

Department of State

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May 1, 1950
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CIRCULAR AIRGRAM

TO CERTAIN AMERICAN DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR OFFICES:

There is quoted below for your information excerpt entitled "Anti-Americanism in Arab World", from the Bi-Weekly NEA News Guidance of April 28 (Volume I, No. 11), which is circulated to USIE officers in the NEA area:

"3-a) Anti-Americanism in Arab World. Anti-Americanism is resurging in the Arab world. The bombings at our Legations in Beirut and Damascus; vitriolic public statements by Syria's Dawalibi, Iraq's Suwaidi and other high officials; diatribes and fantastic rumors in the vernacular press of Syria, Egypt and Iraq; all testify to the rekindling of Arab animosity against the United States. Whether prompted by Communists or Moslem extremists, whether encouraged by irresponsible journalists or by weak government officials who seek to divert attention from their own inadequacies, or whether attributable to a sincere objection to America's part in Palestine developments, the current emotionalism bodes no good for the interests of the United States, nor for that matter for the best interests of the Arab states themselves.

"Our best efforts must be directed toward stemming this tide of anti-Americanism. In this campaign our public affairs media can help. It is suggested that our information output be concentrated along the following lines: a) Corrective versions should be sent directly and immediately to the authors of fantastic stories such as the Syrian newspaper article about a \$20,000,000 USIE program in Syria. These corrective stories should be intended and delivered so as to persuade the author of the error in his assertions and also to enlist his cooperation in correcting the misconceptions he has promulgated. b) Difficult as it may be, we must on every occasion reaffirm our current policy of impartiality in the Palestine dispute; above all we should keep reiterating, that the Palestine issue notwithstanding, the United States has a sincere interest in maintaining strong friendship with the Arab world and in cooperating with it in its

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By Ray NARA Date 4/6/92

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hoped-for progress and development. c) Difficult as it may be, we must also seek to re-direct the attention of Arab peoples to their own internal problems and encourage them to devote their energies to the tremendous social and economic improvements so long overdue in their own countries. d) Finally, we must try to impress upon the Arab countries the fact that the dissipation of their energies in fanaticism against the United States or against Israel coupled with a lack of attention to their own pressing problems will lead to worse conditions which can only benefit their avowed enemies.

"Positive, aggressive action along the lines suggested above should be taken not in a spirit of righteous indignation or anger, but in a sincere and friendly manner. The editor of a diatribe against the United States might, for example, be visited privately by one of our public affairs officers in the field to discuss the newspaper's attitude and to seek placement for a corrective article prepared carefully under the supervision of our chief of mission. Other better counter-actions may suggest themselves. In this connection, it may be pointed out that the Department itself is confronted with a critical public relations problem on the home front as a result of which the Secretary and other high Department officials have taken it upon themselves to carry the Department's story to the people through public speeches, articles for publication, and personal contacts. This program on the home front is already producing favorable results. It might also prove effective in the field."

ACHESON

SEND TO: AMLEGATION, BEIRUT
" , DAMASCUS
" , AMMAN
AMEMBASSY, BAGHDAD
" , TEL AVIV
" , JIDDA
" , CAIRO
AMCONSUL, JERUSALEM

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