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July 27, 1953
DATE

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SUBJECT: COLLOQUIUM ON ISLAMIC CULTURE AND SAEEED RAMADHAN.

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Saeed RAMADHAN is considered to be among the most learned scholars of Islamic culture in the Ikhwan el Muslimin (Moslem Brotherhood). A graduate of the Faculty of Law from Fouad University in Cairo in 1945, he takes but few cases and devotes most of his time to the study of Islam. Born in 1925 he is young in years but old in experience.

At present he is engaged as editor in chief of El Musliman, a monthly magazine now in its second year, which publishes articles on Islamic law and culture by scholars through the Muslim world. Its circulation is about 10,000 and subscribers reach from Tunisia to Indonesia. As General Secretary of the World Islamic Conference he travels extensively throughout the Islamic States and has recently returned from conferences in Pakistan. When in Egypt he gives weekly radio broadcasts on Islamic culture and interpretation of the Koran.

In 1940 Ramadhan began his studies of Islam under Hassan al BANNA, former Supreme Guide of the Ikhwan el Muslimin, and became editor of El Shihab, a magazine introduced by the latter in 1947. It was a monthly magazine for articles on Islamic law and culture but ceased publication after five issues under pressure from ex-King Farouk's government. Shortly thereafter the Brotherhood was outlawed and upwards of 2,000 of its members arrested. Saeed Ramadhan left for Pakistan in time to prevent possible detention. He lived there about a year during which time he gave two radio broadcasts weekly which were beamed to the Arab States, including Egypt. Late in 1949 the Muslim League of Pakistan requested Ramadhan to give a series of lectures on Islamic Culture in many parts of the Middle East. Starting in the Sudan he gave talks mostly in universities through Egypt and ending in Turkey. Where there were no universities, moving picture theaters, auditoriums and other suitable locations were used.

Recently Dr. James M. Keys, Cultural Affairs Officer at the Embassy, received a message from Dr. Mohamed el BAKAY through an Egyptian employee of U.S.I.E. Bakay, who has already been selected as one of the Islamic scholars

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to attend the Colloquium on a Leader Grant asked, "Is it possible for a distinguished member of the Muslim Brotherhood to attend the Conference of Islamic Studies at Princeton University. The Society is prepared to cover all expenses. The member recommended to travel in the U.S.A. is Ustaz el Saeed Ramadhan, the Secretary General of the Islamic Conference. . . .". Dr. Bakay and Ramadhan plan to visit Muslim leaders and university faculty members throughout the United States following the sessions of the Colloquium.

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The Embassy believes that Ramadhan's scholarly attainments are sufficient to make him eligible to attend the Colloquium on Islamic Culture. His position with the Muslim Brotherhood makes it important that his desire for an invitation be considered carefully in light of the possible effects of offending this important body.

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Jefferson Caffery

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