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THE BRITISH COUNCIL

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from The Director-General Sir John Burgh KCMG CB

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Private Secretary to the
Prime Minister
Prime Minister's Office
No 10 Downing Street
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1 February 1983

Prime Minister
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A.J.C. 1/2.

CONFIDENTIAL

Dear John.

The Prime Minister may find it useful to know that I spent 45 minutes with President Mubarak last November during my visit to the Council operation in Egypt.

The President -

1. Expressed real interest in the Council's work in Technical Education. (The Council has set up Technical Institutes for training technicians and also provides training in specific areas eg agriculture and electricity. All this is paid by the World Bank).
2. Said he was aware through his wife and children of the Council as a GCE examination centre.
3. Talked of sending his elder son to Britain or Switzerland for business studies. The

Council Representative is in touch
with the son about pursuing his
studies in Britain.

4. Delivered himself of a violent diatribe
against Syria which, he said, would
try to block any settlement in the
Middle East.

I enclose for background information a copy of my
report on my visit to the Council Board.

I am copying to Mr Pym's and Sir Antony Acland's
Private Secretaries.

Yours

John

IN CONFIDENCE

THE BRITISH COUNCIL BOARD

DIRECTOR-GENERAL'S VISIT TO EGYPT : 12-22 NOVEMBER 1982

1. Our Representation's budget this current financial year is nearly £3m, as follows -

	£'000
Grant-in-aid from HMG	
80% from ODA	562
20% from FCO	140
Aid administration	107
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	809
Revenue (mainly DTE)	787
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	1596
Agency	
ODA { Technical Cooperation Training	650
KELT etc	190
Book Presentation Programme etc	32
UN Agency and PES	446
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	2914

2. There are 7 L/A and 55 L/E staff in Cairo and one L/A and 13 L/E staff in Alexandria. The two DTE's in Cairo and Alexandria employ 99 teachers.

3. The activities cover every aspect of the Council's work.

Exchange of Persons

Scholars, TC Trainees

Bursars, Visitors to Britain

Specialist visitors to Egypt and Academic Links Exchanges.

Key English Language Teaching (KELT)

KELT team with Council support working to improve curricula and training of teachers through better university courses, pre-service and in-service training.

DTE's in Cairo and Alexandria

Direct Teaching of Science operation providing GCE O level courses and laboratory training courses, the only such operation in the Council repertoire.

Council library - the largest in the Middle East.

Project-Based Aid funded variously, in some cases jointly, by ODA, World Bank/IDA, Government of Egypt and the British Council.

The Arts, given the lowest priority - too low at £3500!

4. Against this background I shall focus on three aspects which I found particularly noticeable, even though all the work of the Representation is impressive.
5. First, the development of ELT, carried out by an enthusiastic six-man team at Ain Shams University directed by a Council officer. Started in 1975, this was originally an Anglo/Egyptian/US project. The Americans have now pulled out. The team, working in close collaboration with the Ministry of Education, is intent upon - and

well on the way towards - establishing their Centre at the University as the key point for disseminating the necessary materials to other Egyptian Universities leading to a nation-wide improvement in English Language Teaching.

6. Second, the provision of technical aid to assist the development of technical education, vocational and professional training. This is achieved through a variety of projects and methods which well illustrate the importance of ODA and PES projects for the Council's activities. However financed they enable it to use its expertise to provide a required service.

7. Finally, the exceptional warmth with which the Council's work is regarded by the Egyptian authorities. In addition to being received for 45 (instead of the scheduled 20) minutes by President Mubarak with the Ambassador and our Representative, I spent an hour with the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education. Despite his concern over overseas student fees, his genuine, fulsome praise for the Council and its contribution, particularly to technical education, was splendid to hear and surprising in view of the relatively small amount of UK aid by comparison with the US.

JCB
22.11.82