

Dhahran, Saudi Arabia  
June 7, 1951

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PERSONAL

Miss Dorothy Thompson  
237 - E. 48th St.  
New York, New York

Dear Miss Thompson:

Please refer to your letter to me of April 16, and my reply from Beirut of April 25.

In the fifth paragraph of my letter to you of April 25, I referred to the possible strategy of the Christian democratic West joining with the Muslim world in a common moral front against communism. Since then my secretary in Washington has sent to you some extracts from my correspondence from others who showed a genuine interest in this possibility, the value of which would be not only to strengthen support for the democratic West in the Muslim world, but also to constitute a recognition by the West of the moral strength and historical significance of Islam. As you know, there have been very few signs that the Western Powers place any value upon Muslims and from the point of view of psychological warfare alone, we need desperately some common ground to which we welcome the Muslims and the Arabs as respected and valued friends.

I am glad to say that since writing to you I have had new proof that such a moral alliance would be welcomed by Muslim leaders who would, I think, come more than half-way in responding to a friendly overture from the Christian West.

I. As I wrote to you before, the Secretary-General of the Arab League, Abdul Rahman Pasha, promoted this idea in a conference with high ranking officials of the U.S. Army and Navy in Washington last December. On his way back to the Near East, Azzam Pasha was invited to a private audience with the Pope with whom the same subject was cordially discussed. Azzam Pasha told me in Damascus, May 19, that he was greatly encouraged by the audience with the Pope who may make some official pronouncement in this field, and who recently welcomed Muslim diplomatic representatives at the Vatican contrary to Vatican policy of the past which required Muslim countries to designate a Christian.

II. When in Damascus on May 19, I had a private conference with a man who, no matter how low his political fortunes may have fallen, is still a great influence in Islamic religious circles, the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem, Al Hajji Amin Al Husseini. The Mufti spoke of Russia and of Communism with the deepest hate; insisted that we were on the wrong side in the last war and

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should have been allied with Germany against Russia. He claims that his actions at the time are now being vindicated in the arming of Germany by the Allies against Russia. The Mufti has no interest in the shifting alliances between the Powers intended to maintain a balance of power but he stated emphatically that all historic religion will be destroyed if Russia conquers the world. He spoke cordially of the cooperation which would be offered by Muslims to promote a joint propaganda with Christians to make this danger clear.

III. While in an audience with the King of Saudi Arabia, Abdul Aziz al Sa'ud, this week, the King addressed himself strongly to the same point. He affirmed that both Christianity and Islam are threatened by Communism, their common enemy. Christians and Muslims both worship the one true God and Russia is determined to destroy the worship of God. Therefore, Muslims in the East, and Christians in the West, should be allies in this trouble to defend their historic faith. I feel sure that a statement along these lines, or quotation, could be secured formally from the King, if a way were found to quote a number of other representative persons at the same time who could speak for large numbers of believers among Christians and Muslims. As the ruler of the land of the Holy Cities, Mecca and Medina, to which over 100,000 of the faithful from Morocco to China travel every year, and as head of the puritanical Wahhabi movement to restore the pure faith and practices of Islam, the King is without any doubt the most representative and influential Muslim in the world today.

IV. Finally, I enclose translation of portion of an address made at Cairo, late in March of this year, by Muhammad Ali Allouba Pasha, formerly Minister of Education in Egypt and a recognized leader of Islamic and Arab movements. A few years ago it would have been inconceivable that a Muslim, prominent in public life, would stand on the platform of an American university and speak in public so reverently of Jesus and so respectfully of the Christian religion. What makes this address even more significant is that the lecturer and author requested the noted Egyptian writer, Fuad Sarruf Bey, to please bring the speaker's views to responsible and sympathetic circles in the USA. Perhaps you will find some way to have this done or some publication in which Allouba Pasha's remarks may be published.

I shall write to you soon on other points raised in your letter of April 16. I had intended to do so earlier but I have been travelling almost constantly during the past two months.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ W. A. EDDY

W. A. Eddy

WAE/jk

Enclosure:

cc: F.A. Davies, Aramco, Dhahran

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H.O. Thompson, " "

The Rt. Rev. Arthur McKinstry, Bishop of Delaware  
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