



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

December 14, 1979

Hedley:

I believe the first below would be best. It would have to be another meeting like that with the Muslim Americans. The statement could come out after.

Hal Saunders

Will

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EXDIS

TO: NEA - Mr. Saunders

FROM: NEA - W. Nathaniel Howell, Jr. ^{with}

SUBJECT: Appropriate Settings for a Presidential Statement on Islam

As you requested, I have given further thought to appropriate occasions and settings for the President to deliver a statement on Islam in the near future and in connection with the holiday season. The following possibilities should be considered:

- A meeting with professors of religion and/or Middle Eastern and South Asian area studies from local universities (a preliminary list of programs is appended);
- A meeting with students in Washington-area universities studying religion or foreign affairs;
- A meeting with diplomats or their children from Islamic nations or a broader grouping;
- A visit to the Islamic Center to extend season's greetings to the Muslim community in the U.S.;
- As part of any up-date-to-the-nation the President may be planning on the situation in Iran; or
- At an occasion where the President, as part of his holiday observance this year, welcomes the immediate families of the hostages to the White House.

I think this is best. HS

Too artificial

They have just been here and he visited with them.

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E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.6

PER 6/18/97 STATE RE NLG 97-08

BY [Signature] NARS DATE 8/24/99 Quarter Library Copy