



THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

SA - Jeddah Embassy - Hare
12/6/51

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OFFICIAL - ~~RESTRICTED~~

ADDRESS OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS TO

American Embassy,
Jidda, Saudi Arabia,
November 25, 1951.

Dear Fred:

It has just been reported to me that there has been another in the series of incidents which bear out our contention that we must proceed slowly in urging the Saudis to liberalize their regulations prohibiting the exhibition of motion pictures. In this case a senior Saudi military officer attended a movie shown on the airbase in Dhahran and took instant offense at a news-reel on Israel. It became necessary to stop the show in the middle and make a public apology on the spot. I understand that Aramco recently experienced a similar mishap.

I am passing this information along to you informally because it is an air force internal matter which they are no doubt dealing with competently, and I do not suggest that any action is required on our part. However, you may have an opportunity to use this information in the Department to dampen the enthusiasm of those who are trying to push us into the use of this medium for educational and USIE work. We have said frequently in our despatches to the Department that precipitant action along those lines would seriously endanger what little we have accomplished and would certainly force us to slow down our pace.

I am sure you were as shocked as we to learn of the tragic murder of our friend Cyril Ousman. In attempting to reach Cyril, Mishari tried to blow the lock off the dressing room door with a shotgun. He had seen a movie villain do exactly this in a movie he attended with Cyril and Dorothy only a few days earlier. As we all know the influence of American movies on foreigners is not always one to which we can point with pride.

Kindest personal regards.

Sincerely,

Raymond A. Hare

Frederick H. Awalt, Esquire,
Office of Near Eastern Affairs,
Department of State,
Washington, 25, D. C.

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