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National
Council
on US-
Arab
Relations

*National Council on
U.S.-Arab Relations*

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The Goals

The National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations is a nonprofit, tax exempt organization that assists programs designed to improve understanding, dialogue and bonds of friendship between the peoples of the United States and the Arab world.

The Council's objectives are based on a legacy of shared values, common strategic and economic interests, and mutually advantageous commercial ties between Arabs and Americans.

The Means

The Council works with the growing number of American groups concerned with the Middle East in pursuit of better ties between the United States and countries in the region. The Council functions primarily as a grant-making organization in order to strengthen established and emerging programs. Emphasis in determining grant awards is placed on educational and cultural projects, with representative activities including conferences, educational exchanges, travel-study tours, research, and publications.

A wide range of civic, academic and religious organizations around the country have a growing interest in increasing knowledge and understanding of the contemporary Arab world. These groups often have limited financial ability to carry out activities. The Council, operating as a clearinghouse to meet such needs, provides grants that can make possible, for example, a lecture by a distinguished former ambassador, a trip to the Middle East by officials of local international affairs organizations, a university conference, or the purchase and distribution of basic educational materials.

The Council also undertakes activities for which it is especially suited, particularly in the absence of an appropriate mechanism elsewhere. A case in point is the Council's Middle East Speakers Bureau, which in its first year of operation provided speakers and helped organize conferences on Middle East topics for audiences across the United States on more than 280 occasions.

The Council also co-sponsors activities with other organizations. On a more informal basis, it serves as a point of contact for a wide variety of individuals and groups engaged in U.S.-Middle East relations.

The Organization

In keeping with its role as a grant-making and information-sharing organization, the Council functions with a small, Washington-based staff operating in conjunction with a Board of Directors and an Advisory Committee. The Council's Board of Directors is composed of five Americans with long involvement in Middle East-related commercial, academic, and non-profit foundation activities.

The Council's Advisory Committee is composed of distinguished Americans representing business, diplomatic, academic, and other constituencies. The Committee helps to extend the Council's informational outreach and provides programmatic advice.

The Council receives its financial support from interested corporations, foundations, and individuals. In the course of its work with representatives of corporations, universities, foundations and other organizations, the Council assists both donors and recipients to achieve a more cost-effective distribution and use of resources.