



**HOUSE OF WORSHIP**—A towering minaret soars over the purely Arabic-styled Moslem mosque located in the northwestern section of Washington, D.C. The Washington Mosque serves primarily as a house of wor-

ship for diplomatic personnel from Moslem countries. It is one of a dozen mosques in the U.S. Other mosques are supported and are houses of worship for U.S. citizens. (UPI Telephoto)

## Washington Mosque Sits at Odd Angle To Face Toward Mecca

By LOUIS CASSELS

Washington—UPI—On the edge of Rock Creek Park in the fashionable embassy section of Washington is a magnificent white marble building which sits at a peculiar angle to the street.

Tourists who inquire about its odd location are informed that the building is a Moslem mosque. And like all the mosques in the world, it faces east, toward Mecca.

The Washington mosque serves primarily as a home of worship for diplomatic personnel from Moslem countries. But there are 11 other mosques in the United States, scattered from New York to Sacramento, Calif., which are supported and patronized almost entirely by American citizens.

Estimates of America's Moslem population vary widely, but the most generally accepted figure is 80,000. The vast majority are immigrants or the children of immigrants.

**Native-Born Negroes**  
But some 7,000 or so are native-born American Negroes who have been converted to the religion of Islam in a missionary crusade that began in New York in 1931, and has now spread to Detroit, Chicago, Philadelphia and other cities.

Although Islam's foothold in America is still extremely modest, the presence of Moslem missionaries in major U.S. cities is symbolic of a dramatic resurgence that has taken place in the religion founded more than 1,300 years ago by an Arabian camel driver named Mohammed.

Today Islam ranks second in numerical strength among the world's religions, with its 350,000,000 adherents surpassed only by Christianity's 860,000,000.

And—as its missionary outreach in America demonstrates—Islam is again a religion on the move. Because it is unequivocally committed to racial equality (one of Mo-

ammed's wives was a Negro) it has recently found a warm welcome in many parts of Africa and Asia where Christianity is suspect as a "white man's export." Islamic missionaries are now reported winning far more converts than Christian missionaries in West Africa.

Virtually all Arabs are Moslems, but not all Moslems are Arabs. Outside of the Arab states of the Middle East, the main centers of Moslem strength are Turkey, Iran, Pakistan and India.

**Many Parallels**  
Islam's beliefs have many striking parallels with Judaism and Christianity. These are not accidental. Mohammed was familiar with both religions, and he regarded Islam as a "fulfillment" of the older religions.

He taught that Jesus was an authentic human prophet, but that his life was cut short before he could complete all his teachings, so God called forth another prophet—Mohammed—to finish the job of revelation.

The new revelations which Mohammed said were given to him in a cave near Mecca were written down in a book called the Koran. Moslems accord this book the same reverence and authority that conservative Protestants accord the Bible. They regard it as the literally true, divinely "dictated" word of God.

The Koran depicts God as a compassionate creator "whose love for man is more tender than that of the mother-bird for her young."

The concept sounds familiar enough to be Jewish or Christian, but it was an exciting new thought to the Arabs of Mohammed's day, whose religion was a primitive polytheism in which the one moderately benign God—Allah—was outnumbered by a horde of malevolent "jinns" and demons.

**Explicit Detail**  
It is only against this background that modern mind can grasp the full voltage of the message that Mohammed proclaimed as the creed of Islam: "There is only one God—Allah."

The Koran spells out a Moslem's religious and moral obligations in explicit detail. And while some of its precepts (for example, the authorization of four wives) may seem lax to westerners, they were radically strict requirements for near-barbaric Arabs who had not previously bothered with marriage at all.

The religious duties prescribed in the Koran—and faithfully observed today by all devout Moslems—are primarily:

1. To face Mecca and pray five times each day—at sunrise, at noon, in the early

## Air Force Commands Told To Treat Flying Saucers as 'Serious Business'

Washington—UPI—The Air Force has sent its commands a new warning to treat sightings of unidentified flying objects as "serious business" directly related to the nation's defense, it has been learned.

An Air Force spokesman confirmed issuance of the directive after portions of it were made public by a private "flying saucer" research group.

The new regulations were issued by the air force inspector general last Dec. 24.

The regulations, updating similar ones issued in the past, outlined procedures and said that "investigations and analysis of UFO's are directly related to the Air Force's responsibility for the defense of the United States."

Existence of the document was revealed by the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena.

The big-name, privately-financed committee accused the Air Force of deception in publicly describing unidentified flying objects reports as delusions and hoaxes while sending the private admonition to its commands.

Vice Adm. R. H. Hillenkoetter (ret.), a NICAP board member and former director of the Central Intelligence Agency, said in a statement that a photo-copy of the inspector general's warning had been sent to the senate space committee.

**Time for Truth**  
"It is time for the truth to be brought out in open congressional hearings," he said.

The Air Force confirmed that the document had been issued. A spokesman said it was put out by Maj. Gen. Richard E. O'Keefe, acting inspector general at the time, to call attention to revised Air Force regulations concerning UFOs.

The statement was included in an "operations and training" pamphlet circulated at intervals to bring commands up to date.

**Reports Investigated**  
Pentagon aides said the new regulations, covering seven printed pages, made no substantive change in policy but were rewritten as a matter of course.

The Air Force has investigated 6,312 reports of UFOs since 1947, including 183 during the last six months of

1959. The latest air force statement, issued a month ago, said "no physical or material evidence, not even a minute fragment of a so-called flying saucer, has ever been found."

The inspector general's Document, NICAP said, was headed "UFO's Serious Business."

NICAP quoted the inspector general as saying: "Objects referred to as 'flying saucers'—must be rapidly and accurately identified as serious USAF business . . ."

"Air Force concern with these sightings is threefold. First of all, is the object a threat to the defense of the U.S.?" Secondly, does it contribute to technical or scientific knowledge?"

**Personnel Silenced**  
The third point cited, NICAP said, was the question of how to explain the sightings to the public. NICAP said the inspector general "predicted that UFO sightings will increase, causing public apprehension."

Hillenkoetter said that "behind the scenes, high-ranking Air Force officers are soberly concerned about the UFOs."

"But through official secrecy and ridicule, many citizens are led to believe the unknown flying objects are nonsense," the retired admiral said. He added that "To hide the facts, the Air Force has silenced its personnel" through issuance of a regulation.

"Veteran airline pilots and other technically trained observers have been discredited," he said. "Hundreds of authentic reports, many confirmed by radar or photographs, have been labeled delusions or explained away by answers contrary to fact."

Other NICAP board members also issued statements criticizing the Air Force. They included Robert B. Emerson, Army reserve colonel who heads a private laboratory at Baton Rouge, La.; J. B. Hartant Jr., former Air Force officer and president of the 80,000-member Aircraft Owners and Pilots association; retired Rear Adm. H. B. Knowles; the Rev. Albert Baller, of Greenfield, Mass., and Prof. Charles A. Maney of Defiance College, Ohio.

Knowles said "There is a real need to break through the official Washington brush-off and get the truth home to the people."

## Fake Form of Non-Paralytic Polio Discovered

Chicago—(Science Service) A fake form of non-paralyzing poliomyelitis popped out in the 1958 Detroit polio epidemic, pointing up the need for a new vaccine.

The pseudo-polio was caused by ECHO and Coxsackie viruses, of which there are many types. These viruses caused more of the non-paralyzing cases than the polio virus. These facts emerged from a report in the current Journal of the American Medical Association.

Laboratory tests on 1,060 of the 12,000 cases revealed that the symptoms associated with ECHO and Coxsackie virus infections were virtually indistinguishable from those of nonparalytic polio.

Drs. Gordon C. Brown, Ann Arbor, Willard R. Lenz, Detroit, and George H. Agate, Lansing, reported.

The occurrence of these two types of virus infection was not influenced by polio vaccination, they said. However, the results of their study show that most of the persons who had poliomyelitis viruses had not received polio vaccine.

On the other hand, examinations for muscle weakness 60 days after the onset of illness indicated there was no association between vaccination and findings of improved muscle condition. The researchers further stated that an analysis of patients, both paralytic and non-paralytic, from whom no virus could be isolated strongly suggested that the polio was not the cause of illness "in a large number" of them.

The study also shows the virus-confirmed cases of polio occurred predominantly in younger persons while Coxsackie and ECHO virus infections were much more evenly distributed by age.

Dr. Brown is associated with the University of Michigan School of Public Health, Dr. Lenz is with the communicable disease division at Herman Kiefer Hospital and Dr. Agate is associated with the acute communicable disease section, Michigan Department of Health.

## Sunny Weather Increases Traffic

The recent improvement in Rogue valley weather is drawing more and more motorists to the open highways.

This increase in valley traffic has caused Medford's Chief of Police Charles P. Champlin to caution drivers against driving too fast for road conditions which may still be affected by winter weather.

"Don't be fooled by the sunshine," Chief Champlin said, "because a road can still be frosty or icy in shaded spots."

Even in areas where there is no danger of frost or ice, it is still a mistake for drivers to go very fast if their driving has been confined to town all winter, he said.

"The first few nice days always brings a rash of drivers to the road who may not have driven at highway speeds for several months," he explained. "If they attempt to drive as fast as they would in the summer and fall they may be headed for trouble because, accustomed to slower city driving, they might not react fast enough to avert trouble on the open road."

As an extra precaution, he said, drivers should also be on the lookout for mistakes of others which may involve them in accidents.

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