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THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF
THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY
AT CAIRO

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PHILADELPHIA, PA.

CHARLES R. WATSON,
GEORGE INNES,
SECRETARIES

December 20, 1920.

Mr. John D. Rockefeller, Jr.
26 Broadway
New York City.

Dear Sir:-

On March 18, 1920, a communication was addressed to you in behalf of the Board of Trustees of the American University at Cairo, setting forth the progress that had been made in the plans for establishing and launching this University which aims to serve the Mohammedan world at its great intellectual center, Cairo. The reply received to that communication intimated that certain plans were under way for a comprehensive study of the whole educational situation in the Near East, and that the consideration of any assistance to be given to institutions within that territory would best await the completion of this survey. The information has reached us that owing to the disturbed political condition and to other plans replacing those original plans, the program for a formal survey of the Near East has been abandoned. Meanwhile, the American University at Cairo has actually been launched, and developments of such importance have taken place both within the country and in the educational opportunity facing the University, we believe that a statement of the present situation is warranted. The Trustees desire in this connection to present to you certain acute needs of the University in meeting which your cooperation is requested.

(1). The University project has been launched: On October 5, 1920, the College of Arts and Science of the University opened its doors to students of the first and second years of the Government Course, roughly approximately Freshman and Sophomore years in the present educational developments of Egypt. The enrolment now stands at 142, distributed as follows:

First Year: English, 22; Arabic, 30; Total 52
Second Year: English, 37; Arabic, 53; Total 90
Total: English, 59; Arabic, 83; Total 142

Most significant is the enrolment from the point of view of indicating the important classes of society that are being reached. Among the students enrolled, there are the following:

2 sons of Governors of Provinces
3 sons of Mayors of towns
4 sons of Mohammedan judges of the Superior Courts
24 sons of Pashas and Beys. The Pasha represents the highest social and political order below the Sultan's family, namely royalty.

Those who are familiar with the sensitiveness of public opinion in oriental, and especially Mohammedan lands, will appreciate how great an achievement is represented in this auspicious launching of a Christian University project and the winning to it of public favor through Christian friendliness and disinterested service.

The present staff consists of five American permanent professors, four short-term American teachers, seven Egyptian ~~instructors~~ teachers, and an English matron. For further details, see Appendix A.

(2). Egypt and National Independence: The outstanding event of recent months is the publication of the Milner Commission's Report. While numerous steps are yet to be taken before the proposals of this Report become effective, there seems to be no ground for doubting that the main provisions of the Report will indeed be adopted. The significance of these proposals is almost beyond calculation, and they have awakened a tremendous interest throughout Egypt and the Near East. While it is proposed that Great Britain will pretty much take charge of foreign relationships and the right of foreigners in the country in order to safeguard these thoroughly, Egypt is to be given all internal matters, and an independent monarchical constitutional government. These proposals have challenged Egypt and the Egyptians to such a degree that it seems as if to the opportunity for service which previously faced the University, there has been added a new opportunity of equal magnitude, which when added to the former opportunity is not only encouraging but really embarrassing.

It is in these developments that is to be found the explanation of the unusual enrolment that greeted the opening of the University and the attendance of such representative classes.

Much might be stated at length to elaborate the unusual opportunity of the University in the presence of this great impending national event of Egyptian independence, but, in a word, it may be stated that the new situation put very great pressure upon the University to speed up its program and development, and particularly to launch out in University Extension work which may help to meet the requirements of general education and the guidance of public opinion, especially the opinion of the official and leading classes.

(3). Future Development of the University: In the light of the foregoing facts the Trustees of the American University at Cairo feel a double pressure upon them to press forward in the development of the University, along the lines of the following program in particular:

- (a). College of Arts and Science: It is imperative that during 1921-22 the present classes be carried forward one year, and that in the next year, 1922-23, the fourth year of the course be added. This will complete the four year course of the Collegiate Department, but should the Government decide to advance the educational standards by the addition of another pre-professional year, as now seems likely the University will, of course, contemplate making provision for such an additional year also. Whether the addition of such years of study would involve dropping some of the earlier years of study, will depend upon the future classification of these years. For the present they would appear to be vital to a unified educational development leading up to the professional courses.
- (b). School of Oriental Studies: For several years the two leading missions operating in Egypt, the American United Presbyterian Mission and the British Church Missionary Society, have developed a Training School

for missionaries working in Mohammedan and Arabid-speaking lands. This School has been patronized not only by the missionaries and workers of the missions in Egypt, but also by missionaries appointed to other Mohammedan lands. The University has been approached with the request that it should take over this important institution, which has also large possibilities of further development as a training center for the missionary bodies of the Mohammedan world. One of the buildings of the University lends itself as a suitable and appropriate separate building for the use of this Training School, with a view to its development into a School of Oriental Studies. A conditional offer of financial assistance has been secured. This offer and the entire plan are elaborated separately in Appendix B.

- (c). University Extension Lectures: It is difficult to describe the very great eagerness of the Egyptian public, particularly of the educated and leading classes, for information that will visualize the practices and the principles of Western civilization. The impending political opportunity, with its proposed national independence, has whetted the appetite for such information. The only existing opportunity for meeting that is to be found in the publication of magazines and newspapers of Egypt which for the most part are influenced by ulterior political motives in all their deliverances. A unique opportunity exists, therefore, to reach the leading and official classes, especially the social stratum from which the student body itself is drawn, by means of a well organized course of public lectures on such topics as the following:

"Public Health"

"The Family and the Position of Woman"

"Public Education"

"Community Welfare"

"Principles Underlying a Sound National Development"

It is proposed, because of the social necessities in Egypt, to have separate courses along these lines for men and for women. The details of this plan are elaborated in Appendix C.

- (d). Teacher Training: The plans for the University have always contemplated the development of a School of Education, but the Milner Commission's Report proposing as it does the handing over at an early date of the Ministry of Education of Egypt to Egyptian leadership and control, creates a situation of urgency for the early development of this School of Education, so that it may cooperate at once in the problems that must be faced when the Egyptians take hold of this large responsibility for the public education of Egypt. Already one professor, a graduate of Teachers' Training College of Columbia University, has been sent to Egypt, but if the School of Education is to be developed, there will need to be added in the near future two other