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A Letter from Samy Haddawy to Ilyas Kusa, March 1958

Dated March 18, 1958, this printed letter in English was sent from Samy Haddawy to Ilyas Kusa discussing a variety of subjects including a meeting with four women from Haiti on the Cause of Palestine, Haddawy's new paper on racial and religious discrimination in Israel, and the difficult task of running the Palestinian Information Office due to the lack of funding.

New York,
18 March, 1958

My dear Elias,

I have been attempting to answer your letter of 11 February, but could not find the time. I am just overloaded with stuff. Working all alone you can imagine trying to keep an office covering the whole of the U.S. going. There is so much that could be done if only we had the money and the right type of people. Dr. Tannous has been away since November and now he is in Cairo. When he will return I still don't know. We hope he will be able to raise more money as what little we get from Iraq is just sufficient to keep the office going on a very small scale. We have had to suspend publication of our Newsletter because of lack of funds. It is a great pity, especially since we are able to observe much interest in the Arab cause. There is no doubt Israel is losing ground, but it is too slow to bring the situation to a head. Arab unity and federation has given the West the jitters. Some seem to regard it as a pro-west or pro-east move, but the more sober among them have told the U.S. that it reflects the aspiration of the people and the Government would be better advised if it helped and cooperated with such a move which cannot be stopped. The Zionists, of course, continue in their distorted propaganda of "communism", "fanaticism", "nationalism", etc. I wish only our Arab leaders would stop attacking each other so foolishly. It gives our enemies an opportunity to say what they want. We know full well that whether it is unity or federation, the movement is welcome.

I am sorry you have not been able to meet the four ladies. I did not see them before they left and so could not impress upon them to make a point of seeing you. However, two days ago I was asked to meet one of two ladies who are going out to the Middle East to consider and report on the political problems and the refugees. They are being sent by the Women's League of Geneva. The name of the lady I met is Dr. Madeleine G. Sylvain Bouchereau. She is colored from Haiti. I gave her your name and home address and telephone number and asked her to drop you a line before she arrives. I explained to her who you are and the general situation at your end. I told her that officially she would see only people whom the Government wanted them to see, but she must go with an open mind and see others who are not government stooges. She promised to look you up and hoped you would be able to get them to meet a group of people. You might get her to see the Ihud people and the Third Force if you think that is advisable.

I sent you by ordinary mail photostats of the letters which appeared about the "Law of Limitations". My second letter to the Times did not appear and I could not get them to publish yours.

I sent you "And they are Human Too" as well as "Violent Truce". I hope you got them. Glubb Pasha has just published his book "A Soldier with the Arabs". It deals with the Arab-Israeli war. It was reviewed by the N.Y. Times and raised some protests because Glubb had said that the creation of Israel was a mistake, that it was not in the interests of the Arabs and the British and that in the long run it would not be in the interests of the Jews. He explains in clear terms that it was not the Arab States who attacked first and that the refugees were the result of Zionist attacks.

I am preparing a Paper on Racial and Religious Discrimination in Israel of which I will send you a copy. This is required by our Delegation to raise the issue before the Committee on Human Rights which is now meeting. Why is it that you people don't raise the issue? My main contention is that there is religious discrimination on the grounds that whereas an "Iraqi or Yeminite Arab of the Jewish faith" obtains citizenship the moment he steps on Palestine soil, the "Arab of the Moslem or Christian faith" is denied the same right. And that goes for everything else. My argument is that Jews in the world consider themselves belonging to the countries of their birth and demand equal rights on the basis of their being "Americans, English, French, etc. of the Jewish faith". If that is so, then the same applies to the Jews, Moslems and Christians of the Arab world. There are some who feel that my interpretation is correct and that is why I have been asked to put up a paper on the subject. I have made out a draft which I propose to go over again, but if you can give me the benefit of your advice I'll be obliged. I would then recast it and try to get it published. If there are any new points, please include them and return draft or suggested amendments as soon as you can.

This is all for this time. Wishing you all the best,

Sincerely,

Sami

FOLD SIDES OVER AND THEN FOLD BOTTOM UP
MOISTEN FLAP WELL AND APPLY PRESSURE TO SEAL
NO OTHER ENVELOPE SHOULD BE USED

S. Madawi
801 2nd Avenue, Room 804
N.Y. 17, N.Y., U.S.A.



AIR LETTER
AÉROGRAMME

VIA AIR MAIL
PAR AVION

Mr. Elias M. Koussa,
Advocate,

P.O. Box 14,

Haifa,

ISRAEL.

NO TAPE OR STICKER MAY BE ATTACHED

IF ANYTHING IS ENCLOSED, THIS LETTER
WILL BE SENT BY ORDINARY MAIL

FIRST FOLD

SECOND FOLD