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Authority NAID 852914  
By JSS NARA. Date 7/1/98

No. 2

OCTOBER 30 1952

To the

Officer in Charge of the American Mission,  
Amman.

The Secretary of State refers to Franklin Publications, Inc., to which frequent reference has been made, and which is now an actuality. Three members of the Executive Board are leaving soon for the Middle East. They are: Ditus C. Smith, Jr., President (on leave from his duties as Director of Princeton University Press); Malcolm Johnson, Chairman of the Board (Vice-President, D. Van Nostrand Company, Inc.); and Francis St. John (Director of the Brooklyn Public Library). Their itinerary is as follows:

Beirut - November 8-15, 1952  
Hotel Bristol

Damascus - November 15-19, 1952  
Orient Palace Hotel

Cairo - November 19-27, 1952  
Hotel Semiramis

Baghdad - November 27-December 2, 1952  
Hotel Zia  
(Mr. Smith will remain in Baghdad until December 4 or 5.)

Mr. Smith, alone, will continue as follows:

Amman and Jerusalem - December 4 or 5

Return to Cairo or Beirut, and possibly Tripoli and Tangier

Enclosed herewith is a copy of a letter addressed to Mr. Smith, outlining the Department's conception of the duties of Franklin Publications as they relate to the Department of State. It will be noted that Franklin is a private organization and that while it

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will operate to a large extent with funds appropriated by the Department, it is anticipated that it will also have funds from outside organizations such as foundations or universities. For this reason, the members of the Executive Board wish to be treated as private businessmen. They should not be met on arrival, and they will make their own arrangements for hotel reservations, et cetera. They will, of course, call on the Public Affairs Officer soon after arrival and will seek his help in arranging schedules of people to be seen and other details, and will keep him informed of the substance of all interviews. They should have an opportunity to talk with the Chief of Mission and any interested members of his staff, as well as with the public affairs staff.

Where a translation program is already in being, as in Cairo, it is anticipated that the public affairs staff will continue this program on the same basis on which it has been operating. Eventually the bulk of the translation activities will probably be undertaken by Franklin Publications, but it is desired that this transition develop naturally and always in close cooperation with the local public affairs staff.

The Department believes that the work of this new organization will be of the greatest value to its Arabic-language operations, and requests fullest cooperation on the part of Mission staffs.

Enclosure:

Copy of letter to  
Mr. Smith.

