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SUBJECT: Information on the Activities of the WFDY and the International Assembly of Muslim Youth (IAMY)

1. This memorandum is intended not only to provide information on some of the activities of the WFDY and the International Assembly of Muslim Youth (IAMY) but also to elicit any information you may be able to obtain in answer to the attached "Questionnaire" we have prepared.

2. The following is a verbatim copy of a "Press Communique" entitled "WFDY Delegation in Egypt", which appeared in the WFDY Information Service No. 5, April 1956, pp. 5-6:

"A WFDY delegation composed of Messrs. Chen li Jen [sic; correctly CHIEN Li-jen] Secretary of the WFDY; Prabir Mitra, Members of the Editorial Board of the magazine 'World Youth'; Karim Mroue, Member of the WFDY Executive Committee and Aldo Monaco, leader of the Italian Cycling Federation, visited Egypt during the second fortnight of March.

"For 12 days the delegation members were the guests of the Egyptian Olympic Committee. During their stay they visited different youth organisations, young people's clubs, rural, sports, workers and university clubs in different towns and villages, where they expressed the WFDY's sentiments of friendship to the Egyptian youth.

"They were received by the Minister and Vice-Minister of Social Affairs and the Director of Social Education and Sports at the Ministry of National Education, and by the Head of the Social Affairs Department at the Secretariat of the League of Arab States.

"The delegation had meetings, in particular with the Supreme Youth Council, the Youth Liberation Organisation, the Egyptian Youth Organisations, the Olympic Committee and the Federation of Rural Clubs, to discuss future relations and cooperation between them and the WFDY. They all expressed their sincere desire to develop cooperation with the WFDY in this field of youth activities. The delegation, on its part, expressed the sincere desire of the WFDY to cooperate with Egyptian youth organisations on the basis of understanding and respect for each other's interests.

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"Agreement on cooperation was reached between the WFDY delegation and different Egyptian youth organisations. The Egyptian Youth Organisations asked to affiliate to the WFDY. The delegation invited youth organisations to participate in different WFDY activities and was invited to take part in Egyptian youth activities.

"The delegation also had friendly discussions on cooperation with the International Assembly of Moslem Youth. Agreement on cooperation was reached between the WFDY and the International Assembly of Moslem Youth for joint celebrations of February 21st, International Day Against Colonialism and of Solidarity with the Young People of Colonial Countries. This organisation will send a delegation in the course of the summer to visit the WFDY Headquarters in Budapest, where different discussions will take place.

"On its part the WFDY delegation received an invitation to participate in an international Moslem youth camp, which will be held in July in Alexandria.

"The WFDY Secretariat thanks all Egyptian youth organisations for the friendly welcome given to the delegation and sends its best wishes and greetings to the young men and women of Egypt."

3. The following article was published in World Youth No. 5 (May) 1956, the monthly organ of the WFDY:

"From our special correspondent KARIM..."

TRAVEL NOTES...DAMASCUS BEIRUT CAIRO

When I arrived in Damascus, the capital of Syria, on a beautiful sunny morning, I stepped into the midst of the events stirring this part of the world. All eyes and conversations were turned to the events in Jordan. The big demonstrations of the people of this country are being felt here in a big way. This can be seen and heard from the people talking in the streets, reading the papers displayed outside the newspaper stands, students coming out of school and lectures, enthusiastically talking to one another, workers, small businessmen. The whole of the people are learning the news and discussing it. Resistance to the Bagdad Pact is a question of life or sovereignty for the Syrian people.

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Everyone I asked said the same thing, and I can well understand their reaction. The barber cutting my hair said, 'The Syrian people aren't alone in this question. Their Arab brothers are at their side. They are all hostile in one way or another to foreign aggressive pacts, and particularly the Bagdad Pact.' I wasn't surprised, therefore, to see big united demonstrations of young people and students in solidarity with Jordan, against this disgraceful pact! Nor was I surprised to see later in Beirut a youth gathering being organised for the same purpose. 'The Bagdad Pact? It's been hard hit,' said a young Syrian to me in conclusion!

Talking about the Festival

My discussions also led to the Festival. I was, of course, interested in finding out the opinion of young people on this question. A member of the Festival Bureau, with whom I spoke, told me, 'The Festival is a great event for young people.' And guessing my next question, he added, 'For 5 years the Syrian youth were oppressed under a regime which limited their participation in international events such as Festivals. The popular uprising in 1954 put an end to this oppression, and combined with changes which have resulted in the life of the country, has opened up tremendous horizons for the youth. Because of this, they were able to send a worthy delegation to Warsaw, 300 young people of the most varied trends and organisations.'

I was surprised to meet Oum-Kamel (Mother of Kamel), whom I had had the pleasure of seeing in Warsaw. He is a celebrated actor and head of the most popular Ensemble in Syria. The leaders of the People's theatrical troupe and the Musicians Union are jointly preparing a spectacular programme for the Moscow Festival, and everyone is proudly and impatiently looking forward to it.

On the third day of my stay in Damascus I visited the University where a literature student recalled, not without pride, his conversations at the Warsaw Festival. He told me about the signature collection campaign for the Vienna Appeal, against the atomic bomb, in which students took an active part. 'Yesterday,' he said, 'there was a big demonstration against the Bagdad Pact.'

Near the University, in the centre of Damascus, I could see the Amyade Mosque. This is a living image of

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the rich and ancient culture of the Syrian people. To reach it, I had to cross the large and ancient Souk-Alkamidieb market-place. It was with this picture in mind that I left Syria.

A wide road, bordered by two rows of trees and following the Barada river, runs through Damascus and its surroundings. An hour and a half later, our car climbed the famous mountains of Lebanon. We passed through villages, lit by electricity, strewn among the forest-covered mountains. In Sawfarm, we could look right down into the Lamartine valley, and then from Bhamdoume and Aley we could finally see the sea and Beirut, which seemed to enlace one another...

We stopped at the much frequented Martyrs Square. There near the fountain, several dozen leaders of the national movement of Syria and Lebanon were hung by the Turks in 1915. That is why May 6 is celebrated by all the Lebanese people, to affirm their hostility against colonialism and their support for peace and liberty.

The place was humming with activity when I arrived. The people and youth were out helping the inhabitants of Tripoli, capital of the North, who had been hit by floods killing 100 people, leaving several thousands without homes and causing several tens of millions of dollars damages. Tripoli, a town of about 15,000 inhabitants, has a tradition of fighting against colonialism. The young people, to whom Tripoli is extremely precious, were working continuously to make up for the tragedy. They expressed their satisfaction for the solidarity of the Arab countries and other parts of the world. The people and youth of Lebanon were very grateful for the help of the WFDY and the government also expressed their thanks for this help.

Visit to the School of the Moslem Girls Association

I was very interested in the school of the Moslem Girls Association, which I visited with a friend. The girls in this school learn, under the guidance of Mme. Yakar (president), to do magnificent folk work. 'More than 60 girls,' said Mme. Yakar, 'leave with a diploma which makes it possible for them to find work. If the girl is illiterate, she can read and write on leaving.' (These are some of the things won by the youth).

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The plane then dipped its wing in the direction of Cairo. Through the window I can see the endless sea glistening below me. An hour later we can see Port Said and the Suez Canal. Then the desert, that vast expanse of land, which, if exploited, would yield immense wealth. Might not this be one of the wonderful tasks awaiting the Egyptian youth in the near future? And then, at last, the lush green of the Nile Valley, and we landed in Cairo.

Here we could also sense an unusual atmosphere. Yesterday the new Constitution was proclaimed, a great event in the life of the Egyptian people. Everywhere, the youth were celebrating. They had chosen this day to hold the IInd National Festival of Egyptian Youth. 65,000 young people took part and 250 programmes were presented. All of this helped me to understand the atmosphere in Cairo.

Sports Journalist

Who could visit Cairo without seeing the pyramids and the sphynx? I, too, was curious, and so hurried to Gizeh, on the outskirts of Cairo, where I could leisurely comtemplate the great pyramid and sphynx, living symbols of the rich Egyptian culture.

And now I have become a sports journalist, which I would never have imagined possible. Nevertheless, I happily took up the invitation of Mr. Touny, General Secretary of the Egyptian Olympic Committee, to follow a part of the 3rd International Cycle Race between Cairo and the new province of Attalir.

In this province one can see results of the wonderful work carried out to cultivate the desert and build new modern villages.

One of the 10 most important events of 1955

On returning from Cairo I visited several organisations, including the International Assembly of Moslem Youth, the Supreme Council of Youth, the Youth Section of the Liberation Organisation, the Federation of Egyptian Women, the Writer's Association and many others. All these organisations showed certain interest in co-operating with the WFDY in the preparation and participation in the Moscow

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Festival, as well as on other questions. With Captain Adel Taher, General Secretary of the Supreme Council of Youth and Commander Ahmed Chouhayeb, General Secretary of the Youth Section of the Liberation Organisation, and accompanied by Mr. Khalife, a journalist, I was received by the Minister of National Education, who is also the President of the Supreme Council of Youth. We discussed Egyptian participation in the Moscow Festival. The Minister assured me that Egyptian youth would be worthily represented at this Festival.

Following this, Mr. Khalife, editor of the Daily paper 'Algounharia', told me how the press of his country had summed up the Vth Festival. It had been regarded as one of the 10 most important events of 1955.

I had many discussions in Egypt. Everyone told me about the hostility which exists to the Bagdad Pact. The Egyptian people want peace and to be friends with all peoples, especially those helping them in the development of their country.

And my voyage was ended. I am now deeply convinced that the youth of the Near and Middle East countries, including those most oppressed, as in Irak, for example, are firmly determined to struggle against colonialism to free themselves from their heavy heritage and broaden their horizons, in order to establish friendly relations with the youth of all countries.

Karim"

4. KARIM, the author of the above article is Abdel Karim MROUE, a Lebanese, who is a member of the WFDY Executive Committee.

5. These reports of the activities of the WFDY delegation to Egypt, Lebanon and Syria are of particular interest when examined against recent reports from a former WFDY functionary, which state:

- (a) Some staff members at WFDY Headquarters in Budapest were required to travel for the purpose of conferring with representatives of affiliated youth organizations or of gaining new affiliates for the WFDY.

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- (b) Such WFDY delegations usually consisted of two to six persons who sometimes passed themselves off as sales representatives, students or tourists in order to obtain necessary visas, but once their various destinations were reached, they then carried out their WFDY activity.
- (c) The trips made by various WFDY delegations varied in duration. Those who went to South America or Africa, for example, usually stayed four to six months while delegations who visited, say, North Korea after the WFDY Council Meeting in Peking in August 1954 remained several weeks.
- (d) WFDY correspondence with affiliates in countries where Communism is banned is routed through cover addresses known only to the national WFDY Secretary or WFDY National Representative for the country in question.

6. It should be noted that at least two, and possibly three, members of the four-member WFDY delegation to Egypt (and probably to Lebanon and Syria as well) were WFDY National Representatives, responsible for the affairs of the countries they represented, i.e., Abdel Karim MROUE of Lebanon for Lebanese and Syrian affairs and CHIEN Li-jen (aka CHEN Li-jen) for Chinese affairs. It is possible that a third member of the delegation, Prabhat MITRA of India, is the WFDY National Representative for Indian and Pakistani affairs, if he is identical with one Sarasadu MITRA of India who is reported to be serving in this capacity at WFDY Headquarters.

7. It should also be noted that two, and possibly three, members of the four-member WFDY delegation to Egypt are connected with the WFDY's important Colonial Bureau. This Bureau is responsible for handling all colonial youth organizational matters and maintaining contact with youth and youth groups in the so-called "colonial" and "semi-colonial" areas. CHIEN Li-jen, as Chief of this Bureau, as well as a Secretary of the WFDY and a member of the Liaison Bureau, is one of the more important and influential WFDY Communist officials. He was also the leader of the Chinese delegation to the Asian-African Student Conference in Bandung, May 31 - June 7, 1956. Abdel Karim MROUE and Prabhat MITRA (if identical with Sarasadu MITRA) are also staff members of the Colonial Bureau.

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8. According to an April 11, 1956 Voice of the Arabs broadcast from Cairo, the WFDY is interested in opening a school in the Sudan, and a WFDY representative has discussed this matter with the Sudanese Minister of Education and the Director of Education. [REDACTED] to report any additional information that could be obtained concerning this matter and the identity of the WFDY representative.)

9. According to reports of the Asian-African Student Conference in Bandung, the head of the Chinese delegation, CHIEN Li-jen (who was one of the members of the WFDY delegation to Egypt in March 1956) invited the student delegations of Egypt, India, Pakistan and other countries to visit China after the conference to see for themselves the life of the Chinese people, and particularly the Chinese students.

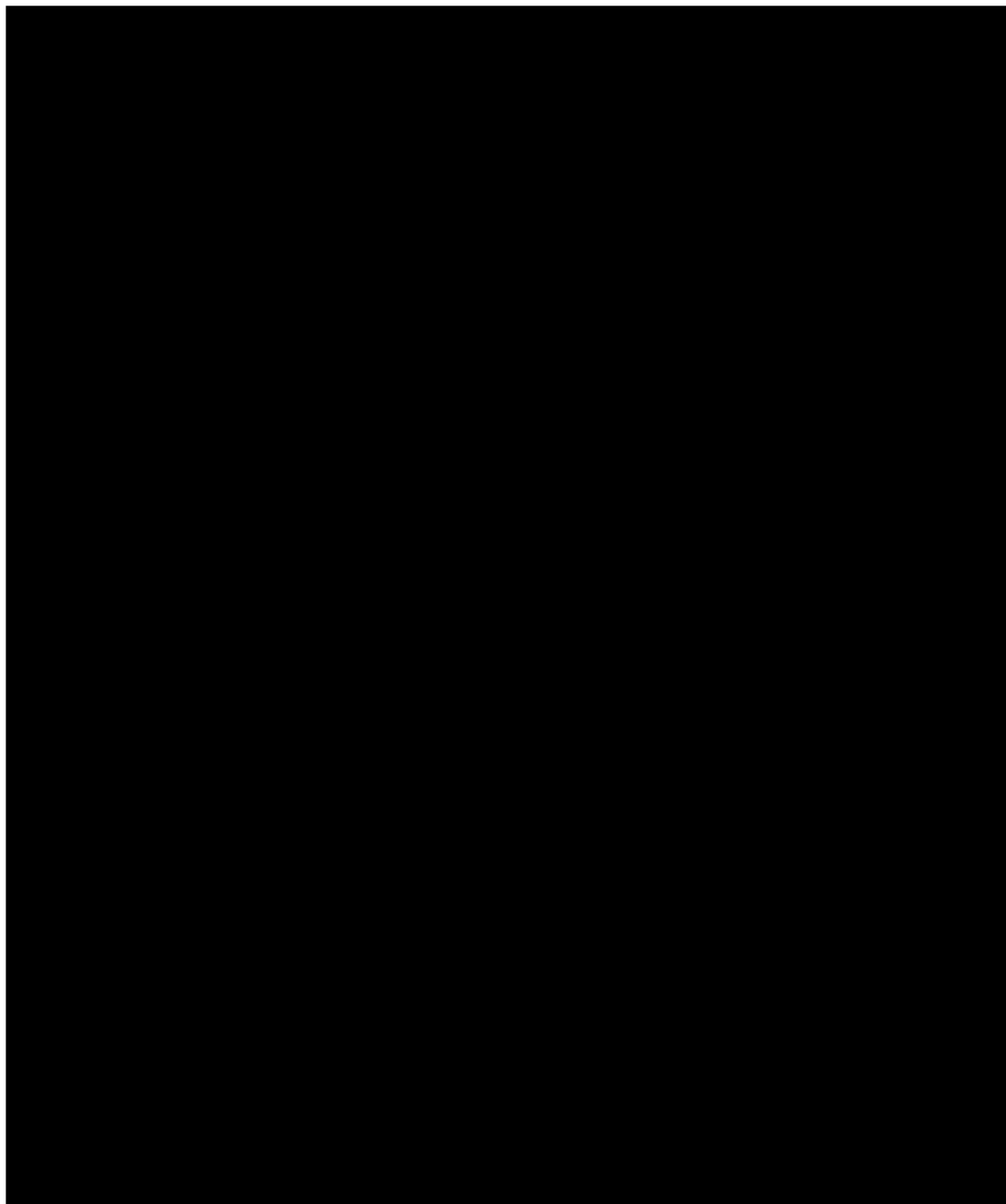
10. In addition to defraying the travel expenses of WFDY delegations, the WFDY often paid for the travel expenses of Western youth delegations to WFDY events and to Eastern Europe. In fact, according to the former WFDY functionary, travel costs for most Western delegates to WFDY-IUS World Youth Festivals were borne by the WFDY.

11. Generally speaking, most Communist-organized WFDY affiliates receive their direction and financing from local Communist Party channels, with WFDY Headquarters acting more as a coordinating body than as a directing one.

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QUESTIONNAIRE

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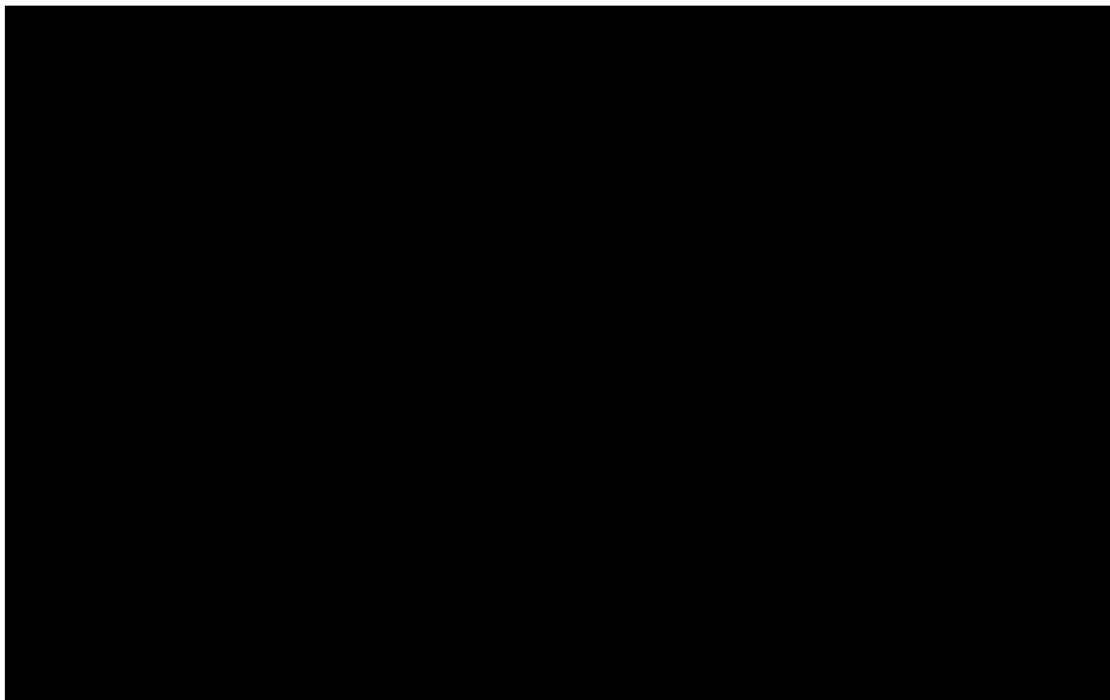


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