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CMIP's activities June - September 2003

1. Brussels, June 2003

- a) CMIP was invited by **MEP Frederique Ries** to give a presentation at a seminar for MEPs and their aides on its recently released report on Saudi School Textbooks¹, in Brussels in June 2003. The main points of the presentation included:
1. Saudi Arabia as the champion of Islam.
 2. Saudi Arabian education centered round Islam.
 3. Absolute supremacy of Islam and the Muslims.
 4. Christians and Jews are infidels and enemies of Islam.
 5. The West in particular as the source of past and present misfortunes of the Muslim world.
 6. Rejection of Western Democracy.
 7. Condemnation of interpretation of Islam other than Wahabism.
 8. Praise of Jihad and martyrdom.
- b) Meetings were held in Brussels with senior staff members of the office of the **Commissioner for External Relations**, Mr. Christopher Patten, and several members of the European Parliament, to discuss issues concerning the textbooks of the Palestinian Authority. It was agreed to maintain on-going dialogue between CMIP and the office of the Commissioner for External Relations.

2. Washington, July 2003

- a) Meetings were held with staff of **American Jewish Committee** in Washington on the jointly sponsored AJC-CMIP report on Saudi Arabian school textbooks.
- b) A meeting was held with a textbook specialist at the **World Bank**. It was suggested that attention should be paid to the process of developing textbooks and to the various factors involved in it. Criteria for evaluation were

¹ The West, Christians and Jews in Saudi Arabian Schoolbooks, January 2003.

discussed. The World Bank is interested in CMIP's participation in their seminars on these topics.

- c) Dr. Arnon Groiss was invited to Washington as a guest of the **Center for Near East Policy Research**, to give a lecture on Palestinian Authority school textbooks.

3. Strasbourg, September 2003

- a) CMIP was invited as independent experts to attend a session on the Palestinian and Israeli education systems and textbooks, organized by the ad-hoc committee of the **European Parliament** composed of MEPs and representatives from the European Commission, which is examining the funding of the Palestinian Authority.
- b) Discussions were held with officials at the **History Education Section of the Council of Europe**. CMIP was invited to participate in forthcoming seminars held by the Section, particularly in light of their methodology of involving third parties in encouraging the elimination of prejudice and hate and promoting reconciliation and pluralism in education in general and the teaching of history in particular.

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