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TO : Department of State

FROM : BAGHDAD 933 MARCH 10, 1951

REF :

SUBJECT : ANTI-COMMUNIST POSTER MATERIAL PREPARED BY USIS BAGHDAD

DECLASSIFIED
 Authority NND 852913
 By RUB NARA. Date 7/16/02

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The Embassy herewith forwards photographs in four copies each of posters prepared by the United States Information Center, Baghdad, in its anti-Communist information work. We have been using these posters in the display window in front of the office, and have been endeavoring to ascertain how far we can go in overt anti-Communist and anti-Soviet propaganda. Thus far the public response, as gauged by the crowds of people who have viewed the displays, has been most interested. Only two newspapers have commented unfavorably on the displays, and in both cases the theme was: "Why should the Americans tell us about Communism? We know its evils already, and we don't care to hear from the Americans who betrayed us in Palestine about evils of which we are already aware." Neither paper which commented was of any importance.

The first display in the window was devoted chiefly to a comparison of the state of religion in the United States and in "a Communist state." It was pointed out that in comparison to the complete freedom of religious expression in the United States, in Communist states religion was suppressed, its leaders imprisoned and tortured, and not allowed to perform their religious functions or even wear religious garb. The display was illustrated by poster A-1, which showed the Communist state as a big bully maltreating a man labelled "Religion." At the same time poster A-2 based on a Herblock cartoon showed the Kremlin with its radio loudspeakers blaring out "White is black, black is white, day is night" With good fortune -- and thanks to IMP -- we were able to give solid support to our assertions about religion in the United States by showing at the same time photographs of the construction of the new Washington mosque on Massachusetts Avenue.

The next display was a single large poster, B, based on a report in the Iraq Times that Radio Bucharest had complained that Rumanian oil workers in 1950 had failed to fulfill their production quotas because of "absenteeism, sabotage, lack of discipline, etc." It showed a Communist roughneck maltreating a small ball-and-chained worker and had an explanatory caption beneath.

The third display, which is currently being shown in the window to large crowds, tells the story of the reedy Red pig and how he came to a bad end. The fact that the pig is wearing a Red Star on his armband and has at his rear end instead of the normally piggy curl a hammer-and-sickle tail has not escaped the observers. If we can make the Soviet-Communist state ridiculous as well as frightening to the ordinary Arab, we shall certainly stimulate his resistance. Poster Series C-1,2,3,4, and 5 tell

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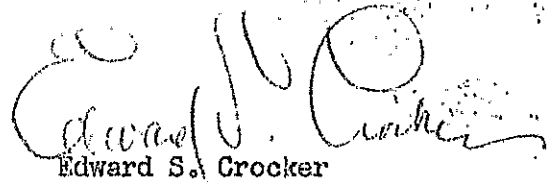
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the story. Comments by observers on the street indicate that they understand the symbolism very well. One man said: "Stalin is such a nice fat pig, I hope they cut him up and distribute him all around." Others remarked on the suitability of making the Communist villain a pig because of the resistance appeal it has for Moslems.

If the Red Pig idea proves sufficiently successful, we are planning to put it into a two color poster with captioning in Arabic and Kurdish for general distribution throughout the country. Any suggestions the Department may make will be welcomed. The drawings in the cartoons have been done by an Iraqi artist; the captions and the ideas are from the Public Affairs Officer. We feel that possibly a whole series of cartoon-posters can be developed, using the Red Pig as the central figure.


Edward S. Crocker

Copies to: Cairo, Beirut, Damascus,
Jidda, Basra, Tehran,
Major Gagarine, Amman

Enclosures: 32 photographs