

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ARAB AMERICANS

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Telephone: (202) 347-2429

November 9, 1973

Dear Member,

Events in the Middle East have been moving at a startling pace. Your Association has been deeply involved in reacting to anti-Arab propaganda that has permeated the news and communication media. We take this opportunity to inform each member of our Association of the actions taken in your behalf for a just peace in the Middle East.

To properly illustrate the actions taken, a chronological review of pertinent actions taken in our Washington office follows:

OCTOBER 1973

- 1 Met with the Deputy Secretary of Defense, the Honorable Clements ---discussed the Middle East.
- 3 Conferred with various organizations concerned with the Middle East---Middle East Affairs Council, Middle East Institute, ANERA, American Friends of the Middle East, Arab Women's Union---discussed coordination of efforts.
- 3 Provided facts, figures, etc. to Congressman Richard T. Hanna, D-Cal., for his use in behalf of a balanced ME policy.
- 5 Met Ambassador James Aiken, newly appointed to Saudi Arabia.
- 6 Met Lebanese Foreign Minister HE Fuad Naffah and discussed NAAA.
- 7 Members of the Washington Chapter, NAAA attended candle light march in front of the White House in behalf of Palestine.
- 10 Appeared on ABC, NBC, CBS Television News Programs, and was interviewed by reporters.
- 9 - 12 Articles on interview with news reporters appeared in Washington newspapers.
- 10 Meeting at Orthodox Church in Washington, D.C. with leaders in the area, regarding the war in the ME, which received wide radio, TV and newspaper coverage.
- 14 Newspaper add put in The Washington Post... "Everything You Wanted To Know About The Middle East*... *But Were Afraid To Ask". \$4,800 has been donated to date, mostly by Americans not of Arab heritage.
- 22 Met with HE Talib Shabib, Arab League Ambassador to the UN... discussed NAAA.

OCTOBER 1973

- 24 Met the Kuwait Consul General, Canada.
- 26 Attended luncheon with several Congressional aides reference \$2.2 billion appropriation for Israel.
- 29 Met with Senator Charles Mathias, R-Md., member of the Senate Appropriation Committee, to discuss the \$2.2 billion appropriation request.

NOVEMBER 1973

- 1 Press Statement on the Middle East and visit of Golda Meir to the United States.
- 2 Press Conference on the Middle East War, National Press Club.
- 5 Testimony before the Foreign Operations Subcommittee of the US Senate Committee on Appropriations,...spoke against granting \$2.2 billion in military aid to Israel.
- 7 Attended reception for Mr. George Mitchell, candidate for Governor of Maine...Mr. Mitchell is of Arab heritage, and was assured of NAAA support in seeking this office.
- 11 Meeting with leaders and Arab Diplomats in New York City, discussing NAAA membership.

In addition to these actions, several others are being planned that should be known to each member. Our office is in receipt of a letter from the Secretary of State, Dr. Henry Kissinger, in reply to our letter of congratulations. Prior to his present emergency trip to the Middle East and China, we had tentatively arranged to meet with Dr. Kissinger, however we have been advised that our visit will be delayed until his return. We have been assured of his interest in meeting with us, which should occur as soon as possible upon his return.

At present, we are writing the testimony for use before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. It is mandatory that our statement be well written since this committee is chaired by Senator William Fullbright who has continually questioned the US position on support to Israel.

In addition to our efforts in Washington, I am very pleased with actions taken by our members in other cities. Specific mention must be made of our members in Cleveland, Detroit, Chicago, San Francisco, to mention a few. Our deepest thanks to them for keeping our national office in Washington advised of their work. Their devotion to the principles of our Association has enhanced our posture in our great country.

With warm regards,

Sincerely,

Peter S. Tanous, Ph.D.
President