

tive in a developing nation

rice blessed from the we were sponsored ersity and indeed a delegation, we had all facets of the mutually government us in our respective

(Arabic for Egypt) d the opportunity to areas in the country complete overview, not in depth of the of the country. Our th Cairo University ted us a visit to the here the Egyptian ed territory from the er War of 1973, and Aswan Dam in Upper

of the seminar was at Cairo University roglyphics, Coptic art c art and Moslem science prepared us would be visiting and day tour of Upper d Luxor and Aswan, e search topic of the ticipated, tourism. It d out the attractions s to Egypt and the tion and investment ing developed by the various parts of the d for the opportunity rst hand.

T BREWER

got Brewer, Univer- swick Arts senior summer with WUSC.

silent quality of the and Luxor and the was awe inspiring in h rose by 10 daily to Fahrenheit. We nders for three days y of the Kings, King



Tut-Ankh-Amun's tomb and the Temple of Queen Hapsheput. Towering columns and intricate architecture attested to the great power wielded by the Pharaohs and few words were spoken by anyone to break the spell of our individual musing as we wandered about these ancient temples.

We glimpsed at Aswan, first hand the salvaging project at the Temples of Philae, where flood waters from the Aswan dam had completely barred the temples from view. The temples will be relocated as were the mammoth statues of Ramses II taken to Abu Simbel in 1972. The cost of \$36 million was shared by the American and Egyptian governments. The most impressive example of Egyptian technology and achievement, without doubt, was the engineering masterpiece, the Aswan Dam.



Completed with U.S.S.R. assistance in 1969, during Nasser's term of office the dam is as important as it is impressive. The strategic location of the dam is attested to by the gunnests which abound in the area where awesome gun barrels and strained Egyptian faces periodically comb the sky.

Our return to Cairo meant an intensive ten day period of lectures, meetings and interviews in conjunction with our various research areas. This meant, in the case of the tourism group, the end of our very pleasant association with faculty at the Institute of Tourism in Cairo and tourism officials, Mr. Sayid Moussa and Dr. Fouad Omar. Meetings were held with the Director of Archaeological Affairs for Egypt, the Executive Director of the Egyptian Government Organization of Tourism and Hotels and resource experts on statistics, artisans, sociological consequences of tourism, and eventually the Minister of Tourism.

A ten day sojourn to Alexandria provided opportunity for everyone's Mediterranean seaside dreams to come true. Somewhat like meeting a beautiful person, we found ourselves repeatedly murmuring, "... as beautiful as its pictures." After the intensive month of lectures and tours, the rest was indeed a needed and welcome change, but we still managed meetings with faculty members at the University of Alexandria and we were treated to a reception by their Student's Representative Council. After-

noons provided us with the chance to enjoy the bone white beaches where flat particles of sand clung to our bodies and each person knew it would require the long and vigorous coaxing with soap and cloth to remove. But it was well worth it.

It was during these ten days that we travelled to El Alamein War Cemetary, approximately 60 km. from Alexandria to view the graves of British soldiers who had lost their lives in one of the last desert battles when England's Montgomery finally defeated Germany's Rommel, the Desert Fox. The sheer number of tombstones hardly dulled one's senses to the impact of envisioning the battle or the consequences in terms of human lives that were lost.

Not there on the desert where it was so silent that a friend's conversation carried several hundred feet and beyond the confines of the cemetary lay nothing. Too easy to imagine. And the anguished words of a mother on a tombstone which read, "To the world he was only one, but to us he was all the world" dispelled all impersonality and sombre faces revealed the inner thoughts of each person in the group as we headed on the bus back to Alexandria.

That graveyard provided reminiscences from a war fought just thirty years ago and for ideals far different from those upon which the current Middle East crisis are based. Yet the country is still vitally aware and affected by this war, which is fiercely political. The people want nothing to do with it and each voice echoes his neighbour, "We don't want a war."

As in any developing country the contrast between rich and poor is painful and the present complications of a war which has the nations coffers depleted so badly that all financial hands that could conceivably help are tied, provides a sad image which is not of Egypt's culture.

The good in Egypt is inherent in the people, in the climate which promises stability, the pride of an ancient history rich in cultural achievement, an atmosphere providing opportunities for modern technology to develop and Egypt's technicians to take their rightful place in directing the future of the country. It is indeed true that the poverty can be seen on the streets where children are dirty and in rags, vendors sell worthless trinkets and just a boulevard or two beyond the Nile Hilton draws the curious each night to watch the weddings of the wealthy; the cost of which would support any given family on the street in lifelong comfort. If this anomaly is pointed out, the Egyptians are quick to respond, for no one starves to death in Egypt as in Ethiopia and India. For now, one can ask no more, for equality comes slowly in the Third World.

"Was it worthwhile?" I am often asked and the answer is irrefutably yes. Any opportunity to broaden perspective and to incite interest in the problems and beauties of the Third World should be readily participated in. A narrow perspective ultimately affects and robs only yourself and experience dispels the stereotypes. The number of programs that are available is encouraging, such as Crossroads, CUSO, United Nations Volunteers and WUSC's Canadian North program. Whether it is a study program, a training program, an opportunity to work or to travel, one must remember that it is the positive which one remembers, and the experience will affect your entire life.