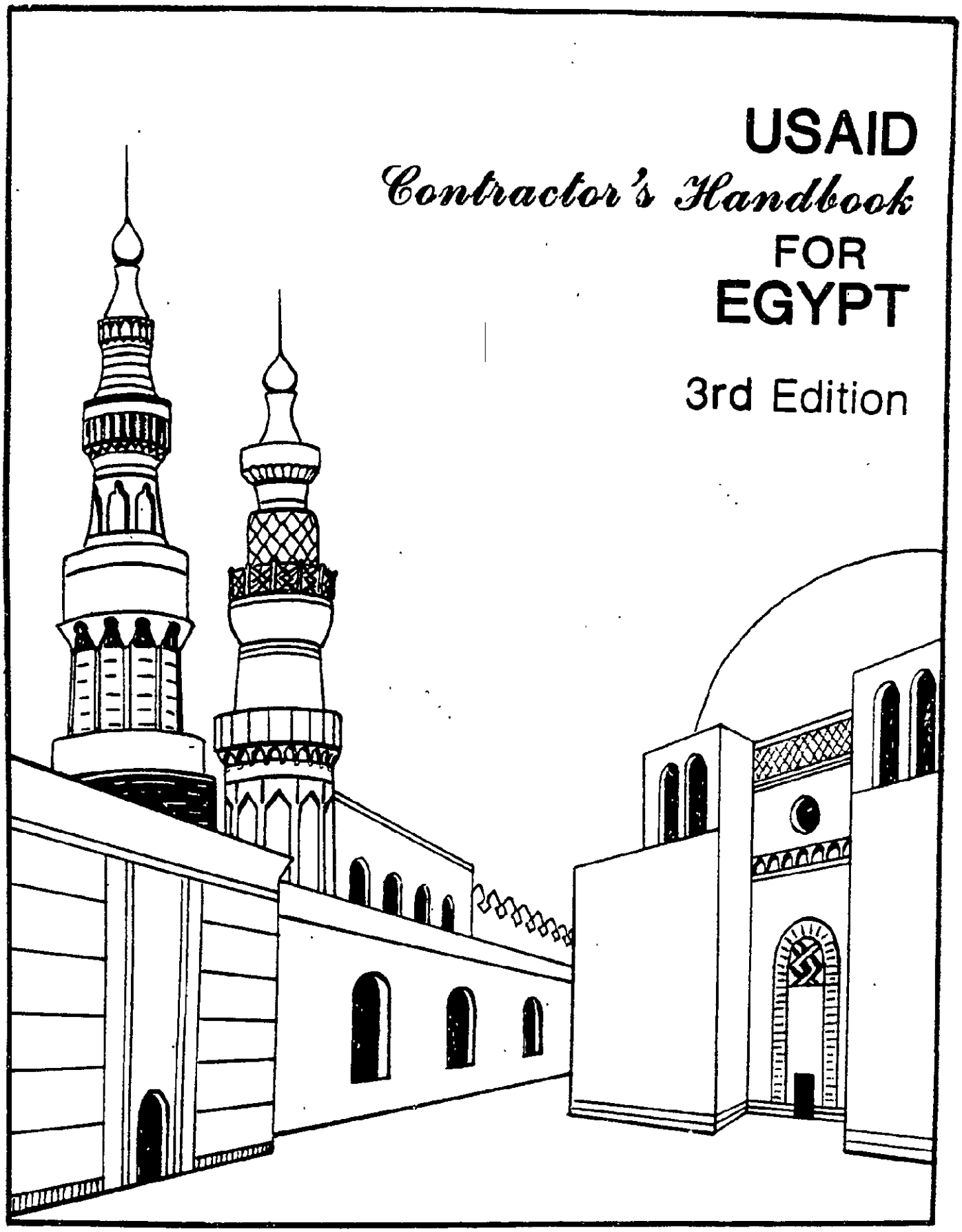
USAID

Contractor's Handbook

FOR EGYPT

3rd Edition



USAID CONTRACTOR'S HANDBOOK FOR EGYPT

This booklet has been compiled to provide a basic reference of information for AID host country and direct contractors working in Egypt. While it is anticipated that the enclosed information will be of greatest value to new arrivals, it should also serve to assist contractors throughout their tour.

The office of Project Support welcomes any suggestions that users of this Handbook may have to improve its usefulness.

3rd Edition

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Compiled and Edited by
Project Support Office
Cairo, Egypt
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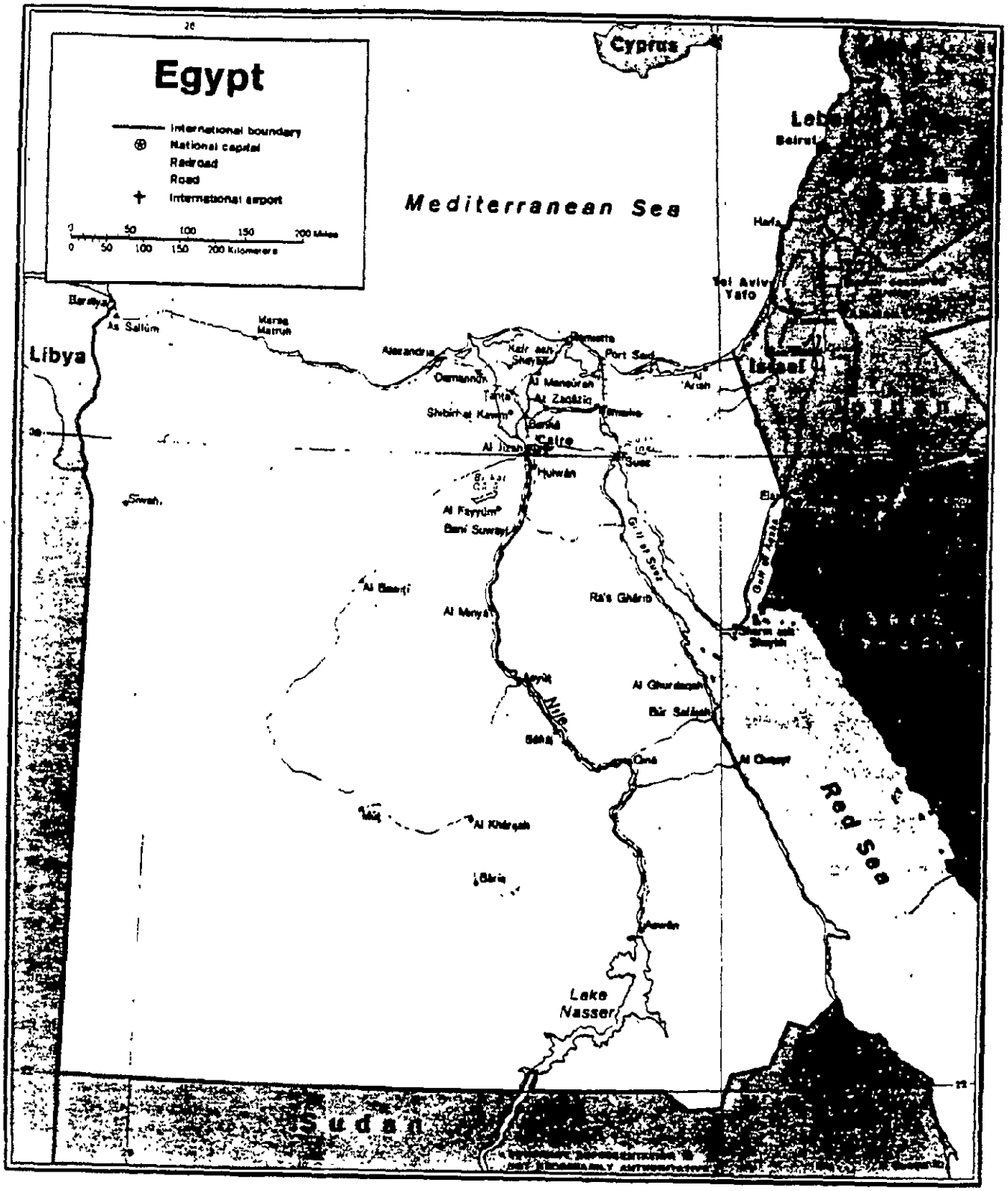
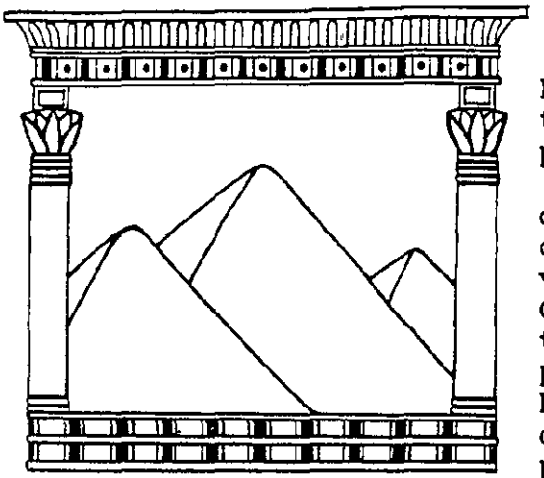

Egypt
International boundary
National capital
Railroad
Road
International airport
0 50 100 150 200 Miles
0 50 100 150 200 Kilometers
Mediterranean Sea
Cyprus
Libya
Israel
Red Sea
Lake Nasser
Sudan
Cairo
Alexandria
Port Said
Suez
Tanta
Al Mansurah
Al Zaqazig
Shibin al Kawm
Banha
Al Jizah
Huhwan
Al Fayyum
Bani Suwayf
Al Minya
Asyut
Sohag
Qina
Aswan
Al Ghardaqah
Bir Safajah
Al Qusayr
Ra's Ghirib
Gulf of Suez
Gulf of Aqaba
Sharm ash Shaykh
Al Baharyah
Siwah
Al Khirgah
Bahria
Marsa Matruh
As Salum
Haifa
Tel Aviv Yafo
Beirut
Al 'Arish
Damanhur
Kafr ash Shaykh
Damietta
Nile

PROFILE OF EGYPT



People

Egypt is the most populous country in the Arab world and the second most populous on the African continent (after Nigeria). Ninety-nine percent of its 50 million people live in 3.5% of the country's area - the Nile River valley and delta and along the Suez Canal - producing an average population density of more than 4200 persons per square mile. This is one of the highest densities in the world and dramatically illustrates Egypt's dependence on the cultivated areas.

Lying at the crossroads of Asia, Africa, and the Mediterranean basin, Egypt has developed a fairly homogeneous population. Egyptians are of Hamitic origin, with some admixture in the north with Mediterranean and Arab peoples, and in the south with the Nubian groups from black Africa. However, most Egyptians remain as they were when the pyramids were built - essentially a single, river-valley people sharing a common ancestry and culture. Indigenous minorities include Copts, who have retained their historic Christian affiliation, and Nubians in the south who originally came to the Nile valley from Sudan. There are also 50,000 Bedouins. Egyptians may be grouped generally into three categories:

Fellahin - This group is comprised of 52% of the population and constitutes the national strength of the country. The people are peasant farmers living in villages along the Nile and in the Delta.

Urban Dwellers - The human resources for Egypt's factories, government bureaucracy, and service industries form this group and comprise 46% of the population.

Bedu - The Bedouins account for 2% of the population. They are nomadic and are the least assimilated into Egyptian society.

Arabic is the official language of Egypt; however the majority of educated Egyptians speak at least one or two other languages, usually English and French.

Geography

Egypt is located in the northeastern corner of the African continent and is bounded by the Mediterranean Sea, Libya, Sudan, the Red Sea, the Gulf of Suez, and Israel. Only about 10,425 square miles (consisting of the ribbon-like Nile valley, the Nile delta north of Cairo and a few oases) are cultivated. It is an almost rainless block of desert consisting mainly of high plains and some rugged hills and mountains in the east along the Red Sea coast and along the valley of the Nile River. The country depends almost exclusively on the Nile which originates in Ethiopia and Uganda and flows northward through Sudan and into Egypt. In Egypt, it stretches almost 560 miles from Aswan to Cairo.

The climate is warm and arid. Winter temperatures around Cairo range between 40 and 60 degrees Farenheit and summer temperatures range between 70 to 100 degrees Farenheit. Generally days are sunny and evenings are cool.

History

Egypt has a continuous recorded history of 5,000 years, the world's longest. There have been periods of strength, when neighboring territories fell under its domination, and periods of weakness, when it came under foreign rule. Egypt was a united kingdom from about 3200 B.C. until Alexander the Great conquered it in 333 B.C. From then until the 19th century, it was ruled by the Arabs (who introduced Islam) and the Turks. The last period of foreign rule began in 1882 with the British occupation. In 1914, Egypt became a British protectorate.

The history of Egypt is divided into the following periods and dates:

The Ancient Period	Old Kingdom 3200-2270 B.C. Middle Kingdom 2111-1700 B.C. New Kingdom 1555-712 B.C.

Late Egyptian Period	712-333 B.C.
Greco-Roman Period	332 B.C.-638 A.D.
Roman Period	30 B.C.-324 A.D.
Byzantine Period	324-630 A.D.
The Islamic Period	Early Caliphate Period 640-868 A.D. Tulunids 868-905 A.D. Prefects of the Abbasid Caliphs 905-934 A.D. Ikhshidids 934-969 A.D. Fatimids 969-1171 A.D. Ayyubids 1171-1250 A.D. Bahri Mamelukes 1250-1517 A.D. Circassian Mamelukes 1382-1517 A.D.
The Turkish (Ottoman) Period	1517-1805 A.D. French occupation 1798-1805 A.D.
The Modern Period	The Dynasty of Muhammad Ali 1805-1952 A.D. The Republic 1952 A.D.

Government

Egypt is a republic with a unicameral legislature, consisting of the People's Assembly with 448 elected and 10 presidentially appointed members and the Shura (Consultative) Council with 140 elected and 70 appointed members. The Assembly selects a presidential nominee whose name is submitted to public referendum; the elected president appoints the Council of Ministers. Egypt is divided into 26 governorates; five are towns, eight are in the Delta, eight are in Upper Egypt, and four are frontier areas.

Egypt's judicial system is based on European (primarily French) legal concepts and methods. The courts have regained much of their independence and the principles of due process and judicial review are observed increasingly.

The principal government officials include:

President	Mohamed Hosni Mubarak
Prime Minister	Atef Mahmoud Sidky
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs	Esmet Abdel Meguid

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Planning	Dr. Kamal Ahmed El Ganzouri
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Agriculture and Food Security	Dr. Youssef Amin Wally
Minister of Defense and Military Production	Youssef Sabry Abu Taleb
Minister of Cabinet Affairs	Dr. Atef Mohamed Ebeid
Minister of State for International Cooperation	Dr. Maurice Makramallah
Ambassador to the United States	Ambassador Abdel Raouf El Ridi

The Egyptian flag is three horizontal stripes of red, white and black from top to bottom with a golden Quraish hawk in the center stripe.

Religion

Islam is the predominant religion. Approximately 90% of the population are Muslims (88% Sunni and 2% Shia). Coptic Christians comprise about 8% while Jews and other sects complete the remaining 2%.

National Holidays

Offices and businesses may be closed on the following holidays. Those marked with an asterisk are lunar holidays and occur 11 to 12 days earlier each year. Sham El Nessim is linked to Coptic Easter and may fall anytime between March and May. In addition to these, others may be declared.

Sham El Nessim	May 1 (1989)
Sinai Liberation Day	April 25
Labor Day	May 1
Ramadan Bairam*	May 6/7 (1989)
Evacuation Day	June 18
National Day	July 23
Kurban Bairam*	July 13/14 (1989)
Islamic New Year*	August 3 (1989)
Armed Forces Day	October 6
Moulid El Nabi*	October 12 (1989)

Time

Cairo is seven standard time zones ahead of Eastern Standard Time. When it is 12:00 noon Cairo, it is 5:00 a.m. in Washington, D.C.

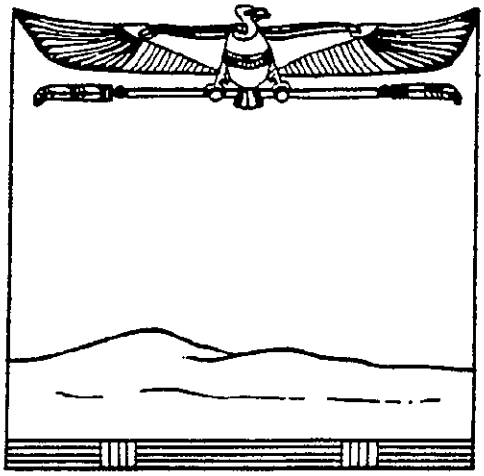
Currency

The unit of currency is the Egyptian pound (L.E.). It is divided into 100 piasters - each piaster (pt) is divided into 10 millimes. Banknotes include L.E. 1, 5, 10, 20, 100, and Pt. 5, 10, 25, and 50. Some smaller coins are in circulation with the 5, 10 and 20 piaster being used most frequently.

Electricity

Voltage is 220 volts, 50 cycles, and sockets accept plugs with two round prongs (European style). The color television system in Egypt is PAL/SECAM.

USAID/EGYPT PROGRAM SUMMARY



The Agency for International Development is charged with carrying out economic assistance programs designed to help people of developing countries develop their human and economic resources, increase productive capacities, improve the quality of human life and promote economic or political stability. The Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 authorizes the Agency to administer two kinds of foreign economic assistance: development assistance and economic support funds. AID focuses development assistance programs on critical problem areas that affect the majority of people in developing countries. Such areas include health, education, population, agriculture and private enterprise. The Economic Support Fund (ESF) program is designed to promote economic or political stability in countries where the U.S. has special foreign policy interests and economic assistance can be useful in securing peace or averting economic or political crises. The ESF is a flexible economic instrument which may take the form of general budget support, commodity import programs, capital projects, and programs specifically directed toward broadly based growth and meeting the needs of the poor.

The current economic assistance program in Egypt is AID's largest worldwide. After assistance was resumed in 1974, the first activity funded was the clearing and opening of the Suez Canal in 1975. Since that time, $14 billion has been committed to support Egypt's development objectives. Funding is designed to complement the considerable talents and resources the Egyptian government has devoted to the country's economic growth. During this period, U.S. assistance has helped repair war-damaged or neglected infrastructure, feed the people, sustain industrial production by providing raw materials and equipment, and extend and improve basic services in education and health. Current focus is on increased productivity and production now that the initial investments have been made in physical and social infrastructure.

The U.S. economic assistance program in Egypt consists of specific development projects, the Commodity Import Program, and cash transfers (together called the ESF program) and the PL-480 Program (Food for Peace). The CIP, cash transfers, and PL-480 programs represent balance of payments support and account for over half of total U.S. economic assistance to Egypt. These three programs are helping Egypt to finance its balance of payments gap and promote sustained production by funding the direct import of commodities, mainly raw materials, capital equipment and food.

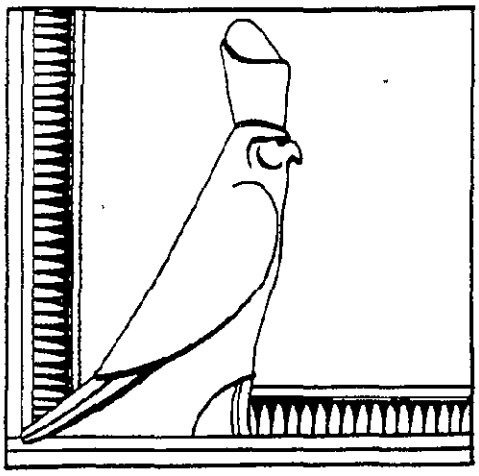
The CIP finances import of essential commodities of U.S. source and origin, commodity-related services, and limited training. Since 1981, CIP has been 100% grant. The 1988 CIP level was $200 million and since 1984, cash transfers have totaled $927 million.

The PL-480 Program consists of low-interest loans to purchase agricultural commodities, principally wheat and wheat flour. Selected agricultural commodities such as fortified milk also are provided on a grant basis through U.S. private voluntary agencies working with Egypt's ministries of Health and Education to conduct school feeding and nutrition programs.

Since 1975, basic investments have been made through project assistance in the areas of infrastructure, industry, agriculture, decentralization, health and population, education, and science and technology. Like the CIP, these funds have been on a grant basis since 1981. USAID's program is benefitting millions who attend schools, visit medical clinics, work in businesses and use infrastructure built, expanded or refurbished with U.S. assistance. For example, over $955 million has been obligated for electric power plants and distribution. When completed, U.S.-financed power generation will exceed the normal output of the Aswan High Dam. USAID's Decentralization Program has provided potable water, sanitary drainage and roads to more than 4,000 Egyptian villages as well as public services to low-income neighborhoods in Cairo and Alexandria. Over 700 rural schools have been completed, and health services are being improved and expanded in rural areas, including training of over 1,400 doctors, nurses and technicians and renovating of health clinics. Major water and sewerage activities are under way in Cairo, Alexandria and six other cities.

Agreements to be signed for the 1989 economic assistance program include $930 million in Economic Support Fund Grants which, along with $170 million for PL-480 will bring the total for 1974-1989 to $15.1 billion.

PREPARATION FOR AN EGYPT ASSIGNMENT



Once your employment in Egypt is confirmed, there are a number of preparations that must be made prior to departure. Initially it is essential to completely understand your contract. Find out as much information as possible on living/working conditions, privileges, etc. Correspond with colleagues already working in Egypt and attend all orientation programs offered under your contract. The more knowledgeable you and your family are, the easier your transition will be. Following are specific assignment-related preparations.

Passport

Applications can be obtained from most Post Offices or from the Clerk of the U.S. District Court. To complete each application, documentary evidence of United States citizenship is required - usually a certified birth certificate, passport, or certificate of naturalization or citizenship. The State Department is now issuing passports valid for 10 years at a price of $42.00 each. Five year passports are being issued for persons under 18 years of age at the cost of $27.00.

Visa

An Egyptian business or tourist visa, usually valid for one month, may be obtained through one of the following offices. U.S. citizens may also obtain a tourist visa upon arrival at Cairo International Airport.

The Egyptian Embassy Consular Office
2300 Decatur Place N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20008
Tel. (202) 234-3903

The Egyptian Consulate
3Q01 Pacific Avenue
San Francisco,
California 94115
Tel. (415) 346-9700

The Egyptian Consulate
505 N. Lake Shore Drive
Chicago, Illinois 60611
Tel. (312) 670-2633

The Egyptian Consulate
1110 2nd Avenue
New York, New York 10022
Tel. (212) 759-7120

The Egyptian Consulate
1617 Fannin street
Houston, Texas 77002
Tel. (713) 650-0888

In case of direct transfers, visas may be obtained at Egyptian Consular Offices or Egyptian Interest Sections in other countries.

International Driver's License

If you plan to purchase or transport a vehicle to Egypt, you may want to obtain an International Driver's License before coming. It will have to be endorsed in Egypt (Egyptian Automobile Club, 10 Kasr El Nil Street) in order to be valid but could be useful until you obtain your Egyptian driver's license.

You may wish to obtain an International Driver's License in Egypt, to do so you must go personally to the Egyptian Automobile Club, 10 Kasr El Nil Street. The following documents are required:

A valid Egyptian Driver's License
Two Photographs
Passport
LE 10.000

Validity of this license is one year and if obtained in Cairo, it is only valid for driving abroad.

Medical

Prior to departing for Egypt, you and any dependents authorized to accompany you must be examined by a licensed physician. The doctor should certify that in his opinion you and your family are physically fit to travel abroad and reside in Egypt. Each family member should have a valid International Vaccination Certificate. Smallpox, cholera and yellow fever shots are no longer required for entry into Cairo from the United States. However, if you plan to do any traveling in Africa, or are coming from there, cholera and yellow fever immunizations are required. The following immunizations are recommended:

Gamma Globulin
Tetanus
Measles/Mumps/Rubella
Diptheria/Pertussis/Polio
Meningococcal A and C
Rabies (pre-exposure series)
Typhoid
Yellow Fever (in the event of travel to other African countries)

It is suggested that you hand carry all specially required medication as well as a supply of eyeglasses, contact lenses and lens solutions. After you arrive in Egypt, you can expect to be tested for HIV (AIDS) virus by the Egyptian Ministry of Health. The Ministry will not accept tests conducted outside of Egypt.

Travel Arrangements

The most direct route to Egypt from the eastern U.S. is by air via Europe. A flight from New York or Washington takes about 18 hours; therefore you may wish to take advantage of an authorized rest stop. You must use American carriers to the fullest extent possible. AID will reimburse the cost of economy class travel via the usually traveled route. Indirect routing and/or stops other than the authorized rest stop are not reimbursable by AID (refer to AID Handbook 22, Sec. 134). When flying economy class, an excess baggage allowance of 22 pounds may be authorized under your contract.

Important Documents

Carry the following important documents with you. Do not put these documents in your checked baggage.

Passports
Credit cards and Social Security cards
Driver's licenses
School, medical and dental records
Copies of insurance policies
Power of Attorney
Inventories of all shipped baggage and stored possessions
Packer's inventory, airway bill number, receipt for air freight, and copy of sea freight bill of lading

Transportation of Household Goods and Privately Owned Vehicles

Some contracts entitle long-term contractors to transport personal goods, household effects and a privately-owned vehicle to post. Most contracts include two types of shipments:

(1) Surface Freight - sea shipment of household effects. Specific limitations are set by contract and often vary. AID regulations, however, provide for an allowance of 18,000 pounds (net weight) if basic household furniture is not supplied and 7,200 pounds (net weight) if basic household furniture is supplied. Storage of household effects in the U.S. may also be authorized, provided that the total amount of effects shipped to Egypt or stored in the U.S. does not exceed 18,000 pounds net.

(2) Air Freight - unaccompanied baggage sent by air. Limitations usually include up to 250 pounds gross weight for employee, 200 pounds for the first dependent, 150 pounds for the second dependent and 100 pounds for each subsequent dependent.

It is especially important that you understand your weight and storage allowances as excess weight can prove very costly. Be sure to obtain a receipt and airway bill number for air freight and a copy of the bill of lading for surface shipment.

Consignment of Shipments

Air and sea freight shipments of personal and household effects and personal vehicles must be consigned as follows:

Consignee:
Name of Employee
c/o Name of Company
Company or other address

The project name, USAID grant number and the name of the Egyptian counterpart ministry must be clearly indicated on the airway bill or bill of lading. The airway bill or bill of lading may contain written instructions to notify the contractor, clearing agent or ministry but the consignee must be the employee.

Customs

Contractor employees' personal and household effects and vehicles enter Egypt under temporary release from customs duties and must be re-exported unless certain time requirements are met. This release is valid for a stated period of time, usually one year, and must be renewed promptly or stiff penalties will be incurred. Failure to renew the temporary release in the case of employees' household effects may also delay their re-export from Egypt.

Contractor employees should keep records on all items under temporary release for which they are responsible and ensure that renewals are promptly obtained.

Items under temporary release may not be disposed of without approval from the Customs Administration. Such items, depending upon the specific circumstances, must be re-exported unless they meet certain time requirements and qualify for an exemption from customs duties. Failure to properly dispose of these items will result in serious problems.

Import of Personal Effects and Household Goods

Contractor employees are allowed to import personal effects, such as clothing, books, personal papers, etc., at any time. However, personnel wishing to import household goods, and specifically durable appliances and furniture, must be assigned to Egypt for at least two years and import the appliances or furniture within six months of their arrival in Egypt.

Household goods enter Egypt under temporary release from customs and thus require a letter of guarantee from the Egyptian counterpart ministry. They cannot be sold or otherwise disposed of without approval from the Customs Administration. Household goods may be exempted from customs duties: (1) when they have been physically present in Egypt for three years, or (2) upon the contractor employee's transfer from Egypt, if the goods have been physically present in Egypt for at least two years. In either case, the contractor employee must be still resident in Egypt on an AID-financed contract to qualify for exemption. This exemption must be formally requested from Customs. If these requirements cannot be met, the household goods must be re-exported. VCRs may not be exempted under any circumstances and must be re-exported.

It is important to have a clear and comprehensive packing list as part of the official documentation for air and sea freight shipments. Not only will this facilitate customs clearance upon arrival, it will enable re-export of certain types of goods, such as appliances, carpets, musical instruments, etc., export of which might otherwise be restricted. The serial numbers of appliances should appear on the packing list. Items such as books, records or tapes, etc., need not be individually listed but the quantity should be noted on the packing list.

While the choice of what to bring for an assignment in Egypt is a personal one, it is not recommended that Turkish or Persian carpets, valuable stamp or coin collections, antiques, collections of sterling silver or silver flatware, firearms, works of art, etc., be brought to Egypt.

In addition, apartments in Cairo can be found with adequate furniture and some durable appliances, i.e., stove, refrigerator, water heaters and air conditioning units, so it may be advisable to hold shipment of sea freight until an apartment has been located in order to avoid shipping unnecessary furniture and appliances.

Electrical appliances, including computers (but not small value items such as travel irons, radios, etc.), should be sent by air or sea freight and should not be brought into Egypt in personal luggage.

Under no circumstances should alcoholic beverages or tobacco products be included in air or sea freight shipments. Small air freight shipments of foodstuffs have been allowed duty-free entry by Customs; however, guidelines for such shipments are still being worked out and updated information on such shipments should be obtained - prior to shipment - from USAID's Office of Project Support in Cairo.

It is not recommended that parcels be sent to Egypt via international mail as there is no mechanism for providing duty-free treatment of such parcels. Magazines, books and other printed material, however, seem to arrive with few problems, though small amounts of duty are sometimes charged for books.

Import of a Personal Vehicle

In order to import a privately-owned vehicle (POV), a contractor employee must be assigned to Egypt for at least two years with an AID contractor. Only one POV is allowed for the duration of the employee's stay in Egypt.

Many AID contracts provide for shipment of a POV to Egypt and back to the U.S. The Uniform Foreign Affairs Regulations (165.9) state that a foreign-made vehicle purchased and delivered in the United States may be treated in the same manner as a U.S. manufactured motor vehicle for the purpose of transportation. However, a foreign-made, foreign-purchased motor vehicle may be shipped to or between posts but may not be shipped to the United States at government expense unless it qualifies under certain general exceptions, none of which are currently applicable to Egypt.

The following categories of vehicles may not be imported into Egypt:

1) Vehicles over two years old (based on model year)
2) Diesel vehicles
3) Right hand drive vehicles

POVs should be consigned on the bill of lading to the employee importing the vehicle and reference made to the AID project name and grant number and to the Egyptian counterpart ministry elsewhere on the bill of lading.

Upon arrival in Egypt, the POV will be cleared from Customs under the system of temporary release. To obtain a temporary release, the contractor employee must provide (in addition to routine shipping documentation): 1) a letter from USAID (Office of Project Support) certifying that he or she is eligible to import a POV and 2) a letter of financial guarantee from the Egyptian counterpart ministry stating that it will be responsible for payment of any customs duties or taxes owed if the vehicle is not re-exported or otherwise exempted from duty.

Normally, the temporary release is valid for one year and must be renewed promptly or stiff penalties for violation of the temporary release system will be incurred. However, it the POV was cleared from Customs before the contractor employee obtained a residence visa, the temporary release will be for three months, by which time the employee is expected to have obtained a residence visa. The temporary release is then renewed for the same period as the visa. The vehicle's license is valid for this same period.

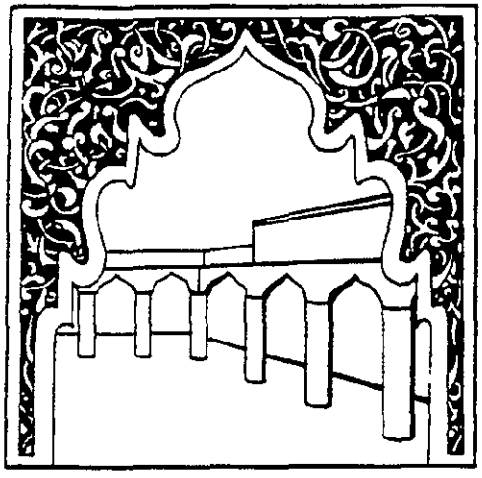
There is a continuing liability for customs duties while the POV is under temporary release and it cannot be sold or otherwise disposed of without approval from the Customs Administration. The POV can be exempted from customs duties: (1) when it has been physically present in Egypt for three years, or (2) upon the contractor employee's transfer from Egypt, if the vehicle has been physically present in Egypt for at least two years. In either case, the contractor employee must still be resident in Egypt on an AID-financed project to qualify for exemption. If the POV does not meet these requirements, it must be re-exported to avoid duties or, alternatively, sold to another person with duty-free privileges. Once the vehicle has been exempted, the contractor employee is free to sell or otherwise dispose of the POV.

Procedures are similar for purchasing a vehicle already in Egypt under temporary release from another individual with duty-free privileges, i.e., another USAID contractor employee. However, the time requirements for exemption of the vehicle start over with the new owner who must therefore have the vehicle in his or her possession for at least three years (or two years upon transfer) before exemption can be requested.

Pets

There is no restriction on the importation of pets. However, to avoid administrative delays, pets should accompany owners. Owners should have documents indicating that the pet has been vaccinated against rabies and that the vaccination is at least thirty days old but not more than one year. A health certificate issued within 14 days is also required.

ARRIVAL



Entrance into Cairo International Airport is similar to many other crowded airports in the world. There are money exchange facilities at the airport as well as taxis to downtown Cairo. The cost is approximately L.E. 10-15 to travel to the downtown area and price should be negotiated before departing the airport. If the taxi driver does not speak English, he will find someone to translate. In addition to the regular taxi service, there is also a limousine service. This is located in the parking lot in front of the International Arrival Lounge. Prices are fixed and are reasonable (e.g. L.E. 17.50 from the Airport to Zamalek).

Hotels

There are many good hotels in Cairo; however the following seem to be favorites of new arrivals:

Nile Hilton
Corniche El Nil
Tel. 740777

Meridien
Corniche El Nil
Tel. 845444

Sheraton Heliopolis
Heliopolis (Airport)
Tel. 665500

Maadi Residence
11 Road 18, Maadi
Tel. 3507189

Semiramis Intercontinental
Corniche El Nil, Cairo
Tel. 3557171

Ramsis Hilton
1115 Corniche El Nil
Tel. 744400

Marriott
Saraya El Gezira Street
Tel. 3408888

Gezireh Sheraton
Zemalek
Tel. 3411336

Maadi Hotel
55 Misr Helwan Street
Tel. 3505050

Passport Registration

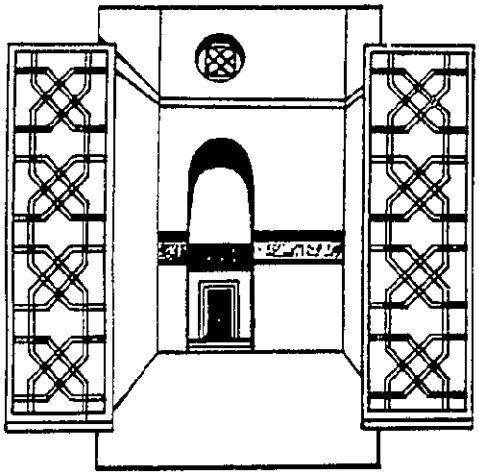
All foreigners visiting or living in Egypt must register with the police within seven days of their arrival. If you stay at a hotel, they will provide this service; if not, you must go to the nearest police station with your passport. You must re-register each time you re-enter Egypt. Don't forget about this when you have visitors staying in your home as there is a departure fine for those persons who were not appropriately registered.

In addition, all Americans residing in Egypt should register with the Consular Section of the American Embassy located at 5 Latin American Street, Garden City. Hours are 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Sunday through Thursday. In many cases, companies register for all their employees; others leave this process to the individual.

Visas

In order to enter Egypt, you obtained a short-term business or tourist visa. Now it will be necessary to obtain a residence visa. Your residence visa and work permit, if required, are obtained by your company with the assistance of the Egyptian counterpart ministry. Any problems encountered should be referred to AID's Project Support Office.

USAID CHECK-IN PROCEDURES
AND
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANCE



On arrival your Chief of Party should provide USAID with locator information including your current address and telephone number, name of project and project number. This information should be forwarded to the Project Support Office through your USAID Project Officer.

The Project Support Office is located in the Cairo Center Building, 106 Kasr El Aini Street, 9th Floor, Garden City. Along with your USAID Project Officer, the Project Support and Contracts offices are good sources from which to obtain clarification and/or information relating to specific AID Mission administrative support.

The Office of Project Support also issues Contractor Notices periodically to keep AID contractors informed of new procedures, changes in AID and Egyptian government regulations and other information of benefit to the contractor community. Chiefs of Party may obtain a complete set of Contractor Notices from the Project Support Office.

Duty-Free Privileges

The Project Support Office maintains a list of persons eligible for shopping privileges at the Egyptian Duty-Free Stores. This list is updated on the fifteenth of each month and approval from the Foreign Ministry and Customs Administration takes three to four weeks. Once your name has been approved, you will have to fill out the Customs Consumable Form available at the Embassy Shipping Office (Annex C, 2nd floor) or the Office of Project Support. The Embassy will process the form and return it along with a letter that must be presented, along with your passport, to the Duty-Free Store when a purchase is made. Payment is made

in dollars. Contractors may purchase the following items monthly:

3 bottles whiskey
4 cartons cigarettes
1 case beer
$50 worth of miscellaneous consumables

The Duty-Free Store is located at 126 Gamaat El Dowal El Arabia St., El Awqaf Bldg., Mohandeseen, and shopping hours are Saturday through Wednesday 9.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. and Thursday 9.30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Contractors residing in Alexandria follow the same procedures and the letter and customs form may be picked up from the American Consulate in Alexandria. The duty free shop is located at El Horreya Street, Alexandria. (See Contractor Notices for more information.)

Check Cashing Privileges

The Commercial International Bank branches located at the following four locations provide check cashing privileges for contract personnel:

Garden City
12 El Birgas Street

Heliopolis
16 El Mirghani Street

Maadi
67 Rd 9, Maadi

Alexandria
25 Mohamed Amin Shoheib Roushdy

Personal checks on a U.S. bank, traveler's checks and U.S. Treasury checks may be cashed for Egyptian pounds. The minimum on personal checks and traveler's checks is $50 and the maximum is $1,000. For amounts over $1,000, the individual must obtain authorization from his/her Chief of Party. No fee is charged. The maximum amount payable for Treasury checks is $2,000. For a small fee, traveler's checks may be purchased from any of the CIB branches.

In addition, personal checks on a U.S. bank may be cashed for U.S. dollars, up to $2,000 per month per employee. Contractors may also obtain U.S. dollars when travelling, provided the Chief of Party writes a letter to CIB specifying the amount. A fee of $6 per $1,000, mandated by the Central Bank, is charged for this service.

An updated list of eligible contract personnel is sent to the CIB branches every Wednesday. Contractors should complete the

necessary form and forward it through the USAID Project Officer to the Project Support Office. Names that are submitted on the Wednesday list are eligible for check cashing on Thursday. Operating hours are on Sunday through Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

CIB will suspend services to a customer presenting an uncollectable check. Restitution must be made immediately at which time privileges may be restored. In the event a second check is returned, accommodation exchange privileges may be withdrawn permanently. Contractors are responsible for uncollectable checks returned for a member of their organization.

I.D. Cards

Due to increased security precautions that have been initiated by the U.S. Embassy, the U.S. Embassy Regional Security Office has determined that AID contractor employees are not entitled to hold Mission ID cards unless their contract designates Cairo Center as their duty station.

Access to Cairo Center or the Embassy Compound is permitted by visitor's pass only when the visitor has official business on the premises.

Allowances

Post differential, per diem rates, educational allowances, temporary lodging allowances, living quarters allowance, supplementary post allowance, etc. are subject to change and depend on the terms of each contract. Following is a list of relevant allowances for your reference. Since these figures change often you may obtain an updated list from your USAID Project Officer or the Project Support Office. Although these apply specifically to U.S. direct hire employees, allowances for AID direct and many host country contracts refer to the Standardized Regulations from which the following information is taken. The information includes actual USAID/Egypt allowances for U.S. direct hire personnel. Also included is a brief summary of each allowance. For more detailed information, refer to the Standardized Regulations (Government Civilian, Foreign Areas), the Foreign Affairs Manual and the Federal Travel Regulations.

Post Differential

This allowance is granted on the basis of conditions of environment which differ substantially from those found in the continental United States and warrant additional pay as a recruitment and retention incentive.

Cairo	20%	of the	rate of	basic pay
Alexandria	20%	"	"	"
Ras Banas	20%	"	"	"
MFO Bases	15%	"	"	"
All other	20%	"	"	"

For further information, see Section 500 of the Standardized Regulations.

Per Diem

The purpose of this allowance is to cover average costs of room, meals, and incidentals such as laundry, dry cleaning, tips, and related service expenses for each day of travel status. The following rates apply to Americans; some contracts may provide for reimbursement in Egyptian pounds. These rates are current as of January 1, 1989.

Alexandria	$64
Aswan	87
Cairo	98
Dahab	45
El Arish	69
El Fayoum	62
El Minya	62
Hurghada	73
Ismailia	41
Luxor	86
MFO Bases	3
Nuweiba	46
Sharm El Sheikh	60
Sidi Abdel Rahman	40
St. Catherine	64
Other Locations	32

Also included under the per diem allowance is a rest stop for international travel. The following includes current per diem rates for several European cities (as of January 1989):

Paris	$175
Rome	151
Frankfurt	132
London	212
Athens	94
Madrid	155

For further information, see Section 925 of the Standardized Regulations.

Educational Allowance

This allowance assists in meeting the uncompensated, necessary, and extraordinary expenses of educating dependent children while serving in a foreign area. The allowance is intended to cover tuition, books and supplies, required fees and transportation.

Cairo:		
(1987/88)	$ 7,550	Grades K-12
Alexandria:		
(1987/88)	$ 7,350	Grades K-4
	7,600	Grades 5-8
	7,950	Grades 9-12

In addition to the amounts above, $1,500 per school year may be authorized for supplementary instruction. Non-refundable one-time fees, such as admission fees, registration fees or building fees, may also be authorized.

For children away from post, the following educational allowances are applicable:

Cairo:		
(1987/88)	$ 7,550	Grades K-12
Alexandria:		
(1987/88)	$ 7,350	Grades K-4
	7,600	Grades 5-8
	18,200	Grades 9-12
Handicapped Children:		
(1987/88)	$30,650	

For further information see Section 270 of the Standardized Regulations.

Educational Travel

In lieu of educational allowance, educational travel may be claimed for dependents pursuing a secondary or college education in the U.S. Educational travel provides for one round trip annually, with the first annual round trip originating at post. The child must spend fourteen consecutive days outside the U.S. prior to departure on the educational travel trip to the U.S., unless the transportation abroad within the fourteen days was not paid for by the U.S. government.The second annual round trip from post to the U.S. may not begin untill the anniversary date of the first annual round trip.

Notwithstanding the above, educational travel may be authorized for a one-way trip from the school in the U.S. to post but such one-way travel shall constitute completion of the first educational travel round trip.

Educational travel for secondary education is available through age 20 (before the 21st birthday) and for college education through age 22 (before the 23rd birthday). Extensions for education delayed due to military service are possible.

Reimbursement for educational travel may include actual transportation expenses and travel perdiem. If available, student fares should be used . If student fares are unavailable, the maximum allawable fare authorized is economy class.

For further information, see Section 280 of the Standardized Regulations.

Temporary Lodging

This allowance is intended to pay for the cost of temporary quarters at a foreign post and covers the actual cost of a hotel room, not to exceed the maximum rate. Receipts of daily costs must be submitted for reimbursement. Meals are not included in this allowance (see Supplementary Post Allowance). Temporary Lodging Allowance is available for up to three months after arrival at post and up to one month prior to departure from post.

Per Person:

Cairo	$61	(effective June 7, 1987)
Alexandria	38	(effective May 22, 1988)
Other	10	

(Half rate for children under 11.)

For further information, see Section 120 of the Standardized Regulations.

Supplementary Post Allowance

This allowance defrays costs of restaurant meals for the employee and family while occupying temporary non-housekeeping quarters. Allowance is $7.00 per person, regardless of age.

For further information, see Section 230 of the Standardized Regulations.

Rest and Recreation (R&R)

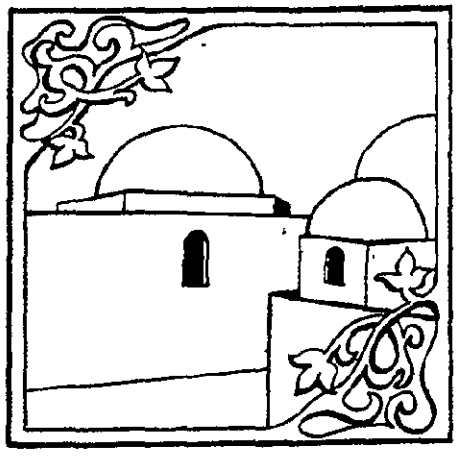
Round trip travel to London, to another location (on a comparative cost basis), or to New York is authorized for the employee and his dependents at Government expense once during a two-year tour of duty or twice during a three-year tour unbroken by home leave. R&R travel may not be taken during the first six months or the last six months of a tour of duty.

In all cases the traveler is required to use available economy class concessional fares, e.g. excursion, APEX, etc. If the traveler pays a higher fare when a concessional fare is available, the reimbursement will be limited to the applicable fare.

In order to be reimbursed for travel to New York, the traveler must spend at least 50% of the total R&R time in the U.S. If this condition is not met, reimbursement will be limited to London fare on a cost constructive basis. New York is considered the entry point for fare determination purposes; however, travelers going to the U.S. need not actually go to or through New York.

If the traveler purchases the ticket in Egyptian pounds, reimbursement will be equivalent to the Egyptian pound fare, converted to a dollar amount at the prevailing exchange rate in effect at the time of the purchase of the ticket.

HOUSING



Typical housing in Cairo is in five or six story apartment buildings. Most foreigners tend to reside in Maadi, Zemalek, Dokki, Garden City or Mohandessin, although most families with school age children prefer Maadi due to the presence of Cairo American College.

The housing guidelines for AID contractors are based on the American Embassy's Post Housing Handbook (April 1988) which incorporates policies set forth in the Standardized Regulations and the Foreign Affairs Manual. It is USAID/Egypt policy that AID contractors be housed at the same standard and cost as AID employees.

Accommodation Standards

Floor space and number of bedrooms authorized depends upon family size. The accommodation standards contained in Section 1.5.1 of the Post Housing Handbook are as follows:

No. of Family Members at Post (including Employee)	Maximum No. of Authorized Bedrooms	Maximum Floor Space (Net Sq. Ft.)
1-2	2	1500
3	3	1800
4	4	2400
5	5	2700

Net floor space includes all useful living space on all floors measured from wall to wall. Halls, stairwells, servants' quarters, patios, terraces, and storage and utility areas (laundry room) are not included in the net floor space.

Generally dependent students attending school or college away from post will be authorized bedrooms as follows:

1 student	no extra bedroom
2-3 students	one extra bedroom
4 students	two extra bedrooms

Housing Costs

It is USAID/Egypt policy that housing costs be reimbursed in accordance with the provisions of the contract and the following guidelines.

1. The unit size may not exceed the eligible number of bedrooms and maximum livable space relative to the contractor employee's family size as set forth in the Post Housing Handbook "Accomodation Standards" (see above).

2. The annual unit rental cost reimbursable by USAID (regardless of size or number of bedrooms) may not exceed the following for locations in Cairo:

No. of Family Members at Post (including Employee)	Maximum Housing Cost	$/mo
1-2	$14,800	1,233
3-4	$16,280	1,357
5-6	$17,760	1,480
7 or more	$19,240	

This maximum allowable housing cost is intended to cover the rental of suitable, adequate living quarters. It is not intended to cover the costs of heat, light, fuel, gas and electricity, the actual costs of which are generally a separate reimbursable expense. Rental cost in excess of these maximums will not be reimbursed by USAID nor are they allowable cost items in a cost pool payable under any other U.S. government contract.

For locations outside of Cairo, the contractor will be responsible for carrying out a market survey to determine a range of rental costs for suitable apartments. The range, once determined, must be approved by the Contracting Officer in the case of direct contracts or the Contracting Agency with AID's concurrence in the case of host country contracts.

3. Even if the rental cost for a unit is within the maximum cost ceiling, it must be reasonable relative to the unit's size, location, accoutrements, etc.

4. Monthly rental and other associated costs should be paid in Egyptian pounds.

Requests for exceptions to the policies stated above must be made in writing, with substantive justification, to the Contracting Officer in the case of direct contracts or to the Contracting Agency in the case of host country contracts.

"Make Ready" Allowance

If allowed under the terms of the contract, a "make ready" allowance, not to exceed $1,500 (equivalant in Egyptian pounds), may be used to cover, under unusual circumstances, the cost of initial repairs, alterations and improvements which are incurred within three months of a rental agreement and which are basic to making the employee's residence habitable. This allowance should only be used when it has been determined that: (1) the lessor will not assume the cost of repairs; (2) the living quarters are below reasonable standards of health, safety or comfort; and (3) no adequate rental quarters are known to be available at a rate which is within the maximum authorized allowance.

This allowance, use of which must be approved in advance by the Contracting Officer in the case of direct contracts or by the Contracting Agency with AID's concurrence in the case of host country contracts, might include reimbursement for such housing related expenses as: (1) repairs required to eliminate leakage or drafts, to fortify or replace structural components, or to replace defective plumbing, wiring, heating, lighting or other essential facilities or equipment; (2) alterations to provide improved access or ventilation and light, such as new or additional windows and doors; and (3) improvements such as plumbing, heating, or lighting fixtures and equipment, screening, pest control, insulation where required by extreme climate, painting where required by hygenic reasons or in connection with authorized repairs or alterations, and other changes to make the quarters reasonably habitable. (See Standardized Regulations, Section 137.)

The allowance is not designed to cover redecoration, repair, renovation or replacement of furnishings, erection of additions to any structure or of garages, or the removal of garages or other outbuildings or improvement of grounds.

Rental Tips

There are many rental agents in Cairo who may prove useful in finding a residence that suits your needs. It is helpful to have a particular area of Cairo in mind before you start house hunting.

When looking at a prospective residence, check the following points before making a decision.

1. Carefully consider the location of the prospective unit.

2. Note the general appearance of the building, its upkeep, number and condition of elevators, and the number of stairs you might have to climb.

3. Check the wiring, plumbing and water presssure. Is there plenty of hot water? Does the building have a water tank and pump?

4. Check air conditioners and heaters. Do they work?

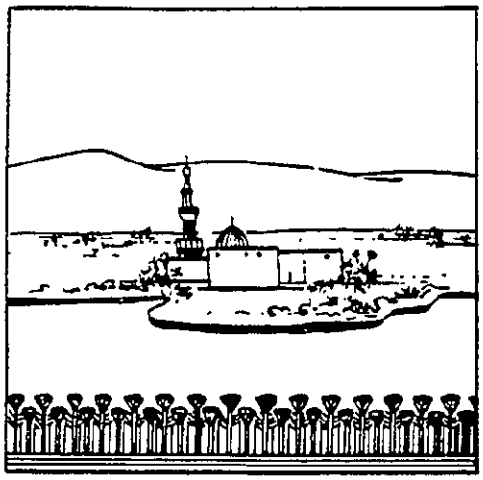
5. Is a telephone provided? Do not be misled by the presence of a telephone unit. Make sure there is a working line. Avoid party lines.

6. Is on or off-street parking available? At all hours?

7. Are there fire escapes or other emergency exits from the building? Is the apartment secure from break-ins?

If you are interested in a certain residence, do not act enthusiastic with the agent or landlord or inform them of the amount you can pay. Do not accept the asking price. Negotiate - it's expected. Negotiate repairs and replacement of furniture and equipment as part of the lease. Agree on a small deposit, such as one month's rent, with the remainder of the deposit to be paid when refurbishing is completed.

TRANSPORTATION



Driving conditions in Egypt are somewhat different than in the U.S. Traffic moves on the right hand side of the road, but this cannot be depended upon. The spirited competition between buses, taxis, donkey carts, and cars can create the impression of being in the middle of a football game on wheels. This can be very unnerving for any but an aggressive driver. In general, the roads in and around Cairo are fairly well surfaced but often too narrow for the heavy volume of traffic. Having a car is definitely an asset and though driving is hectic and rarely done for pleasure, most people manage to get around very well.

Taxis are everywhere, though sometimes hard to get, especially at peak hours. Some are metered, most are not, and sometimes you may find it necessary to share a cab with someone going elsewhere. Taxis are an acceptable, fairly inexpensive and easy way to get around. The recently completed Metro rail system; running from Helwan (south of Cairo) through Maadi to downtown Cairo is also quite popular. The Metro is fast and, except during morning and afternoon rush hours, relatively uncrowded. City buses are very crowded and not recommended.

There are various means of travel to places outside of Cairo, depending on where you are going and how fast you want to get there. Travel by car to Alexandria and beyond, to Port Said, Ismailia, Suez and Fayoum is fine. Travel by car to Upper Egypt (Luxor, Aswan, etc.), the Red Sea area and Sinai and the Western Desert is becoming easier and make popular and most roads are quite good. Travelers to these areas should be aware that some areas are off limits or require permits. Train, plane and bus travel to Alexandria is good and inexpensive. Train and plane travel to Upper Egypt and plane travel to Hurghada on the Red Sea are popular.

There are a number of car rental agencies in Cairo, offering a variety of models, including four-wheel drive. It is possible to rent a vehicle with or without a driver.

Egyptian Driver's License

Applicants for an Egyptian driver's license must be at least 18 years old. A certificate from an Egyptian opthomologist and physician must be obtained to verify visual and physical health. These certificates along with a valid U.S. driver's license, four photographs, and LE 40.000 should be taken to the Traffic Department at Attaba Square in Cairo. All applicants are now being given an oral test on international road signs as well as a road test to certify driver's capability. The applicant must provide his own vehicle for the test.

If an Egyptian driver's license is lost, it must be reported to the nearest police station and a police report issued.

Auto Insurance

Per local law, all employees must carry third party personal liability insurance (for bodily injury) on vehicles operating in Egypt. This insurance is issued prior to the release of a vehicle from Customs and is renewed as part of the annual GOE vehicle registration procedure. It is valid for 13 months plus 1 day. An endorsement must be made on this policy when plate numbers are changed in Cairo. A vehicle is not properly insured if the registration validity has lapsed.

The current rates for minimum vehicle insurance varies from LE 80 to LE 100, depending on engine size. Other insurance coverage, such as third party liability for material damage and comprehensive, is also available and optional. Third party liability insurance, however, should not be confused with the mandatory bodily injury insurance obtained during registration and licensing. Insurance may be obtained from any authorized insurance company in Egypt.

NOTE: Driver's license, registration and insurance papers must be carried in your vehicle at all times.

Speed Limits

The Traffic Department and the police strictly enforce speed limits throughout Egypt and unless posted otherwise speed limits are 70 kilometers in town and 90 kilometers out of town. The police utilize radar and motorcycle patrols on both the Desert and Delta Roads to Alexandria to enforce the law. If you are stopped, present your driver's license to the officer and remain calm. You could receive a verbal warning or have your license confiscated. If the officer keeps your license, you will receive a receipt for it. Speeding is a serious offense in Egypt and carries fines of LE 100 or more for minor offenses.

In the Event of an Accident

If an accident occurs, use the following guidelines:

Stop immediately and determine whether anyone has been hurt.

In the event the situation becomes inflamatory, e.g. a mob or angry crowd gathers at the scene, leave immediately and go to the Embassy or the nearest police station. If this is not the case, take all possible precautions to prevent additional accidents by stationing persons to direct traffic and clear the roadway.

Furnish your name and address upon request by appropriate officials. Do not sign your name on a card or piece of paper for anyone.

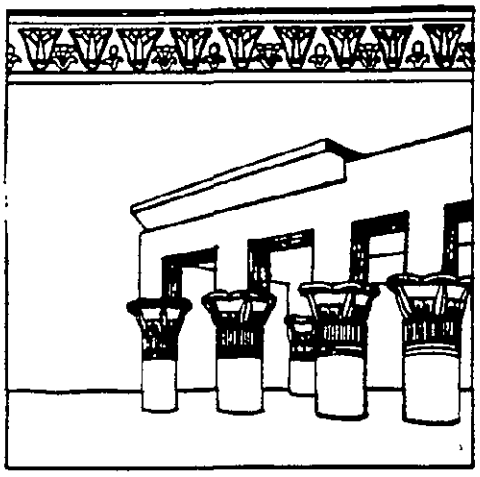
Do not remove the vehicle from the scene of the accident until after a police investigation is completed.

Do not give statements or express opinions regarding the accident except to appropriate officials. Do not admit fault or liability.

Get all necessary data covering any other vehicles involved. Be sure to include all necessary information including the name and address of the driver, driver's license number, and information about the owner of the vehicle if he is not driving. While at the scene of the accident, be sure to obtain complete identifying details of other vehicles involved and names and addresses of witnesses.

Contact your insurance company.

MEDICAL



In the event of serious illness or injury requiring immediate hospitalization, go directly to the Al Salam Hospital on the Corniche in Maadi. An ambulance can be requested if one is needed (telephone 842188/980840).
This hospital opened in May 1982 and is capable of handling serious medical and surgical emergencies. Doctors are in attendance twenty-four hours a day. Many of the nursing and technical staff are British and most of the professional staff speak English.

The Cairo Ambulance Service can be used for transportation to the nearest hospital, but the equipment on board is sparse and the attendants have minimal medical skills. Routinely this ambulance service will take you to the nearest hospital. If time is not urgent, then ask the ambulance to take you to the Al Salam Hospital in Maadi. There is no fee for ambulance transportation to the nearest hospital but there is a fee for transfer to any other hospital. The city service can be reached on 123 and the Giza service can be reached at 720737, 720064, or 724452.

In order to make your stay in Cairo as enjoyable as possible, you may want to consider the health tips below.

> Boil all drinking water, and wash and soak all fruits and vegetables in a chlorox or iodine solution. Typhoid, cholera and gastro-intestinal parasites result from eating or drinking contaminated food or water. The first precaution against these diseases is extreme care in preparing foods and drinking water. Allow for extra liquid intake when it is very hot, especially when there is any fever, vomiting or diarrhea. A major hazard of gastro-intestinal infection is the resultant dehydration during which the body loses large amounts of fluid in a relatively short period of time. For an easy rehydration fluid, combine one liter of water, 4 tablespoons of sugar, one half teaspoon of salt, and one half teaspoon of baking soda. Pre-mixed oral rehydration packets are also available from any pharmacy.

When dining out, avoid uncooked foods, cream pastries and foods containing mayonnaise. Only well-cooked foods, served hot, are recommended. Eat only those fruits that can be peeled and avoid anything other than hot or bottled drinks.

Eggs should not be washed until ready for use as washing removes the protective covering on an egg shell. It is better to eat only cooked eggs as raw eggs can carry paratyphoid.

Chlorine in the swimming pool does not kill all foreign organisms; therefore, children should be encouraged not to drink the water in the pool.

AIDS is a world wide phenomenon. The major risk of infection is sexual intimacy with an infected person; the other major risk is acquiring infection from contaminated blood products, needles, etc. It should be noted that gamma globulin is sterlized through a special process and is safe to use. To provide further protection for American citizens, the U.S. Embassy medical staff strongly recommends that no one should receive blood products without the U.S. Embassy Medical Unit being notified.

Avoid stray cats and dogs as they often carry rabies.
NAMRU-3 has the capability to check animals for rabies.
Pre-exposure rabies vaccine can be obtained from the following sources:

1. Dr. Adel Naguib - Dr. Wasfi Botros
   7 Zaki St., Tawfikia Square - (off Ramses)
   Hours: 9.00 a.m. thru. 8.00 p.m. Closed on Friday.
   Cost: L.E. 30.100 Office: 745204

2. Dr. Boulos
   Office: 673585 Home: 2446156
   Cost: L.E. 50.000

3. Shoubra El Khalafawy Co.
   1353 Corniche El Nil St.
   Hours: 8.00 a.m. thru. 3.00 p.m. Closed on Friday.
   Cost: L.E. 30.100 Tel. 943512

Due to the large contractor community and the medical facilities available in Egypt, USAID contractors are not authorized use of the Embassy facilities. If you need a medical specialist, contact the Embassy Medical Unit, ext. 2351/ 2356, for the names of specialists. Following is a list of physicians provided by the Embassy Medical Unit:

Hospitals:

Al Salam Hospital
Corniche El Nil, Maadi
Tel: 842188
Emergency Room with 24 hr. physician coverage: Tel: 980840

Nile Badrawi Hospital
Corniche El-Nil, Maadi
Tel: 3638688/3638167
Emergency Room: 3638168

The following doctors can be called for assistance:

a) For injury, accident, or surgical problem:
Dr. Karim Shaalan (American Board Certified)
10 Abdel Hamid Soliman, Mohandessein
Clinic: 3603126/718439
Home: 3484792/ 3484181

b) For orthopedic injury or accident:
Dr. Sherif Zaghloul
99A Misr Helwan Rd, Maadi
Clinic: 3515806
Home: 3528409

c) For medical and cardiac problems:
Dr. Ahmed Shoukry Moustafa
Al Salam Hospital, Maadi
(Mornings) 2638050, 3623300
Clinic: 15A El Ahram St., Heliopolis
Tel: 2912812
Home: 2912596

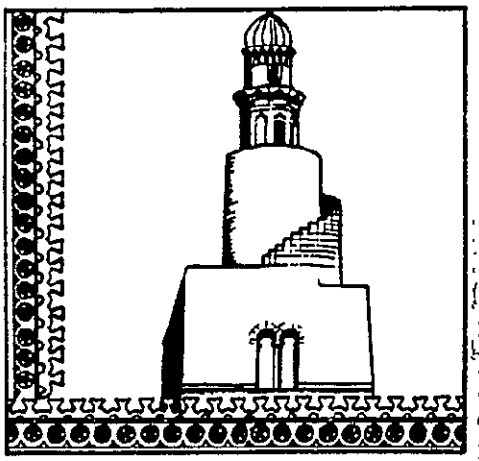
d) For pediatric problems:
Dr. Fawzan Shaltout
87 Rd 9, Midan El-Mahata, Maadi
Clinic: 3502892
Home: 3516513

e) For dental problems:
Dr. Mohamed Farag
7 El Batal Ahmed Abdel Aziz, Mohandessin
Clinic: 759161
Home: 3491832

Dr. Wafik Mahrous
Medical Bldg., 78 Rd 9, Maadi
Clinic: 3502323/3503660

Dr. Sherif Abu El Naga
13 Sherif St., Cairo
Clinic: 758585
Home: 2580766

CULTURE SHOCK



Culture shock is a familiar term used to describe the malaise that affects even the experienced traveler. It is quite simply a form of physiological and psychological stress experienced when familiar cues are no longer present. This stress is common to any anxiety-producing situation, may be severe or mild, may last several months, or appear only fleetingly. It is important to be familiar with the symptoms of this stress in yourself or in other members of the family so that you can respond with understanding. To begin, it is essential to recognize that operating in a new setting, with unfamiliar social patterns and with perhaps a new language, is a different experience for each member of the family.

Children, uprooted from peers and familiar settings, must adjust to a strange new home with different smells and sounds. If of school age, children must make their way into a new school, perhaps learn new sports, a new language, a new life-style. If an adolescent, a youngster might have left behind all the symbols of personal achievement--membership in a sports team or band, a job, driver's education, a romance. For the spouse, there may be a total change of roles which requires painful realignment of interests and activities. Perhaps an exciting job has been left behind in the U.S. and the post may offer no substitute. The necessity of coping with strange foods, language, housing, shopping and housekeeping can be very taxing. For the employee, the change may be less acute because work is conducted in English and office situations are familiar, unless the particular job involves a high degree of outside interaction. For each age, each person, the demands are different.

When the strain of adjusting to change is marked, several physical and emotional responses are common. These include sleepiness, apathy, depression, compulsive eating or drinking, homesickness and exaggerated yearning for all things and friends

American, insecurity of professional judgment, negative stereotyping of host nationals, fear of being cheated, decline in efficiency, recurrent minor illnesses, and obsession with cleanliness. In your children, the stress may manifest itself as regression in toilet training or social behavior, interrupted sleep, skin eruptions, or stomach disorders. Older children some- times find it difficult to maintain their academic competence; others work out their anxiety in disruptive behavior, sometimes experimenting with drugs, alcohol, or sex.

The symptoms may come singly or in combination. They may be mild or severe. They are aggravated by lack of proper exercise, rest, and diet as well as by a lack of routine in family meals and bedtimes. The symptoms tend to surface in the second and third months after arrival when the novelty of a new environment begins to fade and settling in becomes imperative. They usually taper off the fourth to sixth month when equilibrium is restored. If not, professional help should be sought. (The Community Services Association located at 4 Road 21, Maadi, offers support services through education, counseling, social and recreational programs.)

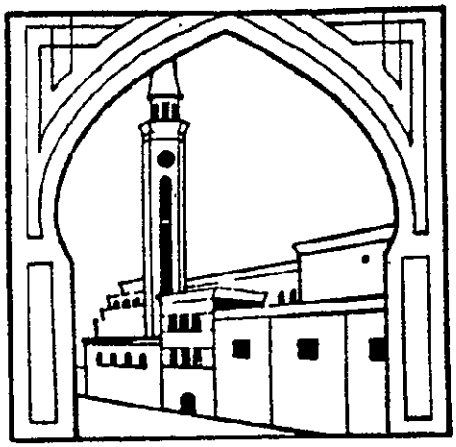
Treatment: Since culture shock is basically a state of anxiety, it responds to two predictable treatments:

(1) Learning the specific ways a newcomer can operate successfully in a strange setting ("old hands" or sponsors are a big help) and
(2) By each member of the family giving the others appreciation, encouragement and help and discussing reactions and problems together. Good communication and sense of community are the emotional miracle drugs.

Being with office colleagues and other Americans is useful when one is new and a bit overwhelmed. However, this support over time can become exclusive and insulate a person from participation in the life of the host country. Since Egypt is a country which welcomes foreigners, you will need to plan how you wish to become involved. For each person there will be a range of options. These might include: membership in the community church or local American Chamber of Commerce, volunteer social work, sports, music or art circles, university classes, neighborhood groups, binational involvement with children's school, dramatic societies, camping, archeological expeditions, etc.

The possibilities for activity are many, not only within the American community but also outside, for those who are willing to learn the local language and build bridges to those in Egypt with similar interests.

SCHOOL INFORMATION



Cairo American College (CAC, K-12) is located in Maadi and is the school that most American children attend. CAC has an exceptionally lovely campus, modern facilities and an excellent library. A swimming pool, track and playing fields are in use most of the year. Music, sports and club activities are popular and often include international trips and competitions for sports, music, debate and drama. Over 1400 students are presently enrolled, representing some 54 countries. About 61% of the students are American.

Application for admission to CAC should be submitted at the earliest opportunity. As a private school, CAC reserves the right to accept students on a conditional basis if necessary. Be sure to bring all school records, transcripts and health histories with you. CAC requires that its own medical examination form be used in submitting medical records. All incoming students must be tested and former school records reviewed before enrollment. Testing is scheduled by appointment several weeks in August before the September starting date. Individual appointments can be scheduled for families arriving during the regular school year, but parents are urged to schedule their arrival in Cairo to coincide with the school calendar if at all possible.

The school is divided into two sections, K-6 and secondary, 7-12. There are separate social activities for grades 7 and 8. Supportive services are provided in guidance, counselling, English as a second language, health, speech therapy, remedial reading and minor learning disabilities. While there is enrichment, honors and advanced placement at the high school level, at present, CAC has no program for gifted children. There is no school cafeteria so be sure to include thermoses and lunch boxes in your air freight or accompanied baggage. A school store carries basic school supplies such as pens, pencils, paper and notebooks, as well as P.E. uniforms, which are required for grades 7 and up. Swim suits for younger children should be brought with you and should be of a one-piece, easily put-on style. Swimsuits may also be bought at the school store.

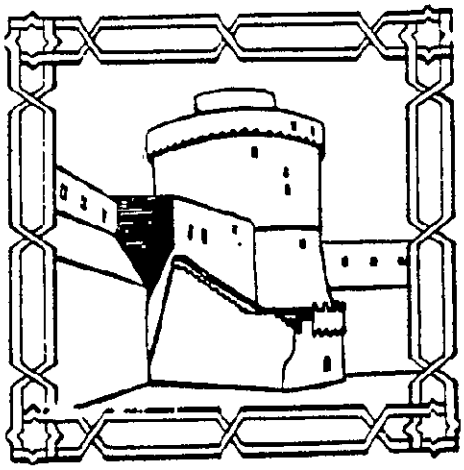
Instruments for band or music lessons should also be brought by the student. Bus transportation is provided for students who live outside Maadi at a fee. There is also a late bus for after-school activities. Many children living in Maadi ride bicycles to school and bicycle stands are set up inside the school grounds. A bicycle lock is advisable. Bicycles, motorcycles and skate boards may not be ridden on campus. There is a dress code to fit the requirements of Egyptian culture-no shorts, cut-offs, short skirts, tube tops, bare feet or PE clothes in class.

Other educational facilities for children include: the British International School, located in Zamalek. BIS has facilities for ages 4-14. No transportation is available. The recently-opened Maadi British School offers classes for ages 6-11. The Heliopolis International School has classes at present for ages 3 1/2-12. There are also French and German schools located in different parts of the city.

The American University in Cairo (AUC) is located in Garden City, near the Cairo Center, and offers courses at the undergraduate and graduate levels. It is also possible to audit courses. AUC has an excellent TEFL program and offers an unusual opportunity for dependents to study while residing at post. The Division of Public Services is the adult education unit of AUC and has classes in a variety of subjects, i.e. Arabic, English, business and secretarial courses and data processing.

The Community Services Association (CSA) offers courses several times a year in a variety of subjects and skills/interest areas such as computers, photography, ceramics, yoga, Egyptian culture and history, Arabic and French. CSA is located at 4 Road 21, Maadi.

SECURITY, EMERGENCIES AND EVACUATIONS



Personal safety and security matters affect each of us on a daily basis. While Cairo is a very safe city, particularly given its size, it is imperative that all incidents of theft, harrassment and agressive action, as well as car accidents, be reported to the local police for appropriate follow-up.

Residential Security

In order to maximize protection of your valuables and person, use the following precautionary measures:

Ensure all exterior doors and windows accessible from the ground or adjacent roof or wall lines can be adequately secured. If you arrive home and suspect something is amiss, go to a neighbor's home and call the police. Do not investigate alone. Keep all doors and windows locked at all possible times and use your external perimeter security lights at night. Always make your home look occupied. When away (day or night) leave a radio playing loud enough to be heard outside. At night, always leave lights on in various rooms of your house not just the living room; make your house look and sound occupied.

Be alert for suspicious individuals in your neighborhood. When departing or arriving at your residence, look around for strange persons and vehicles. Stay alert. When called on the telephone by a stranger, give out as little information as necessary. Always first identify the caller, and carefully provide the minimum of information. Never tell an unknown caller, for example, that your spouse is away on a trip. Instead, say that he or she is not available, and that you will arrange to have the call returned as soon as possible.

If you have any problems, contact the local police station as soon as possible.

Movement Security

At times of recognized tension or danger, reduce exposure on public streets and, in particular, avoid areas of isolation and sections of the city where disturbances or potential unrest exist. When traveling by car, keep car doors locked and windows closed. In times of tension, endeavor to have someone accompany you. Keep your car locked when not in use. Avoid fixed patterns in time of daily movements, routes of travel, etc. Remember that motion and velocity can work in your favor. When your vehicle is stopped or the motor is off, or immediate movement is impeded, you are more vulnerable. In traffic, when conditions permit, leave maneuver space between you and the car ahead. Make it a habit to be observant and if you find yourself driving through a disturbed area, try to time your speed so that stops will be minimized.

Emergencies and Evacuations

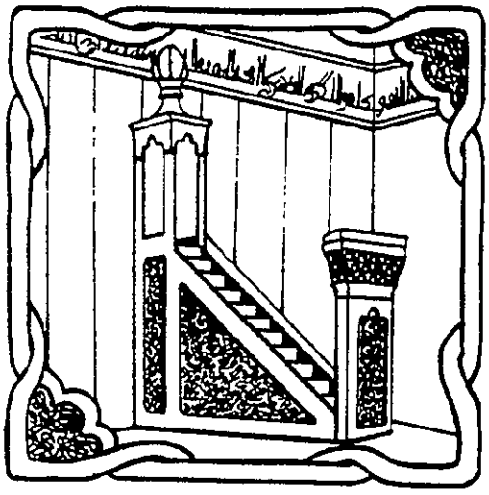
Always keep your important papers together, up-to-date, and readily available in a safe place. Maintain a personal property inventory in the event you have to file a claim with your insurance company. This list should contain nomenclature, serial number where applicable, description of the general condition, and appraised value or cost of each item.

It is important that you keep the Embassy's Consular Section and the USAID Project Support Office informed of your residence and whereabouts in case of an emergency situation. The Project Support Office maintains an up-to-date list of all contractors located in Egypt and is responsible for activating the Warden System for contractors. You should keep this office informed - through your Chief of Party - of any change of address, any additions to your family, and any change in your next of kin, who is to be notified in case of serious injury or emergency.

Police Telephone Numbers

Maadi: 3505466/ 3503958
Kasr El Nil, Garden City: 3540686
Heliopolis: 2438431
Dokki: 980509
Zamalek: 3401719
Giza: 723428
Mohandeseen: 3479216

ABSENTEE VOTING



The Overseas Citizens Voting Rights Act guarantees American citizens, whether affiliated with the United States Government or not, the right to vote in federal elections in the United States. (Federal elections include primaries, general and special elections for the President, Vice President, U.S. Senators and U.S. Representatives to Congress.) Although the Overseas Citizens Voting Rights Act applies only to federal elections, many states in the United States have enacted legislation whereby many categories of citizens residing overseas can vote by absentee ballot for state or local officials utilizing substantially the same procedures as for federal elections.

In order to vote in either federal or state elections in most states in the United States, a citizen residing abroad must register in the state of his or her "voting residence." A voting residence is the legal residence or domicile in which the voter could vote if present in that state. Civilian U.S. Government employees overseas, their spouses and dependents, will generally register in the state in which they resided prior to departing the U.S. Overseas citizens (not affiliated with the U.S. Government), in accordance with the Overseas Citizens Voting Rights Act, must vote in their last state of residence immediately prior to departing the United States, even if many years have elapsed and the voter maintains no abode nor has any intention of returning to that state.

How to Vote

1. Time: Start early - The transmission of voting forms and ballots takes considerable time. But, note in the Voting Assistance Guide (see below) the dates for applying for registration and a ballot.

2. The "FPCA" - Go to the nearest American Embassy or Consulate and obtain a Federal Post Card Application, commonly referred to as a FPCA. (You may also write or telephone any Embassy or Consulate for an FPCA and one will be mailed to you.) Bring with you your U.S. passport, U.S. card of identity or other suitable evidence of United States citizenship and identity.

3. Application for a Ballot - Fill out the FPCA using the instructions attached to the postcard. If you have difficulty in reading or understanding any English language materials relating to voting or voter registration, please ask the consular staff for assistance. If you have questions about the instructions or if you need to know the address of the official to whom to address the postcard (e.g. the County Clerk, Board of Elections, Registrar of Voters, etc.) consult the Voting Assistance Guide maintained by the consular staff of the Embassy or Consulate. (This Guide contains up-to-date requirements and information for voting in each state. It contains a map of each state and the county divisions. Look up your state and carefully read any requirements for qualifying to vote. If you do not know your county, determine it from the map. Note the minimum and maximum deadlines for applying. Once you determine the county you vote in, the Guide can give you the address and zip code of the county official to whom you must address your FPCA.) Note: Many states will accept the FPCA as a multipurpose form, i.e. it can be used as an application for registration, registration itself and for an absentee ballot. In the event that your voting state does not accept the FPCA for all purposes, the state will mail you a registration form which must be filled out and in many cases notarized before an American consular officer or notary public abroad. In those states only after the registration form is fully executed and mailed will you receive an absentee ballot.

4. Notarization - If the state requires that you swear to the contents of the FPCA, take it to a consular officer for notarization. (This service is free for FPCAs, state registration forms and absentee ballots.)

5. Mailing - Mail the FPCA. In order to ensure that the FPCA is promptly delivered to the appropriate state official send it by international airmail. Make sure to place the full amount of postage on the form. If mail facilities are inadequate, persons may use the pouch facilities of the consular post so long as the

form can be sent either free of domestic U.S. postage or contains domestic U.S. postage. It should be noted, however, that pouch facilities will take considerably longer to reach the state voting official since the FPCA would have to go first to Washington and be remailed. Also, if the State Department pouch facilities are used, the Department of State can assume no responsibility for loss of the FPCA.

Public Law 95-593 (1978), which amended the Overseas Citizens Voting Rights Act, was designed to streamline the procedures for persons desiring to vote by absentee ballots.

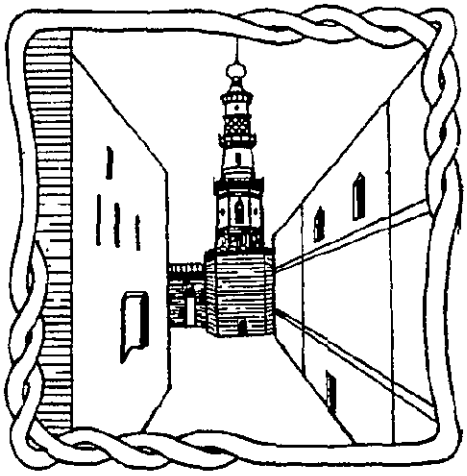
Tax Liability Incurred by Registering to Vote: According to the law, if you register to vote and vote for only federal officials, i.e. the President, Vice-President, U.S. Senators and U.S. Representatives to Congress, that action will not affect the determination of domicile for tax purposes at either the federal, state, or local level. This provision is not intended to grant immunity from taxation but merely to forbid the exercise of the right to vote in federal elections to be considered a factor in determining tax liability. Note, however, that some applications for ballots or the ballots themselves will ask you whether you want to vote for state officials up for election, e.g. candidates for governor, candidates for the state legislature. Since the law only covers federal officials, if you decide to vote for state officials, you may in some states find that your actions in registering to vote for state officials or actually voting for state officials will allow the particular state to consider voting as a factor in determining tax domicile. It would be wise then, before voting for state officials to consult the Voting Assistance Guide which lists the states operating in this manner. We reiterate, if you register to vote and only vote for federal officials the law precludes the federal government and state or local governments from using voting in determining your tax domicile.

Identity and Citizenship Evidence: In filling out the FPCA form, you have to show to the consul in most cases evidence of your U.S. citizenship and identity. In order to save time, always bring with you your U.S. passport and U.S. card of identity. The new law, however, provides that if a U.S. citizen does not have a U.S. passport or U.S. card of identity, he or she may still register to vote upon presentation of other suitable evidence of

citizenship and identity. This provision will primarily affect those Americans living in Canada and Mexico.

Denial of Right to Vote: Any person who believes that he or she has been wrongfully denied the right to vote should follow the procedures outlined in the Voting Assistance Guide or may communicate directly with the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, D.C. 20530.

SHOPPING



Most shops are open 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. in winter and 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. in summer and almost all stores are closed on Sundays. Many stores stay open later on Monday and Thursday evenings. "A Practical Guide To Cairo," published by AUC Press contains useful shopping information and neighborhood maps. "Cairo A-Z" also contains detailed maps and is available locally.

Khan El Khalili

The most famous of Cairo's shopping areas is the Khan El Khalili. It is over 600 years old and its environs go back even further than that. During the rule of Salah El-Din Ayoubi (Saladin) a prince called Ezz El Din Musk built a bridge over the lake that was formed by the receding waters of the Nile in an area of Cairo encircled by four gates. The area became known as Kantaret El Muski, and developed into a central market place for goods from all over the world. Later, Gerkas El Khalili saw the Mameluke buildings that filled the quarter as a center not only for trade but for the dwellings of craftsmen. The wikalas of the Khan still exist today, though not in the profusion of the 19th century when an English visitor to Cairo mentioned over 2000 such places.

The Wekalat el Ghouri and the Musafirkhane are the best preserved, and today house artists and craftspeople, as well as a museum displaying regional crafts and costumes. The by-ways of the Khan still boast beautiful examples of Islamic architecture, such as the Beit Suhami, where a spacious courtyard filters out the noise of the street-life and blue tiled rooms repose in dappled sunlight from the mashrabeya balcony windows, the hand-turned "harem screens" for which Islamic Cairo is famous. These and many more continue along the paths skirting the Khan to the old city gates. Visit mosques, fountains, madrassas (schools for the study of the Koran). There are maps for these Islamic walking tours, but the best way is simply to get lost in the past.

For most visitors, however, the Khan means shopping--exploring some 10,000 tiny hole-in-the-corner shops and bargaining in the centuries-old Oriental style. The winding streets may seem confusing, but trades are grouped in suks, such as the gold suk. There one finds all the bangles and beads, each carefully weighed on a scale to determine price. The gold is usually 18 carat, and the daily price is posted in the newspaper.Extra is charged for workmanship, and there, if you are skilled at it, is room to haggle. Near the gold street is the old silver bazaar, where merchants sell bits of Bedouin jewelry, Christofle cutlery, coffee services, all of varying antiquity, but all equally dust covered.

Keep wandering through the spice bazaar, where henna, kohl and perfume are sold, packaged in the most exquisite bottles. Watch the brass and coppersmiths create engraved trays, lamps, and vases, the young apprentice boys copying the ways of their masters. Off to one side is a courtyard where mashrabaya furniture is made to order. Nearby you can buy amber beads, boxes inlaid with mother-of-pearl, leather slippers and purses. There is Muski glass, blown in blues and greens, galabeyas in cotton and silk, and much more. Stay away from "antiquities;" it is illegal to buy real ones and what you see are fakes. Take time to chat with a shop-keeper, share a shai (tea) or coffee masbout (medium sugar). Bargain with good humor, not downgrading the merchandise, but respecting the age-old cleverness of buyer and seller. A quarter off is a good bargain. Fifty percent is a great one.

Take time out for lunch at one of the pancake houses across from the Al Azhar mosque, or try kebabs at the Hotel Hussein where you can sit on a balcony high above the main square of the Hussein mosque and watch the action below. And not to be missed, Fishawi's Cafe, favorite meeting place of all Cairo for a coffee and narghila (water pipe).

Dokki and Giza

This area, at first, seems a difficult place to shop. By wandering around, you will find shops that are most interesting and located in the strangest places. El Tahrir, El Dokki and El Giza are the main streets; between them are many small boutiques, grocers, hair stylists, and other stores. Supermarkets include Lappas on El Giza and Seoudi Supermarket on the corner of El Misaha and Okba, which carry imported foods. Alpha Market on El Nil Street has a wide variety of imported cheese, groceries, and household goods.

Raghab Papyrus, 3 Wissa Wassef St., near the Sheraton Hotel, Dokki, is well known for its artistic papyrus gifts. The outdoor souk, on Suliman Gohar Street, has everything from bottles and rug beaters to fresh vegetables, fish and meats. Walk, don't drive! For bakeries, restaurants, dry cleaners, book stores, boutiques, etc., drive down El Tahrir.

Garden City/Downtown

Shopping "downtown" is a different sort of experience. On the main streets of Talaat Harb and Kasr El Nil and their arteries one can find bookshops, leather shops, old maps, antique shops, shoe stores, stores specializing in furniture, cotton and silk fabric. Try Groppi's for tea, and imagine the British days as you enjoy your pastry. Scattered throughout Cairo are many shops specializing in modern crafts, pottery, jewelry, embroidery, and metalwork. Locations and hours vary.

Food shopping centers around the market of Bab el Louk; you will find fresh fruits and vegetables, poultry, fish, beef, some spices and various dry goods. Nicolas & Fils also handle pork. Blue Nile Grocery (also carries local beer and soft drinks) is the best and will deliver. For local shami and baladi breads, buy from the nearest vendor; remember to heat these before eating them. Pastries and bread are available at the hotels; Semiramis sells croissants, as do Groppi's and Lappas. Try La Poire near the Embassy for fruit pies, fancy cakes and bread.

Pharmacies are well stocked. The one opposite the Embassy is Abdel Aziz Hakim Pharmacy.

Furniture, both mashrabeya and bamboo, may be found downtown; prices are good, but quality varies. There are good bamboo shops along Sharia Ramses; El Wishey Bamboo is recommended as very good. Items may be purchased "off the floor" or special order. Art supplies and stationery are sometimes found in bookstores. Dar Saad (Sherif Street) is very well equipped with artists supplies. Household equipment stores are plentiful. Yacoubian, on Talaat Harb, and several shops on Sharia Sharwarby carry imported items. Salon Vert is a department store and has several specialty shops nearby. Kasr el Nil is an excellent street to find shops carrying silks, cottons, upholstery fabrics, notions, and various household needs. Talaat Harb and adjoining streets have leather goods, sports gear and other interesting shops.

Attaba

Located between Opera Square and Khan El Khalili, off Sharia el Azhar, there are rows of stalls with vendors selling spices, meats, flowers and produce. Attaba is a place for wandering and buying the freshest foods. Each Friday, fresh fish from the Red Sea and Mediterranean are available. Try the arous or denise, two firm-fleshed fish. The manager of the excellent spice shop speaks some English. If you can describe what you want, he'll get it.

Heliopolis

Heliopolis is a city-suburb. You can find just about anything in easily accessible shopping areas. Baghdad Street, starting at Ibrahim El Lagani, is a good place for shopping. There are dry cleaners, shoe repairmen, hair stylists for men and women, a bakery, boutiques, pharmacies, a toy store, baby shop, stationery store and supermarket - all in a four block walk.

Maadi

Shopping in Maadi is easy and can be fun. It's impossible to get lost in the main shopping area on Road 9, where you will find numerous shops and fresh fruit and vegetable stands that carry imported as well as local produce. Easily located are the pharmacies, butchers, beauty salons, florists, jewelry shops, banks, travel services, newsstands and bookshops, gift shops, upholstery, carpentry shops, electrical, hardware, and plumbing shops, laundry and dry cleaning services, along with boutiques and two widely-used grocery stores, Amins's and Gomaa's where a good selection of imported as well as local goods are found. Gomaa also owns a barber shop, as well as a shop where items ranging from feather dusters, household gadgets, dishes, pots/pans, clocks, canteens and thermos bottles to cassette tapes may be found. Ayad's Shop not only has party equipment and appliances for rent, does bicycle and repair work of all sorts, but it is also the place to go when all else fails - Ayad can find someone to repair almost anything. Taxi drivers in Maadi and merchants on Road 9 speak passable to fluent English; communication is generally not a problem.

The Viennese Meat Market has a special delivery and order pick-up service located at Road 202, House 6, Apt. 10, Maadi. The main shop is located in Cairo - Tel. 756294. Located on the corner of El Nadi and Road 23 is a small shopping complex including a grocery store, produce stand, shoe store, antique store, pharmacy, boutique, and a government-owned store which carries a large variety of household goods.

Old Maadi Souk is bounded by Roads 155, 153, and 100. Good place to bargain for fresh vegetables and fruits, or try the various stores selling all sorts of items. Not a lot of English is spoken in the souk area but by practicing your Arabic and using lots of sign language, you can acquire some good bargains.

Mohandessin

Mohandessin, a new section of Cairo, offers many conveniences and excellent shops. The shopping plaza, resembling a mall, has just been completed and stretches along 5 blocks of Gameat El Dowal El Arabiya Street from Abdel Aziz to 26 July Street. The Plaza includes everything from a travel agency, banking services, photo developing (camera batteries, too), clothing stores (men, women and children), to one of the best stocked sporting goods stores in all of Cairo. Tennis shoes as well as bicycles, tennis and soccer equipment, etc. are just a few of the items offered. There is also a grocery store which is an excellent source for convenience items, and other stores as well as the show room for Mansour Chevrolet. Sawsan, which sells women's clothes, is an excellent dressmaker.

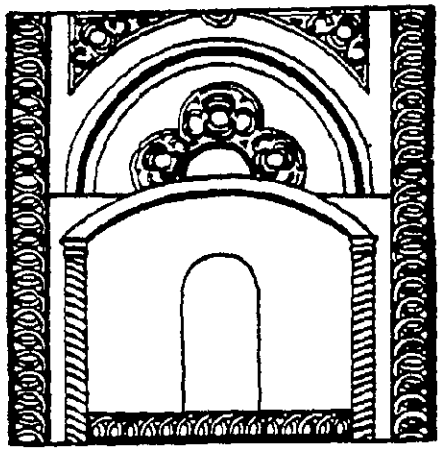
Gallery Boutros located at 55 Abdel Moneim Riad is billed as a "mini Khan el Khalili". He also has a shop in the Khan and can obtain most items you want within 24 hours. The "Mud Factory," 261 Sudan St., produces pottery mugs, figurines, vases, lamps, etc., and takes special orders.

There are numerous top notch hotels in the area, many offering good restaurants, shops, and bakeries. The Atlas Zamalek Hotel (name does not reflect its location) is across from the shopping plaza on El Arabiya Street and includes a nice restaurant and pool (top floor) which charges a daily pool fee no membership required. El Manar Hotel (Mahrour Street) offers a souvenir shop, pastry shop, hairdresser, and Budget Rental Car, all accessible from the street.

Zamalek

On the three-block stretch of 26 July Street, from Mahmoud Azmy to Kamel Mohammed, are stores selling almost anything. Many boutiques and shoe stores are tucked all over Zamalek. Prices vary, as does quality. Some stores sell Egyptian-made clothes of good quality, such as Mix and Match, Mobaco, Scorpio and Benetton. Other shops, such as Mut Rihan, Safar Khan and Mamluk, specialize in Egyptian arts and crafts, as does Nomad in the Marriot Hotel shopping arcade. This shopping arcade also contains a deli/bakery. Other bakeries in Zemalek are Le Bec Sucre in the President Hotel and the St. Moritz on Taha Hussein St. Zamalek is a fun place to get lost while shopping.

LOCAL MEDIA



Newspapers and Magazines

There are numerous publications available in Cairo, presented in many different languages. Those of primary interest are in English, French, or Arabic and are listed below.

The Egyptian Gazette is the sole English language daily and is available at newsstands for 30 pts. per copy. The Saturday issue is known as the Egyptian Mail. Daily articles include current local events, some world news, sports, summary translations of editorials in the Arabic press as well as on-going cultural activities in Cairo. The editorial column is its best feature.

Cairo Press Review published by the GOE Middle East News Agency is an English translation service issued daily for the benefit of diplomatic missions and the non-Arabic speaking community. It features the most important news items and editorials that appear in the regular Egyptian newspapers "Al Ahram", "Al Akhbar" and "Al Gamhoria". The Cairo Press Review is available on a subscription basis only and can be ordered by calling 741011.

International Herald Tribune (Paris) carries articles on Egypt and the Middle East by American correspondents. There is a short time lag both in publication of the story and in delivery of this six-day-a-week newspaper.

Middle East Observer (Cairo) specializes in reporting changes in Egyptian legislation, tender notices and shipping news. It is published each Wednesday.

Middle East Economic Digest (London) carries economic and political news of Egypt as well as other Mideast countries. There are some specialized articles relating to economic activities in the region.

The Economist (London) is highly recommended for its general news coverage. Newsweek and Time are also available locally.

Maadi Messenger and Heliopolis Happenings are published bi-weekly by their respective communities. As suggested by their titles, they report forthcoming community activities and news of interest to the respective groups.

Cairo Today is a monthly magazine which features articles about cultural, historical and social aspects of Egypt. Copies are sold at bookstores.

The Middle East Times is a weekly newspaper with a special Egypt edition. This newspaper provides an insight into current events and culture not usually accessible to the non-Arabic reader. Available at newstands.

The Middle East (London) is a monthly version of an American weekly news magazine. Arabic, the Islamic World Review (London) publishes longer feature articles of interest to the region.

Quarterly Economic Review of Egypt (London) published by the Economist economic intelligence unit summerizes major political and economic events for the previous quarter with statistical appendices and graphs.

The Middle East Journal (Washington) contains several scholarly articles, but most of each issue is devoted to reprints of documents, chronology of previous quarter with statistical appendices and graphs, as well as book reviews. The Middle EastJournal can be ordered from 1761 N Street N.W. Washington, D.C. 20036, for $25.00 per year plus $9.50 for foreign postage.

Economic Review (Cairo) is published by the Central Bank of Egypt and the Economic Bulletin (Cairo) is published by the National Bank of Egypt.

Le Journal d'Egypte and Le Progres Egyptien are two daily newspapers that are easily obtainable at newsstands. The coverage is similar to the English language counterpart, the Egyptian Gazette.

Al Ahram, Al Akhbar and Al Gumhuria are the three principal Arabic language dailies. All are readily available at newsstands. The selection of weeklies, monthlies, and quarterlies as well as other serial type Arabic language materials is numerous and varied.

Radio and Television

Classical and popular music programs are broadcast on Cairo radio. BBC and VOA broadcast extensive English programs. In addition there are three T.V. channels which offer about five English language programs per day. Television is all in PAL-SECAM format.

Libraries

There are many libraries readily accessible. Following is a list of the most commonly used facilities.

AID/Development Information Center (DIC) is located on the 10th floor of the Cairo Center. DIC has a near complete computerized list of studies, project reports, feasibility studies, follow-up reports, etc. of AID-sponsored or funded activities in Egypt. It is the primary, if not the only, source of information on hitherto untapped development information in the country.

The Commercial Library under the aegis of the U.S. Department of Commerce is located on the ground floor of the annex which houses the Commercial Service at the American Embassy. Its primary function is the promotion of U.S./Egypt trade activities and thus acts as the source of information on U.S. firms for Egyptian businessmen. Basic business and trade references, some telephone directories as well as trade magazines and journals are available. The Commercial Library publishes and distributes a bi-annual list of U.S. companies with offices in Egypt.

USIS American Center Library is located at 4 Ahmed Ragheb Street, Garden City. It is oriented towards serving the cultural and information needs of the Egyptian community at the graduate educational and academic level. The library collection includes periodicals, pamphlets, and books in the fields of medicine, engineering, art, literature, economics, history of the U.S., etc.

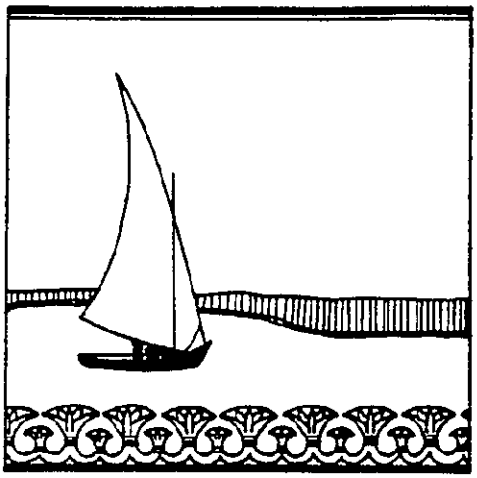
American Univeristy in Cairo Library, located on the new campus, is housed in a modernistic concrete style building. Its collection comprises close to 150,000 volumes and nearly 1000 periodicals. The reading rooms are open to visitors and scholars may apply for borrowing privileges at the office of the Director.

The Cathedral Library., affiliated with All Saints' Cathedral in Zemalek (across from the Marriott Hotel), has a small but varied collection, largely fiction but also including a section on Egypt. Annual membership is available to individuals and families at nominal rates.

U.S. Post Reference Library is located on the Embassy compound. Its collection is made up of economic, political, international law, historical and country information publications.

Cairo American College Library is located at CAC in Maadi. It is generally accessible to parents of children who are enrolled and to others upon payment of a fee. It has good fiction and Egyptian collections.

There are other libraries located at various U.N. offices and other diplomatic missions such as the British, French, Indian. Access is possible either by direct membership or via interlibrary loans.



Special Interest Activities

Because of the diversity of the community's interests, it is impossible to list all of the special activities available. Information is readily available from the Women's Association, the Petroleum Wives, the Maadi Guild, various other women's clubs, the Maadi Messenger, Cairo Today, and the Egyptian Gazette. There are morning coffees given through women's clubs in various neighborhoods. For nature lovers, there is the Nature Society and the Tree Lovers' Association; there are riding stables near the Pyramids for those who like horseback riding; there are numerous bridge clubs, the Computer Club for computer buffs; square dance enthusiasts have Jolly Jog- gers; the Cairo Yacht Club rents boats for sailors; and the Cairo Diving Club has snorkeling and scuba diving. Following is a list of some of the other community organizations:

Maadi Women's Club
Women's Association
British Community Association Women's Groups
Cairo Petroleum Wives
Cairo Women's Club
YWCA
Community Services Association
American Chamber of Commerce in Egypt
British Community Association
CAC Boosters Club
Heliopolis Community Activities Association
Rotary International
YMCA
Egyptian American Friendship Association
Cairo Art Guild
Moms and Tots playgroup
Egypt Exploration Society
Scottish Country Dancing

Maadi Community Players
Cairo Players
Heliopolis Drama Group
Cairo Choral Society
Cairo Opera Chorus and Cairo Symphony Orchestra
American Research Center in Egypt (ARCE)/Archaeology Club
Al Salaam International Hospital Volunteers
Society for the Preservation of Architectural Resources of Egypt (SPARE)
Nature Society
Tree Lovers Association
Alcoholics Anonymous and Al Anon Family Groups
Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts
Girl Scouts and Brownies
Little League
Bridge
Dart League
Golf
Rugby
Running, Hash House Harriers
Sailing
Scuba, Cairo Divers Club
Softball Leagues
Soccer
Squash
Swimming
Tennis

Cultural Activities

Egypt has long been a cultural center of the Middle East and in the modern era, is the "heart of the Arab world." Egyptian films, television programs and books are available throughout the region. Egypt was the first Arab country to develop an indigenous press; Egyptian novelists and poets were among the first to experiment with new styles of Arabic literature, and the forms they developed have been widely imitiated. In Cairo and surrounding communities you will find a wide variety of cultural activities.

The foreign cultural centers, primarily American, British, Italian, French, German and Japanese, offer a variety of programs from time to time. Cairo, a Practical Guide, describes each of

the centers, giving address and major focus. Also there are several movie theaters that regularly show American and other foreign films. Advertisements for these appear in The Egyptian Gazette. Movies are shown from time to time at the various culture centers.

Excellent performances of both local and foreign artists of drama, opera, ballet, musical groups and soloists are available. Some active groups and theaters are:

Cairo Opera House, Zemalek
Gomhouria Theater, 12 El Gomhouria Street, Tel 919956
Balloon Theater, Sharia El Nil, Agouza, Tel 3471718/ 34717718
American University in Cairo, Midan El Tahrir, Tel 352904
Nile Hilton/British Airways Dinner Theatre, Nile Hilton Hotel, Tel 750666
Maadi Community Players, c/o Catholic Church, Maadi, Tel 3501178
The Cairo Players, Garden City and Zamalek, Tel 3415959

Community Services

The Community Services Association, a non-profit organization, located at 4 Road 21, Maadi, offers support services to meet the unique needs of the English-speaking community through education, counselling, social and recreational programs. It is funded by donations and in-kind contributions from businesses, community organizations and the U.S. government, as well as contracts and program fees. Operating hours: Sunday - Thursday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Programs include professional counselors helping adults, teens and children deal with a wide variety of problems and concerns; career and vocational counseling; continuing education with language classes, exercise and weight control programs, computer and business skills courses, parenting workshops, arts and crafts, cooking, hobby classes; programs for youths; newcomers programs; tele-tape information including telephone tapes and pamphlets providing information on health, counseling and community concerns and community information.

Places of Worship (other than the many mosques)

Basilica of Our Lady (C) 41 Baghdad St., Heliopolis. Tel 662769
Cordi Jesu Church (C), 3 Abdel Khaled Sarwat St. Tel 758272
Our Lady Fatima (C), 93 Nuzha St., Heliopolis. Tel 2436274
St. Joseph Church (C), 2 Bank Isr St. Tel 756677
St. Joseph Church (C), 4 Ahmed Sabri St., Zamalek. Tel 3408902
St. Theresa Church (C), 16 Shubra Street, Shubra. Tel 943490
The Holy Family Church, House 55 Road 15, Maadi. Tel 3502004
Armenian Church of the Anunciation (C), 36 Mohamed Sabry Abu Alam St. Tel 758429
St. Mary of Peach Church (C), 4 Midan Mustafa Kamel, Abdin. Tel 3545826
Evangelical Church of Cairo (P), 39 26th of July St. Tel 748199
First Baptist Church (P), 50 Mohamed El Khalafawy St., Shubra. Tel 948481
German Evangelical Church (P), 32 El Galaa St.
Maadi Community Church (P), Sharia Port Said & Rd. 17, Maadi. Tel 3532118
Pentecostal Church of God (P), Ahmed Pasha Kamel St., Shubra.
St. Andrews United Church of Cairo (P), 38 26th of July St. Tel 3530445
St. Michael & All Angels (P), 10 Seti St., Heliopolis. Tel 664315
Seventh Day Adventist Church, 16 Quba St., Roxy, Heliopolis. Tel 2580292
All Saints Cathedral (Episcopal), Michel Lutfalla St., Zamalek. Tel 3418391
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 21 Rd. 86, Maadi
Main Synagogue, 17 Adly St. Tel 749025
The Synagogue, 55 Road 13, Maadi.
The Synagogue, 25 Sabil El-Khazindar, Midan El Gueish. Tel 827850
Ben Ezra Synagogue, Old Cairo next to St. George's Church
Hanan Synagogue, 2 Quantaret Ghamra St., Ghamra.
Assemblies of God, 7 Rd 6, Maadi. Tel 3507818
Heliopolis Community Church (Interdenominational), 8-10 Seti St., Tel 660399
Maryam Sayedet El Salam Church (C), 4 Midan Sheikh Youssef. Tel 3545826

(C): Catholic
(P): Protestant

RESTAURANTS

There are many interesting restaurant in the Cairo area some of which you wil want to try. Most restaurants catering to foreigners are relatively clean and are located in all parts of the city. A list of some of the most popular follows.

Dokki and Giza

El Yotti: 44 Mohy El Din Aboul Ezz. Egyptian and continental. Te. 3494944.

Flying Fish: 166 El Nil Road. Good fish and shrimp. Reasonable prices.

Mc Burger: Corniche. Opposite the Cairo Sheraton.

Nile Pharoah: 31 El Nil St., Giza. Cruise down the Nile while enjoying buffet lunch or dinner. Reservations recommended. Tel. 738957 or 738914.

Omam Restaurants: 5 Wissa Wassef St., Riyadh Tower, Giza. Moroccan, Italian, Indian and Japanese restaurants and a coffee shop. No alcohol. Tel. 737592 or 737595.

Steak Corner: 8 Midan Amman, Dokki, near the Shooting Club. Good steaks and reasonable prices.

Swissair Le Chateau: Corner of El Shahid Abdel Hady Salah Abdulla and Sharia El Nil (Nasr Building). Swiss and French cuisine, good service and atmosphere. Expensive. Requires jacket and tie.

Swissair Le Chalet: Downstairs from Le Chateau. Good Swiss style restaurant food and excellent service.

Swiss Chalet: 3 Ahmed Nessim near University Bridge. Bar-B-Q charcoal-broiled chicken a speciality.

Taj Mahal: 15 Midan Ibn Affan, Dokki. Indian food. Tel. 3484881.

Tout Express: Midan Finney, Dokki. Juice bar and snacks, served in your car.

Garden City/Downtown

La Palme D'Or: Meridien Hotel. French cuisine, expensive.

Aladin: 26 Sherif. Oriental food.

Arabesque: 6 Kasr el Nil. Excellent food and service in nice atmosphere, bar and art gallery. Tel 759896

Ariston: Passageway next to Miami Cinema on Talaat Harb. Greek food.

Brazilian Coffee Shop: 38 Sharia Talaat Harb or 12 Sharia 26th of July.

Carroll's: 12 Kasr el Nil. European food exceptionally well prepared. Reservations recommended.

Estoril: 12 Talaat Harb St. Good food, lunch and dinner.

Excelsior: 35 Sharia Talaat Harb beside Cinema Metro - tea and sandwiches.

Felfela: 15 Sharia Hoda Shaawawy just off Sharia Talaat Harb. Specializes in Egyptian food, low prices.

Kowloon: Tahrir Square, 1st floor of Cleopatra Hotel. Chinese-Korean. Tel. 759831.

Nile Hilton Hotel: Corniche El Nil. Good food.

Ramses Hilton Hotel: 1115 Corniche el Nil. Good food.

Paprika: 1129 Corniche el Nil. Grilled pigeon, baked fish.

Rex: 33 Abdel Khalek Sarwat. Good food at reasonable prices.

Semiramis Intercontinental Hotel. Corniche el Nil, Garden City. Several restaurants and bars.

Heliopolis

Al Salam Hotel: Gisr El Suez St., El Shams Sporting Club.

Amphitrion: Corner Ibrahim el Lagani Street and Al-Ahram Street in front of Koueider. Clean, good food, sells beer. Also sidewalk cafe.

Chantilly: 11 Baghdad Street, Koba.

Dacker Boy: Hegaz St., fish specialties.

El Shaawi: Osman ibn Affan. Oriental food, eat in or take away.

Meridian Hotel: Orouba St.

Movenpick Hotel: Airport Square.

Palmyra: Next to CIA Travel, Al-Ahram Street. Kabab. Sidewalk cafe.

Sheraton Heliopolis Hotel: Near airport. Several ethnic theme restaurants.

Wimpey's: Salah El Din, behind Merryland.

Maadi

Kentucky Fried Chicken: Road 9 across from Maadi Metro Station. Eat in or take out.

Four Season Korean Restaurant: Corner Mustafa Kamel and Road 15 or Road 266, New Maadi.

Happy Joes: Road 9: Italian, eat in or take out.

Mermaid: Road 9. Pizza.

Pearl Hotel: 82 corner Road 7.

Angus Steak House: Road 9

Korean Restaurant: Adjacent to the Good Shot on the Corniche

La Dolce Vita: A Wonderful ice cream shop Rd 18.

Maadi Hotel Dining Room: 11 Rd 18

Seahorse: Helwan/Corniche Road, near Maadi Military Hospital. Outdoor seafood restaurant.

Sweet Hotel: 39 Road 13.

Swiss Chalet: Off Road 153. Pizza, Italian dishes, new and very good.

Mohandessin

Cairo Inn Hotel: Espanada Spanish restaurant with excellent food and a guitarist for entertainment. Located on Syria Street.

Swiss Chalet: 10 El Nakhil Street. Light meals.

Al Jasmin: Kanzy Hotel, Abul Bakr el Siddik. Good French food. Expensive.

Okamato: 7 Ahmed Oraby. Japanese restaurant specializing in sashimi, tempura and sukiyaki.

Naniwa: 3 Lebanon St. Japanese. Tel. 3465943/3466154.

Kentucky Fried Chicken: El Batal Ahmed Abdel Aziz. Eat in or take out.

Prestige Restaurant: El Batal Ahmed Abdel Aziz St.

Tandoori: 11 Shehab St. Indian food specialties. No alcohol. Take out available. Tel 3486301

Pyramids Area

Andrea: 60 Marioutia Road. Specializes in grilled chicken and kebab.

El Dar: Approximately 3.5 miles left off Pyramids Road onto Canal Road. Lamb a specialty.

La Rose: Marioutia Road. Specializes in grilled chicken and kebab.

Bonito: Pyramids Road. Fresh fish a specialty.

The Farm: El Marioutia Street. Lamb a specialty.

Felfela Village: Maryoutia Canal. Egyptian cuisine. Also has floor show. Friday and Sunday afternoons featuring dancing horses and puppet shows.

Mena House Indian Restaurant: Mohgul Restaurant on Pyramids Road. Lunch and dinner. Excellent. Reservations and moderate prices.

Zamalek

Angus: 34 Yehia Ibrahim St. Specializes in beef. Reservations needed for weekends.

Balmoral Chinese Restaurant: 157 26th of July Street. In the Balmoral Hotel.

Don Quichotte: 9A Ahmed Heshmat. European atmosphere, French cuisine. Very small and reservations required. Tel. 3406415/3415496.

El Patio: 5 Sayed El Bakry St. Daily Specials. Piano bar upstairs, patio outside.

Four Corners: 4 Hassan Sabri St. Discotheque and two restaurants (including elegant Justine's).

La Mediterranee: 13A Marashly. Small, elegant, excellent seafood.

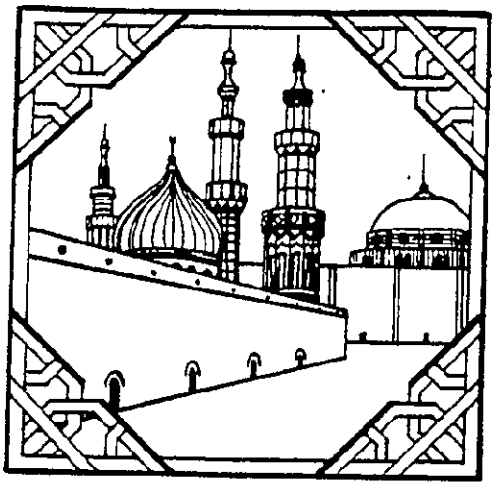
La Piazza: 4 Hassan Sabri St., Italian food.

President Hotel: 22 Taha Hussein. Roof garden dining or downstairs restaurant (The Cellar). Charbroiled meats and Egyptian salads. Tel. 3400652.

Pub 28: 28 Shagaret El Dorr St. Bar and restaurant.

Tokyo: 2 Sayed El Bakry. Japanese food and decor.

SIGHTSEEING



Cairo is a city lover's city. There are quiet moments to be found--the vastness of the desert as seen from horseback, the wind in the palm trees of the Mena House or Manial Palace gardens, a felucca sail piercing the blue sky - but the true essence of Cairo is in the vitality of its people. For some, this translates into crowds, noise, traffic, and the rubble of constant construction. But the dust that layers all this urban sprawl does not obscure the remarkable good nature of the Cairenes. Traffic police, sidewalk hawkers, young "car watchers," taxi drivers, chic shoppers: all offer a smiling Sabah el Khair. If you answer with Sabah el Ful (morning of flowers), you've made their day, and yours too.

Cairo should be explored on foot. Drive to your destination, then leave your car and enjoy all the sights, sounds and smells. There are several good guides and maps to follow. Best is the Practical Guide to Cairo (AUC Press), with the most complete list of services and facilities available. For exploring Pharonic monuments, Jill Kamel's guide books are excellent, while the SPARE maps and and A Practical Guide to the Islamic Monuments of Cairo (AUC Press) are the best for exploring Islamic Cairo. Community Services Association's Things to See and Do in Cairo is useful for hints on day trips.

Cairo is many cities. There is the city of monuments and museums, Pharonic and Islamic. Give yourself enough time in the well-known ones, but don't neglect the smaller, specialized museums, such as the Mohamed Mahmoud Khalil in Zamalek for paintings and porcelains, the Agricultural Museum in Dokki, the Carriage Museum on the Citadel, and the Gayer-Anderson House. There is the City of the Thousand Minarets explore the Northern and Southern cemeter- ies with their stunning examples of Islamic architecture (The Carved Masonry Domes of Cairo, AUC Press, is good to have along). There is the city of craftsmen, not only in the well-known Khan el Khalili, but also, the tent makers,

bookbinders, glass blowers, carpet makers, potters, and modern artists with studios in old wikalas and modern office buildings. Check with the Faculties of Fine and Applied Arts for names, or go to the many exhibitions held in government and private galleries.

Cairo too is a city of markets. There are souks for spices, for fish, for musical instruments, for camels from the Sudan with their turbaned sellers, a souk for household items, hand dipped candles, live animals, rattan furniture and more. Then there is the modern city, with chic hotels, the Cairo Tower, boutiques, fashion designers, opera, symphony, ballet and theater.

There is the city of leisure boat rides on the Nile, whether from the Yacht Club or by felucca, horseback riding, golf, tennis on the courts of the Gezira or Maadi Club, diving excursions to the Red Sea, or just lounging in one of the "casinos" (cafes) along the riverfront.

To fully enjoy your stay in Egypt, visit the historical sights and monuments; attend lectures and tours; and explore the surrounding countryside. Getting a sense of the deep historical significance of Egypt and an acquaintance with the hearty, open friendliness of the people helps offset irritants and inefficiencies of an over-populated city.

There is so much to absorb that sightseeing takes time; try not to schedule too much in any one day. Newcomers will be most comfortable the first few weeks by leaving the driving to someone else. For "on your own" tours, in addition to using taxis, there are car rentals. There are also a number of travel agencies offering daily excursions and travel services. The Egyptian Center for International Cultural Cooperation also organizes excursions to places of interest outside of Cairo. Their tours are advertised in the Egyptian Gazette. Enjoying Egypt III - Things to do and Places to go in a Day, a guidebook published by C.S.A., is an excellent reference in addition to the tour guidebooks readily available, as it focuses not only on the historical sites but also on some of the less obvious things to do and see in and around Cairo.

Museums

Egyptian Antiquities: Centrally located just behind the Nile Hilton Hotel, this museum houses the richest and most interesting collection of Egyptian antiquities. Contains Pharaonic treasures dating back more than 5,000 years. Bookstore, cafeteria and banking facilities available. Open 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Closed 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Fridays. Entrance fee is LE 5.

Islamic Art: Located on Midan Ahmed Maher, this museum displays one of the world's largest collections of Islamic masterpieces. Open daily 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and is closed from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Fridays. Entrance fee is LE 5.

Coptic: Located in Old Cairo next to the Greek Orthodox Church of St. George, this museum contains a rare collection of objects from Egypt's Christian era. Allow 1-2 hours travel time to and from downtown hotels. Open daily from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and closed from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Fridays. Entrance fee is LE 5.

Cairo Mosques

Mosque of Ibn Tulun: One of the oldest mosques in Cairo and the sole survivor of the vast building program of the Tulunid dynasty (868-905). Building started in 876 A.D.; completed in 879. Visitors should walk around the whole of the courtyard to gain a feeling of the size, simplicity, and grandeur for which this mosque is noted.

Sultan Hassan Mosque: Considered to be one of the greatest Islamic monuments in Cairo. Striking in its majestic and noble proportions with equal mastery of detail. The mosque was built between 1356 and 1362.

Al Azhar Mosque. One of the principal mosques of Cairo and the most important religious university in the Islamic world. Building started in 970; it was inaugurated in 972, thus making it the oldest university in the world.

Mosque of Muhammad Ali: Known as the Alabaster Mosque, work was begun in 1824 and completed in 1857. Turkish Empire in style, although the architect was Greek. A Byzantine dome rests on four

huge pillars, and there is a vast chandelier. With its great dome and two towering pencil-like minarets, the mosque is a principal landmark on the Cairo skyline. The tomb of Muhammad Ali is in a separate chamber.

Al Hussein Mosque: Built in honor of the grandson of the Prophet Mohamed. Houses some of the most sacred relics of Islam, including pieces of the Prophet's clothing and other articles used by the Prophet. The Al Hussein Mosque is open to non-Moslems by special permission.

Remnants of Ancient History

Pyramids of Giza: Best-known Pharaonic remains of the more than 75 pyramids in Egypt. Base of Pyramid of Cheops (2690 B.C.) covers an area of 13 acres; original height was 146 meters, today only 136 due to erosion; total volume of its stones is 2,500,000 cubic metres. Second in size is Pyramid of Chephren, Cheop's son, built around 2650 B.C. Smallest of the three is the Pyramid of Mycerinis, erected about 2600 B.C.: 62 metres high, with its base encased in granite.

Sphinx: Considered in ancient times one of the "seven wonders of the world." Lies some 170 meters southeast of the pyramids; built by Chephren from huge granite blocks; almost 60 meters in length and 30 meters tall at its head. There is a Sound and Light presentation on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings in English.

Solar Boat: Located at the base of the Pyramid of Cheops. Two pits were noticed, by chance, in 1954 at the foot of the southern face of the Great Pyramid. The pit which was opened contained an astonishing vessel over 130 feet long, made of pieces of cedar carefully carved and bonded with small cords. Experts from the Cairo Museum later reconstructed this boat at Giza. The museum is open from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and the entrance fee is LE 5.

Sakkara: About 25 kms south of Giza. Contains monuments spanning some 3,000 years. Step Pyramid built by King Zoser (Third Dynasty, 2816 B.C.) is the first stone structure in history, antedating the Giza Pyramids by a century. Also, a complex of

temples and tombs dating to the Fifth and Sixth Dynasties. Entrance fee is LE 5.

Memphis: Ancient remains located six kms. south of Sakkara. First capital of Egypt.

Other Places of Interest in Egypt

Abu Qir: A suburb east of Alexandria; beaches, fishing. Site of one of Nelson's famous sea battles, 1799. Good seafood restaurants.

Abu Simbel: Among the best of ancient Egyptian monuments; two large rock-cut temples built by Ramses II(13th centurn B.C.). Moved by UNESCO in the 1960's to avoid the waters of Lake Nasser.

Agami: A Mediterranean beach resort, 20 km west of Alexandria.

Ain Sukhna: Beach on Gulf of Suez. Many beaches in this area are mined; use only beaches posted as "safe".

El Alamein: A seaside resort, famous for World War II battle; cemeteries and a museum.

Alexandria (el Iskandariya): Second largest city and largest port, founded in 323 B.C. by Alexander the Great. Very popular holiday resort with several long sandy beaches. Palaces, museums, catacombs, Pompey's Pillar, Kom el Dik theater, etc. Famous library destroyed by Patriarch Theophilus, 391 B.C. The long-destroyed lighthouse of Pharos was one of the seven wonders of the ancient world.

El Ashmunein: Village near Minya (Middle Egypt) with the ruins of "Hermopolis" temples, statues and tombs of many dates; the necropolis at Tuna el-Gebel; and other antiquities in the area.

Aswan: Ancient and picturesque town in Upper Egypt, world-famous winter resort near the 1st cataract of the Nile. Pharaonic tombs, Aga Khan mausoleum, granite quarries, Philae temples, and 6th century monastery.

Aswan Dam: Build in the early 20th century and raised several times; located north of the Aswan High Dam. The temple of Philae has been moved to high ground from the waters behind the Dam.

Aswan High Dam: (Sed el-Aali), inaugurated 1971, has created Lake Nasser. One of the largest dams in the world, over 100 m high and about 5 km wide.

Assiut: Largest town in Upper Egypt; a Nile barrage nearby. Famous for wood and ivory carving.

El Balyana: Nearby are the ruins of Abydos, including the temple of Seti and legendary tomb of Osiris.

Beni Hasan: 20 km south of ruins of El Minya; an important group of monuments, including a Middle Kingdom necropolis and rock tombs with wall paintings.

Berenice: 3rd century village ruins on Red Sea coast.

Bur Safaga: Small Red Sea port. Has one hotel which is not well maintained. Excellent area for scuba diving and snorkeling.

Dahshur: Village near Sakkara, with a group of large pyramids and other tombs. Pyramids within military reservation and off limits, except with special permission.

Dakhla Oasis: Large fertile area known for fruit production west of Kharga.

Dendera: Locality near Luxor with important ruins, e.g. Temple of Hathor and a Coptic church.

El Faiyum: Town in Egypt's largest and most fertile oasis south of Cairo; mineral springs; churches, pyramids in vicinity.

Helwan: Spa town south of Cairo with a modern observatory and museums. Previously famous for mineral springs, now more industrial.

Idfu: Upper Egypt; the Temple of Horus (327 BC) is among the best preserved in Egypt with good wall carvings. Formerly Apollinopolis.

Ismailia: Large attractive modern town on the Suez Canal. Suffered heavily during the wars of recent years. Headquarters of the Suez Canal Authority.

Kalabsha: A temple of Roman date, transported 42 km and rebuilt near the Aswan High Dam.

Karnak: Near Luxor, part of the ancient city of Thebes. The impressive 18th Dynasty temple of Amon is one of Egypt's greatest monuments.

Kerdassa: Approximately 1 hour from Cairo. Take road to Pyramids, turn right after the canal. Village features woven materials (cotton & silk), galabeyas and blouses, shawls, leather goods, carpets in natural wools and colors, tapestries, camel saddlebags and Bedouin rugs.

El Kharga: Modern town, center for the Great Oasis with Roman and other remains.

Kom Ombo: In Upper Egypt, ruins of a large Ptolemaic temple dedicated to the crocodile god Sebek; also some older tombs.

Lake Kairun: In the Faiyum Oasis; fishing and water sports.

Lake Nasser: One of the world's largest reservoirs, created by the Aswan High Dam in the 1960s. Several important monuments have been saved from it waters, notably Abu Simbel and Kalabsha.

Luxor: Beautifully situated town in Upper Egypt, on the site of the ancient Thebes; the Temple of Luxor dates from 1417 BC. Nearby is Karnak Temble which offers a year round sound and light program.

Malawi: Attractive old town in Middle Egypt; touring center for many nearby monuments.

Mersa Matrouh: Small Mediterranean port about 300 km west of Alexandria with a very fine 7 km beach. Caves and coast scenery in the vicinity.

El Minya: Touring center in Middle Egypt for archaeological sites such as Beni Hassan, Hermopolis and Tel el Amarna.

Nag Hammadi: Industrial town famous for its large aluminium smelter, associated with the Aswan High Dam power project.

New Valley: A collective term for the Oases of Bahariya, Farafra, Dakhla and Kharga in the Western Desert. Land reclamation using underground water.

Nile: Longest river in the world. The Delta and Nile Valley are densely populated and there are huge numbers of archaeological remains of all dates.

Philae: Island in the Nile with many ancient temples, e.g. Temple of Isis, moved to rescue it from the waters of the Aswan Dam.

Port Said: Important port at the northern end of the Suez Canal.

Qanatir: Small town near Delta Barrage, an impressive 19th century attempt to regulate the Nile.

Qattara Depression: A large zone below sea-level, with salt marshes (south of Al Alamein); site of a possible future power scheme using canalised Mediterranean water.

Qena: Commercial center in Upper-Egypt nationally famous for its pottery.

Rashid: A delta port chiefly notable for giving its name to the Rosetta Stone, key to the deciphering of Egyptian hieroglyphics.

St. Anthony's Monastery: The oldest in Egypt (4th century A.D.) still in use; on the desert road to Za'farana.

St. Catherine's Monastery: Founded 527 A.D. below Mt. Sinai; possesses a library and museum.

St. Paul's Monastery: 4th century A.D., reached from Za'farana.

Sidi Abd El-Rahman: A small seaside resort 28 km west of El Alamein.

Sidi Kreir: Modern beach resort 34 km west of Alexandria.

Sinai: Desert and mountainous peninsula, scene of repeated hostilities in recent years. Some mineral wealth; St. Catherine's Monastery is the only notable historic monument. Some of the world's best snorkeling and scuba diving at Sharm el Sheikh and Ras Mohammed. Hotel accommodations located at Nuweiba, Dahab, Sharm el Sheikh and St Catherine's.

Siwa: Small remote western oasis which forms an extension of the Qattara Depression. Fruit production, some archaeological remains. Foreigners need special permit.

Sohaq: Administrative center in Middle Egypt with two notable Coptic monasteries, both founded in the 4th century A.D.

Suez Canal: Opened 1869 as a major shipping route 171 km long, running from Port Said to Suez.

Thebes: Capital at the height of the Egyptian empire, on the site of modern Luxor and Karnak. Its necropolis, on the West Bank, includes the Valley of the Kings where Tutankhamen's tomb was discovered in 1922, Tombs of the Queens, several temples, and the colossi of Memnon.

Wadi El-Natrun: Valley below sea level, south of Alexandria with sodium carbonate deposits. Several 4th century monasteries.

Za'farana: Small Red Sea port, starting point for monasteries of St. Paul and St. Anthony.

Zaqazig: Large commercial and industrial Delta town with several historic remains in the vicinity.

CONTRACTING IN EGYPT

The AID Program in Egypt is governed in part by the Economic, Technical and Related Assistance Agreement between the Governments of the United States of America and the Arab Republic of Egypt (the Bilateral Agreement). This agreement was ratified and promulgated by the Presidential Decree No. 458/1978 and affects all U.S. contractors working on AID-funded projects in Egypt.

Social Insurance and Taxation are subjects of major concern and contractors are advised to become thoroughly familiar with these and other regulations before commencing work on either an AID-direct or AID-funded host country contract.

Social Insurance

The concerned agency of the Government of Egypt is the Social Insurance Authority (SIA), of the Ministry of Social Insurance. The social insurance system is based on Public Order Laws, and is compulsory. Social Insurance is similar to Social Security in the U.S. No contract AID-funded or otherwise, can exempt a contractor from its legal responsibility under Egyptian Law, to pay social insurance. USAID/Cairo determined that social insurance is a legitimate cost of doing business in Egypt, and is not considered as a tax as defined in the Bilateral Agreement, which generally exempts American contractors from taxation. When a contractor registers with the SIA, the Authority will issue a file No. and determine a method of payment related to the nature of work to be performed. Payments are usually made to a local (regional) office of the SIA.

Taxation

The GOE involved agency is the Tax Department, of the Ministry of Finance. Contractors currently undertaking AID-funded project in Egypt are being assessed income tax on non-Egyptian and non-American personnel, i.e., third country nationals (TCNs). Additionally,

Egyptian subcontractors and joint ventures involving Egyptian contractors are subject to taxation. However, U.S. citizens are exempt under the terms of the Bilateral Agreement. The following organizations are available to advise and assist U.S. contractors contemplating work in Egypt regarding the various rules and regulations governing registration, taxation, social insurance, customs transactions and other governmental procedures.

1. Arthur Andersen Shawki and Co.
   16 Adly Street
   Cairo, Egypt
   Telephone 3917299/3917986

2. Dr. Abdel Aziz Hegazy and Co.
   29 Ahmed Heshmat Street
   Zamalek, Egypt
   Telephone 3400879/3407418

3. Price-Waterhouse, Inc.
   4 Road 261
   New Maadi, Egypt
   Telephone 3520123

4. KPMG, Hassan and Co.
   72 Mohei El Din Abou El Ezz St.
   Dokki, Egypt
   Telephone 3499588 (5 lines)/ 3499677 (5 lines)

5. Mohsen Wissa, Moahmmed Zarouk & co.
   International Member Affiliate of Arthur Young
   33 Abdel Khalek Sarwat Street
   Cairo, Egypt
   Telephone 3939004/3927669

The above is a partial listing only and the inclusion of names and addresses is not to be constructed as a USAID endorsement or recommendation of the services offered.