December 14, 1979

CONFIDENTIAL

TO: NEA - Mr. Saunders
FROM: NEA - W. Nathaniël Howell, Jr.
SUBJECT: Appropriate Settings for a Presidential Statement on Islam

As you requested, I have given further thought to appropriate occasions and settings for the President to deliver a statement on Islam in the near future and in connection with the holiday season. The following possibilities should be considered:

- A meeting with professors of religion and/or Middle Eastern and South Asian area studies from local universities (a preliminary list of programs is appended);

- A meeting with students in Washington-area universities studying religion or foreign affairs;

- A meeting with diplomats or their children from Islamic nations or a broader grouping;

- A visit to the Islamic Center to extend season's greetings to the Muslim community in the U.S.;

- As part of any up-date-to-the-nation the President may be planning on the situation in Iran; or

- At an occasion where the President, as part of his holiday observance this year, welcomes the immediate families of the hostages to the White House.

CONFIDENTIAL