasurer.

In the field of student assistance, AFME has allocated \$2,000 to assist needy Moroccan students in the American School in Tangier in Morocco. School aid of a different character was given for the rebuilding of the school in the village of Kibya, devastated by Israeli forces in the Holy Land. Appeals were made for funds through the press and the *AFME Newsletter*. Over \$3,000 has been raised for this purpose.

In still another area, AFME, under the volunteer direction of Dr. John Frame, who formerly served as a physician in Iran, is

helping to secure openings for internships and residencies in American hospitals for medical students from all Middle Eastern countries.

AFME-NAFSA Travel Fellowship

In April, 1952, effect was given to a plan whereby AFME should furnish a travel fellowship to a member of the National Association of Foreign Student Advisers, who would be chosen jointly by a committee representing AFME and NAFSA. The purpose of the fellowship is to give the recipient advisers a first-hand knowledge of the peculiar problems of adjustment faced by students coming to the United States from the Middle East as well as of the problems they face on returning home.

The recipient of the second AFME-NAFSA Middle East Travel Fellowship for a Foreign Student Adviser was Mark L. Peisch, foreign student adviser at Columbia University, New York City, who traveled in the Middle East during the summer of 1953. The grant for the Travel Fellowship furnished by AFME is \$2,000. The report that Mr. Peisch submitted on his return was published by AFME under the title, "A Foreign Student Adviser Reports on the Middle East." On June 20 the third recipient of the annual fellowship was announced as Joe W. Neal, foreign student adviser at the University of Texas who is leaving shortly for the Middle East.

Travel Seminar

The first Lafayette College-AFME Middle East Seminar left New York on July 5, 1953, for a six-week study tour of Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Israel and Turkey. There were thirteen members in all, and the AFME travel director served as business manager of the group which met with government officials, educators, and social workers and was well received in each country visited.

Student Orientation Programs

The Student Orientation Programs abroad are under the supervision of the Department of Student Affairs. Chosen carefully with regard to the special functions which they are called upon to perform, the directors of the programs give the students appointed to study in this country general and academic orientation helpful in their adjustment to American life. These students are advised and assisted concerning their proficiency in the English language, the inadequate use and understanding of which has caused academic shipwreck to many students. About to face life in a strange land, the U.S.A.,

the students are advised and briefed also by their student compatriots who have returned concerning the experiences and problems of American life while still fresh in their minds. These "Amgrads," namely, returned American graduates, are among the most helpful advisers, and their services are being made available to the orientation programs abroad. They speak to the students about to leave for America with the authority of experience.

Now functioning in Iran and Iraq, it is hoped that similar programs can be initiated in Pakistan, Afghanistan and, perhaps, Egypt during the coming year. They constitute a unique contribution of great importance in constructive work with foreign students. In the past, the lack of any comprehensive counseling services for foreign students preparing to come to the United States has been a great drawback. Now our programs constitute in effect pre-departure orientation for the Middle Eastern students.

Iran

Charles R. Hulac¹⁴ arrived in Teheran on August 12, 1953, to establish an office and develop an Orientation Program for Iranian students who plan to study in the United States. By the end of October he was settled in a house large enough to accommodate his family and to provide space for the office. The program is now recognized by the U.S.I.S., the bi-national center, the U.S. Overseas Mission for Iran, and the Iranian Ministry of Education as the organization in Teheran best equipped to handle the large group of students desiring advice and assistance in securing admission to American colleges and universities.

Since the work began 466 individuals have applied for help in translating their school records and for assistance in applying to American institutions; 73 students have gone to the U.S.A. with our aid. In addition, we have been able to secure admission for 140 students who plan to enter American Colleges in June or September, 1954. Since January 1, 1954, 2569 signatures have appeared on the register at the office door, giving an idea of the volume of visitors to the office during the past five and a half months.

Orientation lectures are held for groups of students as they depart for the United States and an orientation pamphlet is in preparation.

¹⁴ Charles R. Hulac: grad. University of Nebraska; grad. work, University of Colorado, McCormick Theological Seminary, San Francisco Theological Seminary; Director, Alborz Foundation, Teheran, 1946-50; Director of Admissions and Director of Foreign Students, Lafayette College, Easton, Pennsylvania, 1950-53.

The office has also been called upon to give advice to students upon their return from study abroad. Efforts in this direction will be extended increasingly in the future.

An excellent and competent staff for this work has been recruited in Teheran.

Iraq

The Student Orientation and Counseling Program was initiated in Iraq on April 3, 1954. The office is in the home of its director, George A. Naifeh,¹⁵ in an area near the colleges. The house is of modern construction, easily adaptable to the atmosphere of an American institution. It is the hope of the director that this atmosphere will stimulate both students preparing for study in the United States and those returning to consider this office their headquarters.

Although established less than three months, the program is getting rapidly under way following closely the pattern of the older program in Iran. Already orientation classes are held for all students departing for the United States, and the Ministry of Education has made these classes a regular part of the procedure their students are to follow.

Close liaison is also maintained with the Ministry of Education's Missions Department in order that we may be of assistance to one another, and with AFME volunteer representatives in Baghdad, Basrah, and Kuwait.

RESEARCH AND PUBLICATION

The Department of Research and Publication is a service department for the whole organization and for the public in general. It is called on to answer questions and give information covering every aspect of life in the Middle East. Answers to queries may require merely looking up an index card or hours and sometimes weeks of patient study, the writing of dozens of letters, waiting for replies, and then the summarizing and preparation of a report.

During the past year the director was frequently asked to evaluate manuscripts. These manuscripts ranged in length from 25 to 500 pages. Another service was rendered by checking and correcting chapters of manuscripts for factual accuracy, as for example, two chapters of an outstanding American's forthcoming autobiography.

¹⁵ George A. Naifeh: grad. University of Oklahoma; grad work, Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies; U.S.I.S., Teheran; Public Affairs Officer, Meshed, Iran.

On Moving to Middle East House it was possible for the first time to provide the department with reasonably adequate facilities for a library and study room. The library now contains 840 volumes on the Middle East and related subjects. The classified and catalogued material from periodicals, information bulletins, occasional publications on and from the Middle East is making it possible for students to find many valuable and interesting items otherwise difficult to obtain. Many students from the New York area make frequent use of these facilities. The most important periodicals on the Middle East are on display, as well as some Arab, Persian and Turkish newspapers. After two years of growth the library is now recognized as a research center for Middle Eastern affairs. It is open during office hours to members and the general public.

Publications

In the field of publication the department initiated the Kohinur Series, which will be a series containing interesting factual material on the Middle East written in an easy style to create interest in this long neglected field. *F.D.R. Meets Ibn Saud*, by Colonel William A. Eddy, is the first of the Kohinur Series. This book was published in three editions: paperbound, clothbound, and a special, autographed edition.

This year the pamphlet series has been increased by the publication of five titles, averaging 24 pages in length, all with self cover:

The Arab Refugees After Five Years by Emile Samaan. The first edition of 3,000 copies was exhausted immediately and a second edition of 17,000 copies was ordered. Only a few hundred copies remain.

A Foreign Student Adviser Reports on the Middle East by Mark L. Peisch. First edition, 2,000 copies.

The Palestine Problem: Retrospect and Prospect by Stephen B. L. Penrose. First edition 3,500 copies.

The Political Temperature in the Near East Today by Colonel William A. Eddy. First edition, 3,000 copies (out of print).

The Impact of Islam on Christianity by Kenneth H. Crandall. A second edition of 3,000 copies was ordered and almost fully distributed. This booklet was translated into Arabic and has found many readers in the Muslim countries.

Along with these general publications, *The Second Annual Report of the Executive Vice President, 1952-1953*, was published and distributed by the department as well as the *Proceedings of the Second Annual Conference* and a supplement to the *Booklist* of the library.

We have also helped distribute material published by other organizations, for example *Sympathetic and Impartial Friendship* by Walter W. Van Kirk (5,000 copies), published by the Department of International Justice and Goodwill, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. This booklet was distributed to AFME members and friends.

Other Activities

A new project this year was "The Middle East in the American Press," a bi-weekly publication, each issue containing selected excerpts from editorials, features and columns gathered by our clipping bureau from newspapers all over the country. Approximately 200-250 clippings are received during each two week period. The service reaches newspapers in the Middle East, Middle Eastern embassies, delegations to the United Nations and consulates, news commentators, and others who have specially requested it.

During the year, the director, Erich W. Bethmann, gave a series of lectures to a group of young people preparing for village work in Iraq. AFME was accredited as a Non-Governmental Organization at the United Nations and Dr. Bethmann serves as our official representative there. He also served as program director for the First Muslim-Christian Convocation held April 22 to 27, 1954, at Bhamdoun, Lebanon.

Ruth T. Schmucker¹⁶ is the administrative assistant for the department and Kasim Shanir¹⁷ is its arabic translator.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

The Department of Public Relations seeks to provide an exchange of public opinion and information between the American people and the peoples of the Middle East. The newspapers of the Middle

¹⁶ Ruth T. Schmucker: grad. Emerson College, Boston, Mass.; grad. work, Columbia University. Served in the editorial department, Charles Scribner's Sons.

¹⁷ Kasim Shanir: a native of Palestine; studied College des Frères, Jaffa; School of Commerce, Accounts and Finance, New York University.

East are eager to publicize any information indicating that Americans are aware of the problems confronting Middle Eastern countries. Likewise Americans are able to act more intelligently if they are thoroughly acquainted with the situation and its background in this important area.

To further these goals there was a total of 193 news releases written and distributed by the department to the American and Middle East press between July 1, 1953 and June 30, 1954. Total news stories written during the year including the *AFME Newsletter* (177) and news captions (87) was 457. The 193 news releases almost doubled the news releases produced in the previous fiscal year. The combined total of news releases, *Newsletter* items, news picture captions and radio-television scripts represents an activity average of two news stories of all types written each day of the 240 actual working days per year.

The AFME event capturing the most sustained and comprehensive coverage during this report period was the Iranian Student Convention held in Denver, Colorado. The second most widely publicized AFME event was the recently concluded Afghan Student Convention in Madison, Wisconsin.

The Lake Forest Conference and the Philadelphia meeting follow in that order with reference to coverage. Most noteworthy at the Lake Forest meeting was the fact that AFME secured time on two of the most sought-after programs in radio, The University of Chicago "Roundtable" and Northwestern University's "Forum of the Air."

Newsletter

There were twelve monthly issues of the mimeographed *AFME Newsletter*, the official "house organ" which reports and summarizes the organization's activities. There were 177 individual events reported, reflecting an increase of over 100% over last year, in which there were eight issues and 83 events reported.

Clipsheet

The *Clipsheet*, which was devised as a vehicle for conveying to the Middle East press a summary of news about the Middle East gleaned from the American press, was in March, 1954, converted to a *Photo*

Clipsheet, which is produced in cooperation with the Department of Research and Publication. Highlights of editorial and other comment from the press in the United States are now photographed, and by the lithographical process are made available to the Middle East press. Three editions have been distributed to date.

Radio and Television Appearances

During the period of this report a total of 19 radio appearances and 8 TV appearances were arranged by the department. In addition, AFME was often mentioned on radio and television newscasts in connection with the many guest appearances on radio and TV of AFME's Middle Eastern lecturers.

Newsreel

AFME twice enjoyed newsreel coverage of its events. During the Fall Meeting in Philadelphia, the final event held in the Babylonian Wing, University Museum, University of Pennsylvania, was covered by Telenews. The same company covered the opening of the Jewad Selim art exhibition at Middle East House.

Exhibits

A three-panel permanent exhibit for showing at conventions, conferences and other meetings was prepared by the department. Illustrating all phases of AFME activities, this exhibit was first shown at the Second Annual Conference.

Radio Transcriptions

In connection with the return of the three editors of religious journals from their survey tour of the Middle East, the director produced a series of two fifteen-minute transcribed radio programs on 16-inch vinylite for nation-wide distribution to radio stations and AFME program chairmen for use as club programming in churches, community groups, civic, professional and service clubs. Of 300 transcriptions ordered, about 175 have been distributed.

Television

By the time this report appears, the first of two pilot films for television will have been completed and auditioned. It is a 30-minute documentary film on Egypt narrated by the dean of American com-

mentators, Lowell Thomas. In process, and scheduled for completion by fall, is another 30-minute documentary on Turkey. These films constitute a pilot project which, if successful, will eventuate in a series of documentary films for use on television.

One of the most promising publicity projects undertaken by the Public Relations Department is a series of "live" television programs produced by American Friends of the Middle East and televised over one of New York's key stations. Each program in the series of bi-weekly shows will feature a country of the Middle East. The 30-minute program will include an interview with one of the honored country's highest representatives in the U.S., and scenes depicting the art, crafts and culture of that country. The first program inaugurating this series was entitled, "At Home In Iraq" and was presented in June. Honored guests, "talent" and "props" are secured by the department in collaboration with consular officials and United Nations delegations of the various Middle Eastern countries.

Source Material

The Public Relations Department over the past year has received an increasing number of requests for source material about the Middle East. Material and advice have been furnished and used in several articles published in national magazines.

Many requests are also being received from magazines for pictures of Middle Eastern scenes, people and activities for illustrations and for magazine covers. A library of such pictures is now being established so that these requests may be adequately met.

Staff

William Z. Cline¹⁸ serves as public relations director. Mrs. Florence Byron¹⁹ is assistant director, Miss Helen Morgan²⁰ and Miss Dorothy Schreiner are the secretaries.

¹⁸ William Z. Cline: grad. Bridgewater College, Va.; grad. work in journalism, Columbia University; Director, Church World Service of Greater Chicago, 1946-47; Field Director, CROP, 1948-49; Public Relations Director, CROP, 1950-52.

¹⁹ Florence Byron: women's page ed. and columnist, New York World-Telegram and Sun; Assoc. Ed., Parents Magazine; Asst. Public Relations Director, J. Walter Thompson; staff writer, Earl Newsom and Company.

²⁰ Helen Morgan: grad. Bloomfield High School; secretary, Schering Corporation.

PHOENIX NEWSPAPER SERVICE

During its second year, Phoenix Newspaper Service regularly produced and distributed six articles weekly to both the American and foreign press.

Concentrating on producing stories on the lesser known areas of the world, Phoenix has increased coverage from many Asian and African countries and at present has accredited newspaper correspondents in the following countries: Lebanon, Egypt, Israel, Iran, Pakistan, India, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, and contributors in Turkey, London, France, Germany and Austria, who supply stories concerned with problems of the Asian and African countries.

In most of the countries, correspondents are nationals of the country and working newspapermen, which is of special significance in providing stories that increase better understanding between countries.

In addition to background coverage of United Nations affairs which are regularly covered by Mrs. Sisto, your executive vice president's column, *Memo to Americans*, is published twice weekly, supplying commentary and interpretation of United States foreign policy and international affairs in general.

In the Middle East, where Phoenix Newspaper Service releases are distributed to over 100 newspapers, a survey made both through editors of newspapers and through a report obtained from United States embassies, has indicated that Phoenix has already reached a very high rate of acceptance and publication. In Indonesia, Phoenix Newspaper Service is distributed to ten papers and regular clippings are already being received from four leading Indonesian newspapers.

Next year the service will also be distributed at no extra charge to AFME sponsors. Others interested in receiving these articles may subscribe to the service at special rates.

Mrs. Catherine Sinclair Sisto²¹ is editor. Mrs. Marie Zarcone²² is editorial assistant replacing in June Miss Leila Meo²³ who is now on the staff of *Life* magazine.

²¹ Kay Sisto: active in the field of publishing and news syndication since 1944; business staff, Canada Wide Features Service, Ltd.; editorial staff, The Standard, Montreal, Canada; free lance commentator and interviewer; writer, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation; accredited correspondent, United Nations, since the beginning of 1952.

²² Marie Zarcone: grad. Hunter College, New York, 1952. Editorial staff, publishing houses specializing in weekly and monthly magazines.

²³ Leila Meo: a native of Palestine; grad. American University at Cairo; M.A. in journalism, Syracuse University.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

To administer the ever expanding program provided by our several departments requires a support structure both in this country and in the Middle East. Your executive vice president is ably assisted in carrying out his executive functions by Willam Archer Wright, Jr., executive secretary in the U.S.A., and by Mather G. Eliot,²⁴ executive director in the Middle East. Miss Eva J. Graham,²⁵ as administrative secretary assists in all fiscal matters.

During the year Mr. Wright has directed intercultural relations as well as carried his executive duties. In June the Board of Directors relieved him of all other duties to enable him to devote full time to his executive tasks in the future. Miss Lee Hiemenz²⁶ serves as his secretary. Miss Eva Deane Kemp²⁷ served during the year as secretary to the executive vice president.

Administrative Secretary's Office

The administrative secretary is responsible for office management and financial records and also serves as assistant treasurer of the corporation. Miss Kathryn Gaffney²⁸ serves as her administrative assistant and keeps the account books for the organization. Mrs. Cherry Dodd²⁹ served as general stenographer.

The production section is under the direction of the administrative secretary with Nicholas Konownitzin³⁰ as production manager. Hans Kogge³¹ assists Mr. Konownitzin in these duties. During the

²⁴ Mather Greenleaf Eliot: Press Control Officer, Information Control Division, U. S. Military Government, Berlin, Germany; Public Relations Consultant, U. S. Army.

²⁵ Eva J. Graham: grad. Davenport McLachlan Institute, Grand Rapids, Mich. Studied American University, Washington, D. C. Secretary, Committee for Justice and Peace in the Holy Land.

²⁶ Lee M. Hiemenz: grad. Cornell University; studied in France and Switzerland. Secretary to the feature editor, Esquire Magazine.

²⁷ Eva Deane Kemp: M.M., American Conservatory, Chicago; grad. study in International Relations, University of Chicago; Scarritt College, Nashville; and Evansville College, Indiana. Director, Crusade Scholarship Fund, Methodist Board of Missions; secretary, Ford Foundation Pre-Induction Scholarships, Columbia University.

²⁸ Kathryn E. Gaffney: grad. Actual Business College, Akron, Ohio. Served with the Red Cross in the South Pacific; office manager for an industrial designing studio, New York.

²⁹ Cherry Dodd: studied London University; grad. University of Florida. Radar Officer (Captain), Royal Air Force.

³⁰ Nicholas Konownitzin: grad. Military Academy, St. Petersburg, Russia; one-time Captain, Imperial Russian Army.

³¹ Hans H. Kogge: studied Heidelberg University, Hamburg University, and Munchen University, Germany; Ph.D.

year an ever increasing load has been added to the section and in April it became necessary to add to the equipment a collator and an electric stapler in order to handle the quantity of work. The number of mimeographing jobs averaged over a hundred each month. In addition, the production section handled the distribution and posting of mail and publications.

In October, 1953, Miss Nancy Evans,³² membership secretary, resigned to return to her home in Pittsburgh. From then until June, 1954, the receptionist, Mrs. Eleanor Rainey,³³ carried on the membership program. In June, 1954, Mrs. Lia P. Daly³⁴ was appointed acting membership secretary and the membership program was placed under the direction of the reorganized office of the field secretary.

Middle East Director

During the first two years of its work, AFME depended upon volunteer representatives in the Middle East to maintain its contacts and carry on its program in that area. The pattern which it followed was to establish in the various centers of the Middle East, wherever possible, an American representative to maintain its contacts with the American community, and a national representative to represent its program to his own people and to assist travelers in the area to meet people and gain a more intimate knowledge of the countries visited.

These representatives serve faithfully, receiving in remuneration only their expenses and, in a few cases, a nominal honorarium. Even though AFME now has four staff people in the field, these representatives continue to give generously of their time and efforts and fill an essential place in AFME's total program.

Mather G. Eliot arrived in Damascus on October 12, 1953, to begin his duties as Middle East director for AFME.

In the fall and early winter Mr. Eliot visited Teheran, Baghdad, Cairo, Jerusalem, Amman, and Beirut to become acquainted with AFME's representative in those cities and to familiarize himself with AFME's student counseling program in Iran, as well as the program for refugees in Jordan and Lebanon.

³² Nancy V. Evans: grad. Vassar College.

³³ Eleanor Rainey: studied in Lausanne, Switzerland, and at the Sorbonne, Paris.

³⁴ Lia P. Daly: educated Berlin, Paris, and Rome. Held positions in Office of Censorship, Department of Vocational Advisement, City College and Displaced Persons Resettlement Program, National Council of Churches.

The experience of the past year shows how urgently a Middle East director was needed. In March and April, Mr. Eliot secured accommodations and got together the technical staff for the Muslim-Christian Convocation, a very time-consuming task. He also arranged for a meeting of the executive vice president and other members of the New York staff with AFME's Middle East personnel and representatives in Damascus in April for a general review of AFME's work. In addition to these major assignments, Mr. Eliot keeps AFME's activities in the Middle East under continual review, and reports periodically on possibilities for worthwhile new projects.

REFUGEE PROGRAM

The vast total of almost a million personal tragedies which characterize the plight of the Palestinian Arab refugees lies heavily on the conscience of the entire world. The United Nations early recognized the nature of the problem and assumed responsibility for the material sustenance of the refugees. Many organizations have supplemented the basic program of the United Nations and have spent millions on the material welfare of the refugees, but few have been concerned with the more intangible difficulties and needs they face in the fields of religion, culture, youth activities and employment. When the YMCA discontinued its major activities in this field, AFME was fortunate enough to secure the services of the YMCA representative in Beirut, John W. Barwick,³⁵ to serve as its consultant on Arab refugee affairs and to initiate a program of service to their spiritual, social and recreational needs. Necessarily limited as to budget, the program was designed to initiate projects in cooperation, as far as possible, with other groups who might eventually assume full responsibility for them. Our aim has been, and continues to be, to help the refugees help themselves in reducing to a minimum the loss of the very high level of culture and social advancement so seriously affected by the loss of their homeland. The program got under way in Lebanon during August, and in Jordan a month later.

Mr. Barwick reports that the first three months which were spent in visiting the camps and concentrations of refugees seemed like an attempt to throw back the surf with a teaspoon, but that six months later he can look at the same persons who called us everything but pleasant names at first and recognize them now as honest, kindly

³⁵ John Barwick: Special Representative in the Middle East, World's Committee of the Y.M.C.A.'s, Geneva, Switzerland.

friends who give our program the same loyal support they give their country.

In the field of religious interests AFME has provided mats for the floor of the mosques which are, for the most part, large tents in the camps, and some ablution stands outside. We have also provided several hundred prayer books containing various *Suras* from the Koran used for public devotions.

In service to youth we have supported the Boy Scouts and other youth organizations and made a contribution to the Women's Branch of the Red Crescent in Amman. A bi-weekly magazine, published in cooperation with the YMCA, has had in general a very reassuring welcome from the refugees.

The lack of reading material in the camps and towns has, by default, lost the field to propaganda for subversive interests. To counter this difficulty we provided eight libraries for the centers in Lebanon, where adequate supervision was already available. In Jordan obstacles are being overcome and it is hoped that libraries will soon be established there also.

The Scouts took up our offer of equipment readily in Lebanon and more slowly in Jordan. The outfitting was accompanied by a public review in Lebanon. Now eleven troops in Jordan and one in Syria have started outfitting their troops at our expense. There is no organization whose ideals so fully meet the needs of the refugee youth as the Scouts discipline, honor, service and neatness. The uniform represents an obligation to the boy wearing it that can be taught better thus than in any other way we know.

Considerable time has been spent in trying to organize a group to stimulate the souvenir industry of the Holy Land as a means of providing employment for the jobless, but our greatest difficulty has been to find premises. Land is almost unavailable in desirable locations and there is nothing to rent. Until AFME or someone else builds a center or a workshop no extensive operation can be carried on.

A kit designed for the use of Sunday school teachers in the United States and elsewhere, providing them with objects illustrative of Bible narratives and teachings, has been devised. Besides serving an obvious educational purpose the plan, when put into full operation, will provide work for a number of refugee families. A committee of local leaders administers the project and has shown a commendable interest in it.



Religious leaders of the East. Sheikh Muhammad Hamdi al Safarjalani al Istiwani, Damascus, Syria; Sheikh Ahmad al Kasimi, Damascus, Syria; Sheikh Muhammad Bahjat al Bitar, Damascus, Syria; Abou-na Makari al Souriani, Cairo, Egypt; Sheikh Muhammad al Hajri, San'a, Yemen; Al Sayid Ali Al Kashif al Ghita, Najaf, Iraq.

Erich W. Bethmann, Director of Research, American Friends of the Middle East, Inc., reading the welcoming address at the Convocation. Left to right: Winfred E. Garrison, professor of philosophy and religion, University of Houston, Texas; Jawad Ali, secretary and member of the Iraqi Academy, Baghdad, Iraq; Muhammad Nizamuddin, Dean of Faculty of Arts, Osmania University, Hyderabad, India.



The Rev. Kenneth H. Crandall (right), is introduced to Camille Chamoun, president of Lebanon (center), by Garland Evans Hopkins of the American Friends of the Middle East, Inc. Watching are Al Sayid Ali Al Kashif al Ghita of Iraq and Dr. Farid Audeh, president of the Supreme Council of Evangelical Churches in Lebanon and Syria.

MUSLIM-CHRISTIAN RELATIONS

From its inception, AFME has set as one of its goals a better understanding of the religious aspirations of the peoples of the Middle East. We believe that Americans will never properly understand and appreciate that area of the world until they understand and appreciate its dominant religion, Islam. With that in mind, AFME's Board of Directors supported the holding of the first gathering of Muslim and Christian leaders on a worldwide scale. Leaders from twenty-two countries gathered at the Muslim-Christian Convocation in Bhamdoun, Lebanon, April 22 to 27.³⁶ Your executive vice president, who issued the invitations to the participants and directed the planning of the convocation, is hardly an objective reporter on what happened. Perhaps the most comprehensive of the many articles which have appeared since the Convocation is one by the Reverend Kenneth Crandall in the August 1954 issue of *World Outlook*. It is here quoted in part.

"The American Friends of the Middle East, Inc. invited leaders of Islam and Christianity from throughout the world to share the insights of their respective faiths and to bring to focus the assets of true religion against the deceptive and destructive influence of present-day materialism. Sunni and Shia Muslims, Christians from

³⁶ *Muslim Participants*: Dr. Khalifa Abdul Hakim, Director, Institute of Islamic Culture, Lahore, Pakistan; Dr. Jawad Ali, Secretary and Member, The Iraqi Academy, Baghdad, Iraq; Sheikh Muhammad Bahjat al-Bitar, Professor of the Koran and Hadith, Syrian University, Damascus, Syria; Professor Mahmud Brelvi, Karachi, Pakistan; Dr. Omar Farrukh, al-Makassed College, Beirut, Lebanon; Sheikh Muhammad al-Hajri, Chief, Department of Finance, San'a, Yemen; Abolfazl Hazeghi, formerly member of Parliament, Teheran, Iran; Muhammad Kafrawi, Secretary-General, Ministry of Religious Affairs, Jakarta, Indonesia; Sheikh Ali Kashef al-Ghita, Najaf, Iraq; Sheikh Ahmad Kassimi, Director-General of Wakfs, Damascus, Syria; Dr. Muhammad Khalafallah, Dean, Faculty of Arts, Alexandria University, Alexandria, Egypt; the Imam Muhammad Mahdi al-Khalisi, Kadhimain, Baghdad, Iraq; Ali Mahadeen, Jersey City, U.S.A.; Dr. Sobhi Mahmassani, Lawyer, Beirut, Lebanon; Abdullah Mashnouk, Editor, Beirut, Lebanon; Muhammad Moubarak, Lecturer on Islamics, Syrian University, Damascus, Syria; Dr. Majid Movaghar, Editor, Teheran, Iran; Dr. Zaki Naccache, Principal, al-Makassed College, Beirut, Lebanon; Anwar Nashashibi, Lawyer, Amman, Jordan; Dr. Muhammad Nizamuddin, Dean, Faculty of Arts, Osmania University, Hyderabad, India; Muhyiddin Nusuli, Publisher, Beirut, Lebanon; Said Ramadan, Secretary, World Muslim Conference, Jerusalem, Jordan; Dato S.I.O. al-Sagoff, President of the South East Asia Muslim Organization, Singapore, Malaya; H. E. Dr. Salahuddin Saljuqi, Ambassador of Afghanistan to Egypt, Cairo, Egypt; Dr. S. R. Shafaq, Professor of Philosophy, University of Teheran, Teheran, Iran; Abdelmonem Shaker, Arab Student Organization, New York, U.S.A.; Dr. Khalifa Shujaiddin, Speaker, Punjab Legislative Assembly, Lahore,

the Waldensian, Coptic, Greek Orthodox, Roman Catholic, and various Protestant churches—lawyers, educators, clergymen, editors, government officials—all came to seek ways in which the great principles of our faiths can be brought to bear in our society.

“We did not seek a common formulation of belief, but we found a great number of problems which we both face and a number of principles which we share in meeting these problems.

“In surveying the spiritual assets of their religion, speakers from both faiths pointed out the concern for the welfare of individuals which lies at the heart of their faith. Islamic speakers pointed out the democracy within their faith which makes all men equal before God. They affirmed that anything that hampers all-round harmonious development of the human personality is false. . . .

“Christian speakers likewise pointed out the concern of their faith for each person, as seen in Jesus’ love for the lost and the outcast and as it has become the foundation stone for Christian ideals throughout the centuries. . . .

“Both Christians and Muslims held that human life must have a spiritual dimension for its complete fulfillment and self-realization, because man is incomplete apart from relating himself to his creator. It is our joint concern that men everywhere become aware of their

Pakistan; Sheikh Mustapha al-Sibai, Preceptor-General, Muslim Brotherhood, Damascus, Syria; Dr. G.M.D. Sufi, Vice President, Islamic Research Institute, Karachi, Pakistan; Dr. Sabri F. Ulgener, Dean, Department of Economics, University of Istanbul, Istanbul, Turkey; Sheikh Muhammad Hamdi as-Safarjalani al-Istiwni, Damascus, Syria; Sheikh Mustapha az-Zarqa, Professor, Syrian University, Damascus, Syria; Dr. Mustapha Ziada, Chairman, Department of History, University of Cairo, Cairo, Egypt.

Christian Participants: Dr. Hurst R. Anderson, President, The American University, Washington, D.C.; Mtre. Iskandar Assabghy, Lawyer, Cairo, Egypt; Reverend Edward P. Arbez, Professor Emeritus, Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C.; Dr. A. S. Atiya, Professor of Medieval History, University of Alexandria, Alexandria, Egypt; Rev. Farid Audeh, President, Supreme Council of the Evangelical Churches in Syria and Lebanon, Beirut, Lebanon; Rev. Eric F. F. Bishop, Lecturer in Arabic, Glasgow University, Glasgow, Scotland; Dr. W. Wendell Cleland, Acting President, American University at Cairo, Cairo, Egypt; Rev. Guido Comba, Treasurer, The Waldensian Church, Rome, Italy; Rev. Kenneth H. Crandall, Minister, First Methodist Church, Wilmington, Illinois; Dr. Archie Crawford, Vice President, American University of Beirut, Beirut, Lebanon; Canon Najib Cubain, Honorary Canon, St. George’s Cathedral, Jerusalem, Jordan; Professor Chandran Devanesen, Chairman, Department of History and Economics, Madras Christian College, Tambaram, South India; Dr. George A. Fallon, Minister, Lakewood Methodist Church, Cleveland, Ohio; Dr. Winfred E. Garrison, Professor of Philosophy and Religion, University of Houston, Houston, Texas; Dr. Ernest Marshall Howse, Minister, Bloor Street United Church, Toronto,

possibilities under God, who is concerned for them, and that our social, national, and international groups provide the maximum opportunity for this freedom of development under God. . . .

“The concern for means of transmitting our religious ideals to the younger generation loomed as a constant challenge. A need was recognized for a whole and wholesome education for each young person, which would include an honest and unbiased interpretation of history and human experience. The desirability of including the creative energies and exploratory urges of youth within the growing experience of religious groups and communities was also seen. . . .

“Probably the most significant feature of this international convocation was not what we said there, but the fact that we were there. For the first time in history members of Islam and Christianity came together in friendliness for the purpose of sharing the dedication of their faiths in meeting the pressing human problems which are common to all of us. We met in personal friendship. We listened with respect to differences of opinion, and gained new respect for our fellow religionists as we heard first-hand their hopes and their dedication.”

Canada; Dr. Ralph C. Hutchison, President, Lafayette College, Easton, Pennsylvania; Professor Basil Joannidis, Professor of New Testament, University of Athens, Athens, Greece; Dr. Jose M. Millas Vallicrosa, Professor of Islamics, University of Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain; Ahmad Nakhosteen, Teheran, Iran; The Right Reverend G. Ashton Oldham, Protestant Episcopal Bishop of Albany (retired), New York, N. Y.; Rev. Felix M. Pareja, S.J., Professor of Islamology, Pontificia Universita Gregoriana, Rome, Italy; Dr. Paul Minnich Robinson, President, Bethany Biblical Seminary, Chicago, Illinois; Rev. Makari el-Souriani, Lecturer in the Coptic Theological College, Cairo, Egypt; The Very Reverend Dr. A. Thakur Das, Chairman, West Pakistan Christian Council, Lahore, Pakistan; Rev. Andre Trocmé, Founder of the Maison de la Reconciliation, Versailles, France; Rev. Paul Turk, Minister, Euclid Avenue Methodist Church, Oak Park, Illinois; Ghassan Tweini, Editor, Beirut, Lebanon; Daniel Van der Meulen, Formerly Netherlands Minister to Saudi Arabia, Eefde, Holland; Rev. Alan Walker, Director, Mission to the Nation, Sydney, Australia; Bishop Friedrich Wunderlich, German Central Conference of the Methodist Church, Frankfurt-am-Main, Germany.

Observers, Muslim: Muhammad Hadi al-Daftari, Kadhimain, Baghdad, Iraq.

Observers, Christian: Dr. George Haddad, Professor, Syrian University, Damascus, Syria; Alan Horton, Aleppo, Syria; Rev. Vincent Kearney, S.J., New York, N. Y.; Elias Mirshak, Cairo, Egypt; Dr. Izzat Tannous, Beirut, Lebanon; Emile Zaidan, Cairo, Egypt.

FINANCES

Our secretary-treasurer, Cornelius Van H. Engert, has prepared a condensed financial statement for fiscal year 1953-54 which is herewith submitted. It will be seen that the Dearborn Foundation is still our principal supporter. We owe its directors a debt of gratitude for their willingness to approve a much larger grant for this year than they gave us last year. We asked them if they would put us on a full operating basis during fiscal year 1953-54 with the agreement that they would gradually retrench their assistance in following years as we gained in support from other sources. Their generosity enabled us to demonstrate this year what we can do when relieved of immediate financial worries. In the year ahead they will reduce their giving by at least \$50,000 and we must turn to our members and friends to help us find other sources to make up this sorely needed amount.

Our membership has increased by some 600 new members during the year. For fiscal year 1954-55 we have added a new staff member, Edward Latham, whose sole responsibility will be the cultivation of members and the solicitation of funds. This should give us a broader foundation in keeping with our greater responsibilities.

"An outstanding example of socially conscious, individual initiative in the Arab world" was the appellation given to Musa Alami (right), president of the Arab Development Society of Jericho, Jordan, by the American Friends of the Middle East. The founder of an Arab "boys town," which provides a home and training for Arab refugee orphans, was presented with a check for 1,000 Jordanian dinars by AFME during a reception in his honor at Middle East House. Shown with him are AFME's director of research and publication, Erich W. Bethmann, and George Barakat, executive director of American Middle East Relief, an organization that sends thousands of pounds of food and clothing annually to Palestinian refugees.



BALANCE SHEET

June 30, 1954

ASSETS

CURRENT ASSETS

Cash	\$41,967.83	
Cash Advances—Projects	22,829.73	
Refundable Deposits	12,462.51	
	<hr/>	\$77,260.07

FIXED ASSETS

Furniture, Equipment and Library	\$33,642.21	
Less—Reserve for Depreciation	33,642.21	
	<hr/>	
Total Fixed Assets—Net Book Value		0.00

TOTAL ASSETS

\$77,260.07

LIABILITIES AND NET WORTH

CURRENT LIABILITIES

Payables and Accruals	\$ 9,057.06
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NET WORTH

As of June 30, 1953	\$78,878.86	
Less—Excess of Expenses over Receipts—Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1954	10,675.85	
	<hr/>	
Total Net Worth		68,203.01

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET WORTH

\$77,260.07

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENSES

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1954

RECEIPTS:

Large Gifts—The Dearborn Foundation and Corporations	\$410,150.00
Membership Fees and Individual Donations	55,294.00
Miscellaneous Receipts	405.45

Total Receipts	\$465,849.45

EXPENSES:

National Office	\$108,992.62 + 50,000
Office of Field Secretary	37,889.27 + 10,000
Department of Public Relations	47,336.88 + 3,421
Department of Student Affairs	49,402.89 + 20,000
Department of Research and Publication	22,882.58 + 10,000
Phoenix Newspaper Service	23,091.00 + 8,000
Intercultural Program	107,885.59 + 78,000
Arab Refugee Morale Project	25,245.30 N
AFME Representative Overseas	20,726.46 N
Student Orientation Program	33,072.71 N

Total Expenses	\$476,525.30

AND, FINALLY

This has been a year of expansion and advancement. AFME is now operating at full steam ahead. In the coming year we hope to maintain our program at its present high level. To do this will require the same self-sacrificing interest, loyalty and contributions from our members and staff—and from a host of new members and contributors we must add to account for an additional \$100,000 needed for the expansion of our student program in the Middle East and a stepped-up program of education and information here in America.

We continue to believe that AFME plays an important role in the endeavors being made by peace-loving peoples in every free nation. Voluntary agencies can do what governments cannot do. We are an American peoples' organization working with the peoples of the Middle East in a needed and unique way. We anticipate that continued team-work among our staff, members, contributors, National Council, Board of Directors and our hosts of Middle Eastern friends of America will make 1954-55 as successful as we feel 1953-54 has been.

Respectfully submitted,

Garland Evans Hopkins

Executive Vice President



A leading educator and historian of Pakistan, G. M. D. Sufi (right) was one of a number of lecturers brought to the United States during the past year to speak to American audiences about the Middle East and the Islamic world. While in Chicago he addressed the Pakistan Student Convention where he is shown, between sessions, chatting with AFME's executive secretary, William Archer Wright, Jr.

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Active Members are entitled to receive the AFME Newsletter and all general publications by payment of \$2.00, annually.

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