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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

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FROM : **American Embassy, Taipei.**

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DESP. NO.

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

August 25, 1952.

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SUBJECT: **Youth Department of Chinese Moslem Association.**

Mr. HSIEN Sung-t'ao (謝松濤), Deputy Chief of the Youth Department of the China Moslem Association, Assistant Secretary-General of the Association and one of the Association's 31 Directors, told the reporting officer on August 19 that the purpose of the Youth Department was to mobilize Moslem youth on Formosa in support of President CHIANG Kai-shek's March 29 call to unify young Chinese against communism and to arouse young Moslems in continental China and throughout the Islamic world to the menace of international communism. In another sense, he explained, the establishment of the Youth Department is a revival of the youth activities formerly carried on in China by the Association -- not a new development.

The term "youth" seems somewhat liberally construed as Mr. Hsieh said that the more than 1,000 persons who have so far registered as members of the Youth Department ranged in age from 15 to 50 years and the average age was 30. The Department has chosen to define "youth" as essentially a state of mind and to allow anyone to join who considers himself as one of the young in spirit, he remarked.

Fuller information on the Department is given in the enclosed memorandum, "The Youth Department of the Chinese Moslem Association", prepared by Mr. Richard LOW, a Chinese member of the Embassy staff.

Mr. Hsieh declared that the China Moslem Association was striving to make clear to Moslems everywhere how the Communists oppressed their co-religionists in China. The Moslem armies of Northwest China, together with certain new elements, he said, had been formed by the Communists into 10 divisions (which he estimated to total about 100,000 men). In general, he remarked that it was difficult to keep informed on conditions in Red China but that news filtered out through Hong Kong, Pakistan and elsewhere.

The China Moslem Association tries to keep in touch with similar Islamic organizations in the Middle East, chiefly through correspondence (notably, between General PAI Chung-hsi, head of

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the Association, and his counterparts abroad). Mullah Ayatullah KASHANI, leader of the Iranian Moslems, is one of the persons General Pai exchanges letters with.

Mr. Hsieh stated that in March 1952 a world conference of Moslems had been held at Karachi and that 53 nations had been represented there. The delegate for the China Moslem Association and the personal representative of General Pai was Mr. WANG Tseng-shan (王曾善), a former Commissioner of Sinkiang Province. Mr. Wang is presently teaching the Chinese classics in the "Palace of the Pakistan Governor" at Karachi and is well situated to obtain news about Moslems in Sinkiang and China's Northwest.

According to Mr. Hsieh, the Moslems of Iran were not represented in the March conference at Karachi. His explanation for this fact was that the conference was "British-backed" and therefore the Iranian Moslems, being so near to Russia and strongly anti-British in feeling, did not wish to participate. Asked how the conference could be "British-backed" in view of the general hostility towards Britain on the part of most Moslems, Mr. Hsieh replied only that while the Moslems were greatly opposed to "British imperialism" they also recognized that Britain was a prominent member of the Free World and hence British and Moslems had common interests.

Howard P. Jones
Charge d'Affaires a.i.

Enclosure:

Memorandum, "The Youth Department
of the Chinese Moslem Association".