

NOV 19 1951

Dear Dr. Cameron:

Thank you for your letter of October 21, in which you discuss briefly the University's recent Near Eastern project. I shall hope to be able to hear more about it at some future date. I was particularly interested in hearing your reactions to the "propaganda battle".

The Department does recognize the tremendous power of radio. We hope to increase the time on the air of the Arabic VOA; also, we recognize the fact that we must present a stronger signal than we have at the present. There are always budgetary limitations, as you know.

Your point is well made that we must tell the world of our widespread commitments. We are trying to do this in a number of ways, one of which is the Middle East Bulletin. In Iraq, the Bulletin is distributed in English, Arabic, and Kurdish. I hope that you saw copies? The Kurdish situation is delicate since the Iraqi officials quite naturally fear that we will arouse Kurdish nationalism, whereas — as we tell them — our effort is merely to reach as wide an audience as possible with our messages regarding the present world ideological conflict.

Poverty and ill health are indeed two great problems of the people of the area. USIE has a medical library in each of its information centers, medical films and film strips for distribution, and also medical newsletters. Point IV will offer the people technical know-how. Did you by any chance view any of the excellent USIE Disney health films — simple, direct explanations in an attractive form on a number of local diseases and how to avoid them? They are often shown with a Kurdish language soundtrack. Did you also see the effective anti-malaria poster produced by USIS Baghdad?

If at any time you have other specific information or advice, I hope that you will write. We appreciate your interest.

Sincerely yours,
Edward W. Barrett

Edward W. Barrett

Dr. George G. Cameron,
Department of Near Eastern Studies,
University of Michigan,
Ann Arbor, Michigan.

RIB NEA/P:RSBlack:ph
REG NEA:NE:REGnade:jm

11/6/51

DC/R Central Files

FW 5/1/80/10-2-2-107

DE/R

✓

Rev

Com

504

S/S-CR

NOV 13 1951 A.M.

NOV 19 1951

J. J. Co