

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

CONFIDENTIAL - SECURITY INFORMATION

TO : NEA - Mr. Fred L. Hadsel

DATE: April 30, 1953

FROM : Through IPO - Allen Haden  
IPO - G. Huntington Damon *GHD*

SUBJECT: Briefing Paper for Secretary -- Islamic Colloquium

RM/R  
Central  
Files  
This Document Must Be Returned to

There is enclosed for the Secretary's information a brief summary of salient facts on the Colloquium together with 10 copies of a descriptive leaflet.

Will you please send me 25 copies of the hecto when you have it run off.

*sent 5/1*

*Back By Monday a.m. first*

cc:

NEA/P- Mr. R.H. Sanger

*511.80*

Enclosures:

1. Summary, "Conference on Islamic Civilization" (hecto master and one copy)
2. 10 leaflets

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority *ND 58914*  
BY *[Signature]* NARA Date *7/10*

IIA: IPO: GHDamon: dp

CONFIDENTIAL - SECURITY INFORMATION

DC/R  
Apri 29  
Rev  
Cat

CONFIDENTIAL FILE  
FILED  
JUN 25 1953

511.80/4-3053

511.80/4-3053  
CS/W

CONFERENCE ON ISLAMIC CIVILIZATION

Intellectual leaders from thirteen Muslim countries will meet with an equal number of American scholars in September 1953 for a two weeks' conference on Islamic civilization. Known as the "Colloquium on Islamic Culture in its Relation to the Contemporary World," the conference is expected to bring to the United States the largest number of outstanding intellectual leaders of the Islamic world that have ever been here at the time.

The Library of Congress and Princeton University are joint sponsors. Meetings will be held at Princeton from September 8 to 16 and in Washington on September 17, 18 and 19. Papers will be published in Arabic as well as English. Dr. Bayard Dodge, President-emeritus of Beirut University, is Director of the Colloquium.

On the surface, the conference looks like an exercise in pure learning. This in effect is the impression desired. The ostensible purpose is to create good will and to further mutual understanding between Islamic peoples and the United States. The International Information Administration promoted the Colloquium along these lines and has given it financial and other assistance because this psychological approach can make an important contribution to United States objectives in the Muslim area at this time.

The Colloquium is expected to bring together persons exerting great influence in formulating Muslim opinion in fields such as education, science, law and philosophy and inevitably, therefore, on politics. Every effort is being made to ensure that the visitors from Islamic countries feel that the conference is an honor and tribute to their culture and position.

Among the various results expected from the Colloquium are the impetus and direction that may be given to the Renaissance movement within Islam itself. To further this end, the Exchange of Persons program of the International Information Administration is giving leader grants to a number of the delegates from Islamic countries so that they can spend a total of three months in the United States.

Our Missions are facilitating the selection of delegates and arrangements for their trips.

Enclosure - List of Participants  
- Brochure announcing Colloquium

4-29-53