

# "Agency Problem" In Jordan

## Tourism Publicity Scheme In Tie-In With Stamp Firm Fails; Government Acts To Kill Deal

Following the original announcement some time ago that an agreement had been made between the government of Jordan and the Middle East Stamp Co. of Beirut, Lebanon for the firm to act as philatelic agent for the country, various rumors arose from time to time that all was not progressing too well with the operation.

Latest reports in the form of official U. S. Consulate translations of Arabian newspaper articles as supplied by a reliable source in Jordan, give the following running account of developments over the past five months:

**June 8**—The Minister of Communications, Mr. al-Kayed, stated that the Ministry has sent an inquiry to the Middle East Stamp Co. about the company's achievements to promote tourism to Jordan in accordance with the agreement held between the government and said company.

The Minister stated that the stamp company was requested to prove that it has honored all its obligations, otherwise the government will take the necessary legal measures against the company.

**June 24**—Minister Hasan al-Kayed of Communications stated that the government decided to request the Middle East Stamp Co. to pay \$200,000 and 1,000,000 Jordanian Pounds (\$2,000,000) for the company's violations of the tender turned over to it by the government.

**June 25**—Mr. Hasan al-Kayed of Communications stated the agreement for the printing of postage stamps, which was in effect between the Jordanian Government and the Middle East Stamp Co.—signed during Prime Minister al-Tal's government—was canceled upon the decision of the Cabinet.

The government, he added, will request the company to pay \$200,000 and the value of the stamp issuances of that company. This is all due to the violations of the company to the agreement.

**July 2**—The Minister of Education said the District Court of Amman issued a judgement according to which it seized the bank bond of \$220,000 deposited at the Ottoman Bank in the name of the Middle East Postage Stamps Corp.

"I would guess that this company did the Holy Places set, and the UN 17th anniversary set," Linn's informant added parenthetically. "I've read Mr. Conde's articles July 15, 22, 29 Linn's on the Holy Places set, and note that he said he visited the Ministry in connection with this set.

. . . Mr. Conde's final state-

ment about wide distribution, is not evident here—when available, these stamps are still at double face."

**June 25**—The Ministry of Communications announced it would issue a stamp honoring Crown Prince Abdullair (he is now two years old; his brother was born last week); this stamp, incidentally, was also announced about six months ago.

**August 25**—The Cabinet approved a postage issue to commemorate the Jordanian wing at the New York World's Fair (no date of issue given).

Of general interest, Linn's correspondent added that the Freedom From Hunger stamps and the East Ghor Canal set are available at the post office in Jerusalem, and that the selvage on the Freedom From Hunger set gives no name of the printer; the edge is blank on all four sides.

Also, the East Ghor canal issue was first announced on September 8, 1962; the stamps were put on sale in Amman on September 24, 1963.

"I can find no date for the Freedom From Hunger set," he concluded, "but it seems to have been about the same time last September."