

National Committee to Honor
The Fourteenth Centennial of Islam

July 9, 1979

The Hon. Melvin R. Laird
The Readers Digest
1730 Rhode Island Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036

MRL
Dear Mr. Secretary:

November 21, 1979 will be the first day of the Muslim year 1400. On that date will begin a worldwide commemoration of the birth and the development of Islam. In order that Americans might participate in this international observance, the National Committee to Honor the Fourteenth Centennial of Islam has been chartered in Washington, D.C. This is my invitation to you to join other distinguished Americans who have agreed to become members of the National Committee.

Our objective is to foster among Americans a greater appreciation of the cultural achievements of the Islamic civilization. To accomplish this, the National Committee has been established as an organization, non-partisan in character and ecumenical of purpose, through which exhibits, publications, films, lectures, and other appropriate activities can be developed and presented to the people of the United States. The National Committee will maintain its headquarters in Washington where the secretariat, headed by Ambassador William R. Crawford, Executive Director, will serve as the administrative arm to coordinate and implement the directives of the Committee.

Formal inauguration of the National Committee will be held in Washington early in the autumn. During the Centennial year members will meet two or three times to oversee the progress of Committee activities. We would welcome your active participation, but are aware that circumstances might prevent you from attending all Committee functions. More important is your continued interest and support, if only expressed through occasional communication by telephone or letter.

Your participation as a National Committee member is an affirmation of our intention to observe the Islamic centennial in the best manner this country can. Our work will be a monument to international understanding and a service to our country. A8President Carter recently wrote in endorsing our efforts: "In honoring an important world faith and culture we do honor to our own traditions of tolerance and compassion."

In this spirit I ask you to join me and other Americans across our land on the National Committee to Honor the Fourteenth Centennial of Islam. I look forward to hearing from you at your early convenience.

Sincerely,

Lucius D. Battle
Lucius D. Battle
Chairman

*Accept
but
inform
them
I may
be in
Europe
in
Sept &
Oct.
MRL*