

COPY

October 18, 1960

Dear Mr. Price:

On behalf of the Vice President I wish to thank you for your letter of September 28, requesting an appointment with him for Mr. Umit Sahkul, Executive Secretary to the President of Jami'at al Islam-International, sometime during the month of October.

Because of his very heavy schedule of engagements during the pre-election period, the Vice President has regretfully had to forego such appointments for the present as I am sure you can understand. I might suggest, however, that Mr. Sahkul see appropriate officials in the Department of State, who will be glad to talk with him I am sure.

I know the Vice President would want me to send his good wishes,

Sincerely,

R. E. Cushman, Jr.
Executive Assistant
to the Vice President

Mr. James R. Price
Washington D. C. Representative
Jami'at al Islam
517 North Ivy Street
Arlington 1, Virginia

Price, James R.

Jami'at al Islam

x - Day file

x - State Drafts:

REC:dh

18/17

Miss Hansen

Per your call to

Mr. Cottman.

W. Stanley

State Dept

Our letter of Oct 13.

Telephone
DOuglas 2-1812

SEP 29 1960



Cable Address
Jami'at San Francisco

State for
Draft
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Jami'at al Islam, Inc.

A Humanitarian and Educational Foundation

760 Market Street

San Francisco 2, California

September 28th 1960

J. R. PRICE
Washington, D.C., Representative
JAI - International

517 North Ivy Street
Arlington, Virginia
J Jackson 5-4231

The Honorable
Richard M. Nixon
Vice-President of the United States of America
Washington, D.C.

Dear Vice-President Nixon:

I have enclosed a copy of my letter of this date to Mr. William H.G. Fitzgerald. This letter outlines a basic situation affecting U.S. foreign policy in Africa, and seeks Mr. Fitzgerald's cooperation in arranging a meeting between you and Mr. Umit Şahkul, Executive Secretary to the President of Jami'at al Islam-International.

The record of your stand on Soviet imperialism for the past several years together with the emergency of Africa as a focus of international tension and an area wherein inept or timid American leadership, or lack of leadership, can lead the free world to disaster has led us to make this approach to you.

During the summer of 1957, the Emir Abdel Krim, in his capacity as Chief of Jami'at al Islam in Africa, cabled President Eisenhower, asking that the President receive a delegation of Abdel Krim's sons which he proposed sending to the United States at that time. JAI-Africa had hoped, by means of a frank discussion with President Eisenhower, to win his understanding, and thus the understanding of the Western world, for the legitimate aspiration of African peoples seeking freedom. Jami'at al Islam is particularly familiar with the standard colonialist tactic of branding independence movements as communist-inspired as a means of obtaining the support of America, which has unfortunately developed something of a reputation for relative unconcern for issues not involving the struggle against communism. Jami'at al Islam is also familiar with the Russian tactic of exploiting America's ties with colonialist allies to place America in an apparently incongruous position regarding colonialism.

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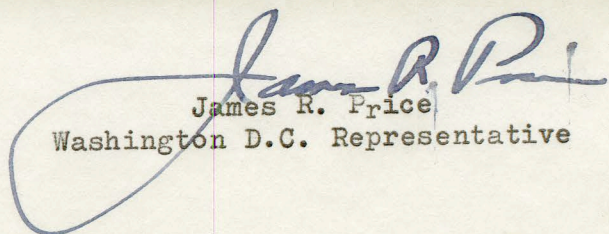
In a message sent to Abdel Krim by officers of the American Embassy in Tripoli, Libya, President Eisenhower declined to receive the delegation. This was most unfortunate in that Abdel Krim's intention at the time was to provide the President with information regarding events in Africa which have subsequently taken place and were in planning stages at that time.

In view of the situation in the Congo as well as the schedule of forthcoming manifestations elsewhere in Africa, we feel that unless American policies in Africa are based upon a correct appraisal of the situation disaster will result -- disaster for the West and for Africa. The USSR will emerge as sole beneficiary.

For these most serious reasons, Jami'at al Islam has sent Mr. Şahkul to the United States with instructions to reach you if at all possible. Mr. Şahkul, a citizen of America's ally Turkey, can be made available at a location of your choice any time during the month of October.

I have enclosed a copy of a letter requesting this interview addressed to me from Mr. Ahmad Kamal, President of Jami'at al Islam - International.

Faithfully,


James R. Price
Washington D.C. Representative

Enclosures: as indicated

cc: Mr. Ahmad Kamal
Mr. William H.G. Fitzgerald

Please reply to:

JAMI'AT AL ISLAM, INC.
Washington, D. C. Representative
517 North Ivy Street
Arlington 1, Virginia



Mr. James Robert Price
JAI Representative
Washington DC - USA

August 30th 1960

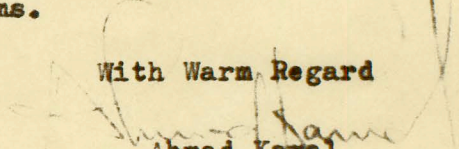
Dear Mr. Price:

Our Mr. Umit Şahkul is arriving in Washington DC on September 5th; we will provide you with flight number and eta within the next day or so.

We request that you arrange that Mr. Şahkul have an opportunity to meet Mr. Richard Nixon, Republican nominee for President of the United States, in order that Mr. Şahkul may make a brief and to the point presentation of the problems being faced by America's Islamic allies and by the uncommitted nations of Asia, the Middle East, and Africa. An executive member of Jami'at al Islam, Mr. Şahkul has the mandate of all Muslims.

cc: JAI-USA

With Warm Regard


Ahmad Kamal
President
JAI-International

Telephone
DOuglas 2-1812

SEP 29 1960



Cable Address
Jami'at San Francisco

جمیۃ الاسلام
مؤسسه انسانیت تعلیمی

Jami'at al Islam, Inc.

A Humanitarian and Educational Foundation

760 Market Street

San Francisco 2, California

September 28th 1960

J. R. PRICE
Washington, D.C., Representative
JAI - International

517 North Ivy Street
Arlington, Virginia
JACKSON 5-4231

Mr. William H.G. Fitzgerald
National Media Analysis
2305 Bancroft Place, N.W.
Washington 8, D.C.

Dear Mr. Fitzgerald:

The purpose of this letter is to invite your attention and that of responsible Republican leadership -- including Vice-President Nixon -- to certain facts about Africa. These facts are either misunderstood by, or have been withheld from, high policy levels of the U.S. Government, resulting in a situation which has affected and will continue to have profound effects upon American relations with the so-called uncommitted peoples of the world, and therefore upon the relative competitive position of the United States versus the Soviet Union in Africa and Asia.

Jami'at al Islam (JAI), the organization I represent, has for a long time enjoyed access to primary sources of information regarding the planned demise of various European colonialist regimes in Africa. We have systematically made this information available to the U.S. Government through established channels in the Department of State and ICA. Had our information been properly evaluated in Washington, it is likely that neither would the State Department have been caught off guard by developments in South Africa and the Congo, nor would it now find itself in the incongruous position of having to react with a "me too-ism" to the initiative of the Soviets as self-proclaimed champions of freedom and equality for the colonized peoples of Africa and Asia.

My principals -- chiefly persons of U.S.A., Turkish, or Indonesian nationality -- have asked that arrangements be made for a complete briefing of Vice-President Nixon upon developments in Africa as witnessed by Muslim elements in direct participation. Mr. Umit Şahkul, a Turkish citizen and Executive Secretary to the President of Jami'at al Islam-International, has come to the United States for this purpose. Mr. Şahkul will remain in the U.S. during the month of October and will be available in Washington or any other location which may be appropriate.

Because of your own background, your position of confidence in leading Republican circles, and our own association in National Media Analysis, I am taking the liberty of approaching you with a view toward arranging the briefing we desire. We of course realize the nature of the Vice-President's crowded schedule. It is our belief nevertheless that the subject is of sufficient urgency to warrant a request for a brief interview with the Vice-President.

It may be useful to digress for a moment and establish a frame of reference by giving you a brief synopsis of JAI and its background: Originally founded in Turkistan in 1868-69 as a nationalist organization dedicated to the overthrow of Imperial Russian conquests of Turkic lands, JAI over the years has gradually lost its exclusively Turkic character and now counts among its followers Muslims of all races and nationalities. Too, failure to displace Russian rule even after the 1917 revolution has resulted in the suspension of the original political motivation of the organization. Today, the descendants of the original founders of Jami'at al Islam concentrate upon efforts in the humanitarian and educational fields to restore dignity and self-respect to Muslims. After the Soviet occupation of Manchuria in 1945, the Far Eastern Tatars who had carried JAI work forward in that area dispersed to other areas of the world. A number settled in the United States, joining relatives and other colleagues who had brought JAI to this country at the turn of the century. Today, a non-profit, non-sectarian, non-political humanitarian and educational Foundation, Jami'at al Islam is active from Indonesia to Africa's Atlantic shore. Our European headquarters are in Vienna, a pivot-point from which we administer aid programs to Muslim escapees from Iron Curtain countries. In the Middle East we are headquartered in Amman, operating training programs for the rehabilitation of Muslim refugee women from Palestine. Various branches and delegates are active in widely scattered areas of the world -- Sumatra, Malaya, Helsinki, even South Australia -- all contain JAI delegates called upon as needed.

For a complete history of our organization and its programs, please see the attached four copies of the JAI Bulletin. In summary, it can be said that JAI is the Islamic counterpart of such internationally-active relief organizations as the National Catholic Welfare Conference, the World Council of Churches, the American Joint Distribution Committee (Jewish), and United HIAS Services. Our San Francisco offices serve as a central coordinating entity for JAI'S "Voluntary Agency" work. We are accredited by the Advisory Committee on Voluntary Foreign Aid of ICA and have been granted tax-exempt status by the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

To return to the subject of Africa: Our files contain detailed information upon the situation in Africa, much of which has been made public by JAI since November 1959, but has been ignored. The information is based upon reports of the PAN AFRICAN DIET, made available to Jami'at al Islam by the Diet for the specific purpose of alerting Western charitable, humanitarian, and religious organizations to certain phases of difficulties expected to attend the passing of various colonial regimes in Africa. (For a description of the PAN AFRICAN DIET, please refer to Dr. Harahap's speech at the UN conference on World Refugee Year, attached to this letter) The purpose of this alert, decided upon by the more responsible and cool-headed among African leaders, was to attempt to alleviate certain aggravations built up in Africa during decades of colonial rule, wherein deliberate use was made by colonial authorities of the energy and dedication of missionary groups. The missionaries themselves were easily led into a widespread

practice of applying the benefits obtained from close collaboration with colonial authorities toward their own primary goal of evangelism.

Thus over a period of decades the activities of many missionary organizations became identified in the minds of Africans with the perpetuation of the white man's rule along with what was beginning to be thought of as the white man's God as well. This phenomenon was not universal. It was quite extensive and accounts to some degree for the rapid spread of Islam through black Africa -- an un verbalized social protest against alien rule.

Leaders of the Pan African Diet have not been preoccupied with religious considerations. Their concern is the restoration of Africa to the Africans -- an ideal given considerable impetus by the events of World War II. African leaders fully realize that until human nature changes considerably, independence will seldom be won without struggle. In case the struggle is between the apparatus of a modern Western state and the untrained or illiterate population indigenous to a colonized area, it is usually the latter who suffers. It was clear that the next decade or two would see the displacement of several millions of people during periods of colonial crisis. These people must have medical care and other relief measures if they are to survive and stability be restored to Africa. Administration of relief on a large scale is a highly specialized and complicated affair, requiring the attention of seasoned professionals. Africans know that they will be dependent upon the outside world not only for humanitarian aid but for the very persons who must administer it. In Africa the largest and best qualified reservoir of such personnel is the group of Western religious organizations who conduct both humanitarian programs and missionary activity in Africa and yet who, paradoxically, are resented and feared by large segments of the native population.

This resentment is inspired primarily by the history of close association between missionaries and colonial administrators to the point where one is viewed as the instrument of the other.

In an attempt to preserve the property and personnel of Western religious groups in Africa from disastrous consequences which, African leaders fear, could occur during periods of prolonged civil strife, the Pan African Diet prepared an appeal to all major religious organizations in Western countries. These organizations were asked to announce, publicly, suspension of all evangelistic activity in favor of purely humanitarian programs all over Africa -- for the duration of the African emergency. A public resolution could be used, according to responsables in the Diet, for advance orientation of Africans to prevent aroused passions from being turned against the very people and groups whose services in Africa would be so urgently needed.

Jami'at al Islam, the sole Islamic Voluntary Agency, with a substantial following in Africa and the world of Islam, yet fully recognized and accredited in the West, was asked, through its own observers inside the Pan African Diet, to present the appeal to Western organizations and non-colonial governments, such as the United States Government.

I have enclosed a press release and copies of two speeches which document JAI'S presentation and analysis of the Pan African Diet program. One speech was delivered on March 29th 1960 in Geneva by Indonesian Dr. Pangkat HARAHAP, representing JAI at the Sixth Plenary Session of the International Committee for World Refugee Year, Palais des Nations. The other speech was delivered by me to the convention of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, held on June 17th 1960 at the Sheraton Park Hotel, Washington, D.C.

Neither has JAI left any stones unturned in an independent effort to keep appropriate U.S. Government agencies apprised of the situation and its potentialities. The subject was first broached officially during a regional conference of the International Cooperation Administration's field representatives from Africa, held in Madrid during January 1960. Mr. Dennis A. Fitzgerald, ICA'S Assistant Director for Operations, and representatives of the State Department on the Assistant Secretary level presided over this conference. JAI'S President, Mr. Ahmad Kamal, native-born American of Tatar ancestry, and I held several discussions in Madrid with Mr. Fitzgerald and other officials, including the ICA field chiefs from Africa. We provided all present with information received from the Pan African Diet. We found that several of the field chiefs at the Madrid conference knew of the Diet meetings, but that top level officials were ignorant. Mr. Fitzgerald expressed a desire to become better informed, and asked for copies of the Pan African Diet's map of reconstituted Africa (please refer to Dr. Harahap's speech) should it be released.

Between March and July 1960 I held additional discussions in Washington with ICA officials, including Mr. Fitzgerald and his officers in charge of programs in black Africa. Too, I briefed Mr. Alfred T. Wellborn, Executive Director of the Bureau of African Affairs, Department of State, upon all developments. JAI likewise continued to provide complete information to its normal Governmental contacts as a Voluntary Agency -- the Advisory Committee on Voluntary Foreign Aid of ICA -- as well as to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

From the Voluntary Agencies representing major non-Muslim religious constituencies, we have encountered active hostility since presenting the Pan African Diet's appeal. This hostility has even taken the form of active pressuring of the Advisory Committee on Voluntary Foreign Aid. As a result, JAI has been unable to render any assistance to missionary organizations who suffered property and personnel damage during the crisis in the Congo.

From the U.S. Government there has been silence. Replies to our communications, if received at all, are perfunctory. The fact that JAI had specifically forecast definite events in Africa months in advance seems only to embarrass the officials who, warned, simply ignored the information.

As a representative of an international Muslim humanitarian organization, I can assure you that our programming in Africa and elsewhere continues according to plan either with or without U.S. Government cognizance -- although it would be pointless to deny that our task could be eased by support rather than indifference. On the other hand, as an American, I am disheartened to see our Government continually falling into traps all over Africa through misinformation when sources of good information -- sources untainted by either Communist or Colonialist bias-- are readily available.

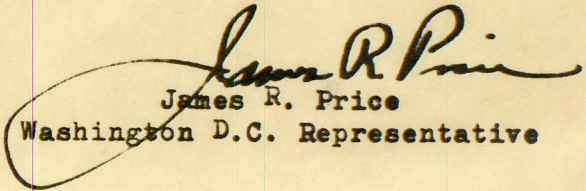
Either sheer prejudice or foolish reliance upon French and Belgian sources for an interpretation of African events has put the State Department into the position of actively, however unwillingly, supporting a situation which has enabled the Russians to emerge as the apparent champions of human freedom in Africa. The ideals of the American revolution are being exploited by Russians to destroy America. Relying upon the almost automatic American reaction to adopt a point of view opposite to what the Russians say, Mr. Khrushchev forces the United States to take "wrong" stands on major issues by the simple method of coming out first for the "right." If by our own lack of conviction we allow the Russians to continue to dictate American policy by forcing all issues to appear contests between communism and anti-communism, we can blame only ourselves for the consequences.

The concerns I have expressed here are shared by the majority of our membership among the more than 450 millions of Muslims all over the world. They are pointedly shared in African circles by leading members of groups upon which Mr. Herter has been tricked into pinning a red label. There is no doubt that Mr. Herter's allegations concerning Nkrumah, for example, will ultimately prove correct, after the fact, if the State Department continues to rise to the Russian bait. There is no surer method which can be devised to create communists than is the method of ignoring all issues except the contest between the communist world and the free world.

Mr. Şahkul has the mandate of our membership and following in Africa and the Muslim East to present Vice-President Nixon with a clear picture of events. I shall be available at your convenience to complete any arrangements you may desire.

We look forward to your early reply.

Faithfully,



James R. Price

Washington D.C. Representative

Enclosures: Letter to James R. Price from Ahmad Kamal, President of JAI-International, August 30th 1960

Statement of Dr. Pangkat HARAHAP, JAI Delegate to the Sixth Plenary Session, International Committee for World Refugee Year, Palais des Nations, March 29th 1960

JAI News Release, Struggles in Africa to Render Homeless More Than Five Millions During Coming Decade, June 17th 1960

Refugees in their own lands - An African Tragedy: An address delivered by James R. Price to the convention of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, Washington, June 17th 1960

Jami'at al Islam Bulletin, Series V, # 1-1959
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

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Cushman's girl
at State & ask
for*

October 13, 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR ROBERT E. CUSHMAN, JR.
OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

Subject: Request of Jami'at al Islam
Representative for Appointment
with the Vice President

In accordance with your request of October 1, 1960, there is enclosed a suggested reply to the letter of September 28, 1960 from Mr. James R. Price, the Washington Representative of Jami'at al Islam, who requests an appointment with the Vice President for Mr. Umit Sahkul, Executive Secretary to the President of Jami'at al Islam-International, sometime during the month of October.

Jami'at al Islam is known to us as a humanitarian and educational organization having branches in different parts of the world. In spite of Mr. Price's statement, we do not believe the organization has sources of intelligence regarding events in Africa or elsewhere which are notably better than those already available to us and we doubt that Mr. Sahkul is able to tell us anything sufficiently new and important to warrant trying to arrange an appointment with the Vice President at this time.

William Macomber
William B. Macomber, Jr.
Assistant Secretary

Enclosures:

1. Suggested Reply to Mr. Price's letter of September 28th.
2. From Mr. Price.

not attached.



DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

October 13, 1960

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William B. Macomber, Jr.
Assistant Secretary

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SUGGESTED MESSAGE

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Sincerely yours,

Mr. James R. Price,

Washington D.C. Representative, Jami'at al Islam,

517 North Ivy Street,

Arlington 1, Virginia.