

AMBASSADOR KENTON W. KEITH

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Background

Born and raised in Kansas City, Missouri
University of Kansas
US Navy
Entered the Foreign Service in 1965

Beirut, Lebanon; Arabic Language Training 1965-1966

Baghdad, Iraq; USIA, Rotation Officer 1966-1967

Environment
Soviet bloc
Relations
Educational Exchange Program
Area politics
Baath Party
1967 War
Saddam Hussein
Evacuation

Jeddah, Saudi Arabia; Assistant Public Affairs Officer 1967-1968

Environment
Ambassador Hermann Eilts
English Language Center in Riyadh
Saudi students to US
Saudi Royal family
King Faisal
Status of women
Saudi receptivity
American Cultural Center
Relations with British and French programs
Local press
Alcohol

Istanbul, Turkey; Cultural Attaché 1968-1972

“Johnson Letter” resentment
“Idea Clubs”
Relations
Anti-Americanism
Islam
German influence
Environment

Greece-Turkey issue	
Tangier, Morocco; Western Arabic Language Study Environment King Hassan Relations Peace Corps Western Sahara	1972-1973
Fez, Morocco; Branch Public Affairs Officer Environment Culture Program French influence US military facilities Relations with neighbors	1973-1974
Damascus, Syria; Public Affairs Officer Restoration of diplomatic relations University linkages Relations Scholarships Cultural Agreement AID program Israel Hafez el-Assad American movies Baath Party Pan-Arabism Press Secret Police	1974-1977
Washington, D.C.; USIAC; Near East, North African & South Asian Affairs Restructuring USIA	1977-1978
Washington, D.C.; USIAC; Special Assistant to Deputy Director Transferring State's Cultural Affairs functions to USIAC President Carter's policies Anwar Sadat visit to Israel VOA Israel Smith-Mundt Act Congressional interest USIA-State coordination Educational Exchange Program	1978-1980

Iran revolution Personnel policies Foreign views of President Carter	
Brasilia, Brazil; Deputy Public Affairs Officer Supervising branch posts President Reagan visit Relations Environment Economy Government	1980-1983
Washington, D.C. USIA; Deputy Director for Near East and South Asia Charles Wick “Enemies List” Israel Engaging Israelis and Arabs Libya Hafez al-Assad Syria relations Saddam Hussein Saudi Arabia Iran	1983-1985
Paris, France; Senior Cultural Affairs Officer Congressional views Fulbright Program Ministry of Education Reagan popularity France’s “Third Way” Mitterrand Cultural Minister Jacques Lang American Film Festival, Deauville Communists Le Pen American popular culture French film industry	1985-1988
Cairo, Egypt; Public Affairs Officer USAID Relations Husni Mubarak American commercial presence Press relations Anti-Americanism	1988-1992

Kuwait invasion	
Madrid Peace Conference	
Middle East Television Network influence	
Margaret Tutwiler	
Ambassador to Qatar	1992-1995
Relations	
US commercial interests	
US military facilities	
Border disputes	
Oil	
Crown Price coup	
Washington D.C, USIA; Director, Near East/North Africa and South Asia	1995-1997
Consolidation, USIA and Department of State	
Senator Helms	
AID opts out	
Problems and questions	
Consolidation plusses and minuses	
Retirement	1997
Islamabad, Pakistan, Recall to active duty to Establish a Coalition Information Center	2001
Countering misinformation	
Press briefing	
Accomplishments	
Future of Afghanistan	