

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT
of
The American University at Cairo
to the
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
For the year 1948-1949

INTRODUCTION

Ancient Arab medicine described bodily health as either "hot" or "cold." Certainly the conditions of society and the body politic in the Arab world during the past year have been decidedly "hot." The international dissatisfactions and internal restlessness that have been growing steadily since the war finally reached their climax and broke into open action. While this brought tension and confusion, it was also the necessary prelude to the greater quietness and security with which the year closed.

The military campaign against Israel imposed the uncertainties and restrictions of war on Egypt. During the summer and autumn there were almost nightly air raid alarms, occasionally accompanied by explosions. Martial law hampered travel, censorship controlled the press and correspondence, and the public's nerves were constantly on edge. With the final stalemate of the Arab campaign, there was an immediate easing of the situation. Although martial law still continues, its worst restrictions have been removed and there is hope that before 1950 it will be entirely lifted.

To the uncertainties of war was added the struggle between the Moslem Brotherhood and the Egyptian Government. This organization has been increasingly intractable and the popular feeling aroused by the Palestine campaign gave it an opportunity to make a strong bid for power. Apparently, it planned a coup d'etat with a view to setting up a genuinely "Moslem" state. In the struggle with the government which followed, both the Cairo Chief of Police and the Prime Minister were murdered. The popular indignation aroused by this terrorism supported the Government in its drive to dissolve the movement and take action against its leaders. By the spring of 1949 the Moslem Brotherhood ceased to exist as a popular and public organization, and lost all vestiges of the prestige it had enjoyed.

In such conditions the situation of American citizens and institutions was precarious. The year began with strong popular resentment against anything that could be labeled "American." In July 1948, an American tourist was killed by a mob on the streets of Cairo and the Embassy warned all citizens to restrict their movements. Yet with the end of the Palestine struggle, the anti-American feeling disappeared with unbelievable rapidity. While the policy of America toward the Arab world was still the cause for deep disappointment and sharp criticism, a spirit of friendliness toward Americans and American activities reappeared. Indeed, at the present time there is a greater desire to utilize American cultural values and services than there has been at any time during the past two years.

Economic conditions throughout the year changed little. Some rationing restrictions were lightened and more foreign goods appeared on the market. The University faced difficulties with its own Palestine students.

Not only was there great pressure to accept more student refugees than could be provided for, but many old students had their funds cut off and were left almost destitute. Scholarship funds, which are small at the best, were inadequate to meet the need.

I. PUBLIC RELATIONS

Despite unfavorable conditions, the University's public relations were unusually good throughout, and one of our Egyptian staff reported that the public's attitude toward the institution was the best that he had known.

The Departmental reports give examples of continued Egyptian confidence and cooperation. The Division of Extension was able to inaugurate its first Advisory Council (composed of prominent Egyptian leaders) although the previous year the same group had refused to serve because of the Palestine crisis. The lecturers on the Ewart Hall platform were as ready as ever to assist in the program. Enrollment in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences was good despite war conditions and anti-American feeling.

A further evidence of good will came in the introduction of a bill into Parliament for the recognition of the University's degrees in Education between 1940 and 1945, when the war prevented students from studying abroad. This bill is still awaiting final action but when it was reported out of the education committee, the University's work was rated highly.

After my return from the United States, I had several conversations with the Minister of Education in regard to the future of the University and work it could do, which met with the most cordial reception of recent years. Indeed, there has been nothing during the year except friendliness on the part of Government agencies and the public.

Part of this feeling can be traced to an excellent press from my trip and lecturing in the United States. Summaries and excerpts from the lectures given were widely reproduced and favorably commented upon, even reaching the position of furnishing editorial comment for "Al Ahram," the most influential local newspaper. The University alumni were particularly grateful for this publicity as it both gave them some legitimate protection against possible Anti-American criticism and made them feel that their alma mater was genuinely concerned for the problems of the Arab world.

More basic, however, is the record of public service that the University has rendered Egypt. Uniquely among foreign institutions, we have succeeded in identifying ourselves with the educational enterprise of the country. Our alumni are reaching positions of influence where their opinion counts in our favor.

to the difficulties of war-time travel, and an unexpectedly low enrollment in the beginning secondary classes. The enrollment in the Faculty of Education was less than the budgeted figure, reflecting the general struggle this department is having to maintain its public reputation with an inadequate staff. In contrast, the School of Oriental Studies and the Division of Extension showed an increase of income over expectation of L.E. 669.570 mms. These increases were due principally to additional programs not contemplated in the budget, and to a large enrollment in the School of Oriental Studies.

Total expenditures were L.E. 93.489mms, less than the budgeted figure, leaving a net loss in the year's operation of L.E. 240.571 mms. This is one of the few years that there has been a net deficit, and the principal cause lies in the diminution of income due to the generally disturbed conditions of the country.

In studying budget and actual expense figures, it must be remembered that most increases in income, above the amount budgeted, also involve expense for the additional activity involved. An example is found in the record of the Division of Extension for the current year. Income increased by L.E. 383.667mms, but expenses due to the increased operations (film rentals, amusement taxes, payments to part-time teachers to care for large enrollment) came to the same figure, thus showing no "profit" on the year's work, although the operation was larger than anticipated.

Special attention is drawn to the new form of the "Bursar's Comments" introducing the 1948-49 report of the Bursar. This analysis of the financial record of the year is unusually clear and will be helpful in diagnosing the present situation of the institution.

V. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

The following is a brief summary of each department's work for the year:

Division of Extension

1948-49 completed the twenty-fifth year of the Division of Extension. Although a number of Egyptian institutions inspired by the Extension program are now in operation, this Division continues to keep its leadership, and is one of the most unique and appreciated features of the University's work. The inauguration of the Extension Advisory Board, composed of prominent Egyptians, is a sign of the willingness of public leaders to be related to and assist in the program.

The attendance for the year is the largest on record - showing a 9% increase over last year. That record was made in a year of unusually disturbed public conditions and is a tribute both to the careful planning of the Division and the intrinsic value of the programs presented.

The attendance at the weekly lecture series was good. During the first semester the general topic was "Leaders of Egyptian Civilization in the Twentieth Century." The second semester dealt with "What Egypt Has Achieved in the Past Quarter Century." The first topic was chosen to emphasize "to the younger generation

the correct principles and ideals advocated by Egyptian leaders." Since many of these leaders were prominent in political life and this is the twenty-fifth year of constitutional government in Egypt, the second topic appropriately followed.

In contrast to last year the attendance at the forums reached capacity limits. The first semester was devoted to a discussion of the "Egyptian Family as a Social Unit" and dealt with the sociological, economic and health aspects of family life. The second semester program included three units: "My Advice to the Educated Egyptian," "Modern Art," and "The Policy of Tomorrow."

The lecture speakers and forum leaders were of unusually high calibre. In the group there were 27 Moslems and 9 Christians, 34 men and 2 women, 3 under-secretaries of state, 2 senators and 2 ex-Ministers.

A new addition to the program was a series of dramatic and musical performances, including both Arabic and Western music, and presenting plays staged by the Higher Institute of Arabic Dramatics. The warm public response to this new program indicates a need for such cultural education.

The adult classes finished their fourth year and presented four candidates for a B.A. degree. The reputation of these classes is growing and the type of student enrolling is more mature and serious than at first. Dr. Marshall E. Jones proved a stimulating teacher and his presence added to the reputation of the academic program offered. Miss Ayda Guindi, a graduate of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, and of Bryn Mawr College, also assisted in the teaching.

For the past few years the educational cinema program has been limited only by the capacity of Ewart Hall. In addition to the regular Tuesday evening showings, special programs were presented for children and students. One growing feature of the cinema work is the regular showing of instructional films for other departments of the University, and outside professional groups. A series of five special exhibitions for school teachers was held illustrating the use of films for class room instruction.

Attendance at the "King of Kings" showing was the second highest recorded. Through the generosity of Mr. Cecil B. deMille and Mr. Jeremiah Milbank, a gift was made of a new 35 mm. and a new 16 mm. print. This assures the Department of at least ten more years of "King of Kings" showing. The 16 mm. print is especially useful as it allows overflow meetings as well as small showings for special groups.

Statistics: lectures 21, attendance 5147; forums 21, attendance 2393; dramatics and concerts 6, attendance 3259; educational cinemas 48, attendance 36, 838; King of Kings 26, attendance 25,316; total functions 122, total attendance 72,953; evening courses 4, enrollment 34, degrees granted 4.

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VI. OBJECTIVES

As in much of the University's program for the year, the religious and Christian contributions can best be described as "maintained." A large missionary enrollment in the School of Oriental Studies kept the University directly related to the work of many missionary societies, and made an important contribution in more adequate missionary training. The courses in religion and philosophy in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences continued to evoke warm student response, and were not hampered in any way by the provisions of Law 38. Weekly Hostel meetings and daily Assembly followed the usual pattern. Beneath all these was the general atmosphere of Christian conviction and concern in which the programs of the institution were planned and carried out. Such an atmosphere is hard to define, yet it is precisely the influence that makes much of the University's work and effect unique.

Yet it is difficult even to maintain the present level of Christian effectiveness without a permanent staff member giving full time to the program. Each unit - classes, staff prayer meetings, Hostel and Assembly services - was cared for during the past year, yet all lacked the coherence that came with Dr. Smith's leadership. In appointing a new man it is imperative that one be found who will not only be interested in the teaching program, but who has the ability, and will accept the responsibility, of studying the larger problem of the correlated religious effectiveness of all University work. With the development of evening classes in the Division of Extension, the question of how the University can make a Christian contribution to students of this type arises. We must not allow the teaching of religion to be a function only of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences.

VII. CONCLUSION

It is clear from this report that the University is facing one of the most crucial periods in its life. The revival of the School of Oriental Studies and the growth of the Division of Extension to include evening classes leading to a degree, are signs of the possibilities that await the institution. Yet the staff problems of the Department of Education and the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, and the struggle each year to maintain the present reputation and programs of these departments, are warnings that the present situation cannot be accepted as permanent or satisfactory.

One of two steps must be taken: either the University must redouble its fund raising efforts to underwrite more adequately what is now being attempted, or it must reduce its program and consolidate its work. In either case, some final decision must be reached as to the suburban property project. The plan has been before the public so long that the University's reputation is beginning to suffer. Either building with all its implications and responsibilities for an increased budget must be undertaken, or the project publicly abandoned in favor of the development of the city site.

Yet in the midst of such problems, each year records significant Christian service to Egypt and the Moslem world. That so much is done with such modest means is only possible by an extraordinary devotion and cooperation of Trustees, Philadelphia office, American and Egyptian staff. This is surely our greatest hope for the future and the clearest mark of God's blessing on our enterprise.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN S. BADEAU
President

November 5, 1949
Cairo, Egypt.

(For Departmental Reports see file "Reports - Departmental" in permanent file)

VI - PUBLICITY AND PUBLIC RELATIONSAccomplishments

1. The Badeau Speaking Tour - 150 meetings before an estimated 50,000 individuals. Two national and several local radio broadcasts. This was a successful undertaking. The President and the Field Director visited 26 states affording many contacts, calls on old and new friends, and a survey of potential areas for cultivation. Honoraria of \$3,028.38 nearly met the expenses of the tour.

2. Around the World Town Meeting - For over a year, your Field Director worked on this plan with the Town Hall staff. Its successful conclusion was made during the summer. 28 leaders of organizations representing a membership of 31 million members travelled around the world with members of the Town Hall staff, visiting 12 world capitals. They spent 5 days in Cairo holding their seminars in A.U.C.'s Oriental Hall and making their world broadcast from Ewart Hall. Dr. Badeau was one of the four speakers on that broadcast which had a listening audience of 4 million in the U.S.A. Dr. Badeau presented A.U.C. souvenirs to the members of the group.

The members of the World Town Hall Seminar submitted a report to President Truman on October 18th, 1949. Under the caption Comments on the Middle East the following statement was made:

"Education - This was the key in all of our discussions. This is the point of concentration for the future development of the area. The Near East Colleges have produced an able leadership for the enterprise. But it must include heavy emphasis on adult education if the results are to be achieved in time to prevent chaos. Education for literacy and improved agriculture should be combined."

3. Miscellaneous Publicity - Two windows in the TWA offices fronting Broad Street.

Close Cooperation with Hamilton Wright Organization, Inc. of New York, official agency for Egyptian Tourism.

The regular Chronicle and News Letter mailings.

Close cooperation with the Egyptian Embassy.

Future Plans

1. Visual Aids - From the files and with new additions, the Promotion Department now has 100 slides. A lecture is being prepared for presentation to schools, churches, etc.

2. Speakers Bureau - We are now organizing this function. Mr. Morton E. Weldy visited Cairo and A.U.C. during the summer of 1949, meeting many important Egyptians, Dr. Badeau and other members of the staff. He is a lawyer with LL.B., Harvard, Phi Beta Kappa and an experienced lecturer. He will assist us without compensation.

VII - CONCLUSION

The Field Director would welcome more assistance from members of the Board of Trustees in furnishing names of prospective donors and assisting in writing letters or making personal calls.

L. S. KELLEY
Field Director

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT
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FOR THE YEAR 1949-1950

1 - CONDITIONS IN EGYPT

During the past year conditions in Egypt were more favorable for the University's work than at any time since the outbreak of the war in 1939. Although Israel and Egypt remained technically at war, there was no active fighting, and most restrictions of martial law were removed before the end of the year. The Palestine situation continued to be one of the major concerns of politics, but became much less important in personal and institutional relations. Public order was good; even a major parliamentary election passed without serious trouble.

The year was marked by several notable events. On September 18, 1949, the Egyptian pound was devalued, resulting in a decrease of dollar costs but an increase of prices in local currency. On October 14, 1949, the Consular and Mixed Courts came to an end, thus terminating the capitulatory regime that had lasted since the early days of Turkish rule and placing all foreigners under the jurisdiction of the Egyptian national courts. In January, 1950, the first postwar parliamentary election took place resulting in a return to power of the popular Wafd Party. It was hoped that the new cabinet might terminate successfully the protracted negotiations with Great Britain for a revision of the 1936 treaty, but so far little progress has been made.

In education there likewise has been significant development. With the new Wafd Cabinet, Dr. Taha Hussein, leading Arab literateur, became Minister of Education. His policy has been to accomplish by administrative order Egypt's dream of free, universal education. Beginning with the fall of 1950, no qualified pupil who desires to enter a Government school is to be denied admission - even if the building, teachers, and textbooks are insufficient. The result has been to further pack over-crowded schools. It is said that there are almost one million pupils more than government schools can accommodate during the coming year. Such a policy presents private educational institutions with both new academic and financial problems, and new opportunities.

The attitude of the Egyptian Government and public toward the United States has somewhat improved. There is no doubt but that Egypt desires a more friendly and cooperative relationship with America. The American record in Palestine is still a barrier to any real rapprochement, and further ill-feeling has been created by the magnified and irresponsible scandal stories of the Royal Family published in some American magazines. Yet Egypt signed the Fulbright Agreement in November, 1949, and Egyptian students - both Government supported and private - are going to the United States to study in larger numbers than ever. Feeling against individual American citizens and non-government organizations has not been apparent.

In this situation the University has continued to enjoy unusual confidence and cooperation from both official and unofficial circles. Three Cabinet Ministers in the present Government are members of the Advisory Board of the Division of Extension and have continued their service after taking office. The Minister of Foreign Affairs gave the guest address at Commencement. During the Mohammed Ali Centennial Celebration, the University held a Memorial Convocation to which the King

ent his highest ranking official as a personal representative. Upon the President's return from the United States in April, His Majesty readily granted an audience and discussed with interest the University's building plans. His parting words were, "If you have any other University problems, do not hesitate to bring them to me."

Of special significance to the work of the University is the proposed Establishment Treaty now being negotiated between Egypt and the United States. This treaty will replace the regulations of the capitulatory regime regarding the residence, rights, and protection of American citizens and institutions in Egypt. One clause, on which the University administration was consulted in advance, provides for the acceptance without discrimination of graduates of American institutions in Egypt for professional and government appointment. If this measure of official degree recognition is obtained, it will entrench the University even more firmly in the educational life of Egypt.

11 - THE YEAR'S RECORD

In such favorable conditions, the University can report an unusually constructive and successful year. Yet the prevailing tone of the Departmental reports is not so much that of accomplishment as of opportunities unmet. Like Alice in the Looking Glass, the institution has barely maintained its status quo by running hard; to get ahead will take even more effort.

Students

Student enrollment was at its highest. The Faculty of Arts and Sciences and Lincoln School had the largest student body on record - 503. The Faculty of Education increased its enrollment by 245%, the Division of Extension evening classes by 94%. The number attending Extension adult programs was the second highest recorded. The School of Oriental Studies did not equal its best war years, when military personnel flooded the classroom, but has maintained an enrollment well in advance of the pre-war average.

The quality, as well as the number, of students advanced. This was especially marked in the Faculty of Education and the Division of Extension, where the students applying for admission had better credentials and language ability than in past years.

The reasons for the increase in number and quality of students are (a) the general post-war development of education in the Middle East, (b) the desire on the part of many students to experience a more unique and personal type of education than is possible in over-crowded Government institutions, (c) the heavy demand for trained teachers in Egypt's rapidly expanding educational program, (d) the increasing flow of students to the United States for advanced study, making an American-oriented program in Egypt desirable, (e) the excellent reputation of the University as an educational institution combining Western methods with Eastern needs and objectives.

There is no reason to suppose but that this trend toward larger enrollment will continue. Students applying for 1950-51 to the Division of Extension and Faculty of Education are already in excess of the 1949-50 enrollment.