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Amsterdam, August 3, 2020.

His Excellency, the Most Reverend Archbishop Nicolas Thévenin,
Apostolic Nuncio to Egypt
Apostolic Nunciature of the Holy See
Cairo, Egypt.

Your Excellency,

I am writing you because I would like to introduce Drs. Cornelis Hulsman, co-founder with Father Dr. Christiaan van Nispen sj, of Arab-West Report (1997) and founding director of the Center for Intercultural Dialogue and Translation (CIDT, 2005). I can only speak of him in the most positive terms as well as of the excellent plan for a transition of this important work to Dr. Matthew Anderson, Georgetown University (USA), in 2021-2023. Together they seek to transition all these activities to a vibrant Catholic institution so that many more people may be served.

As a literary historian, I am thoroughly acquainted with literature from late antiquity until the Middle Ages, from the Council of Nicea to the Council of Trent. Some of my research focusses on medieval Christianity as expressed in literature written for a large audience. Of particular interest among the texts I have most studied is one in Dutch concerning the stay of the Holy Family in Egypt after the flight from Herod dating to around 1330 AD. In annotating this text, I needed the support of a local expert in Egypt. Through the American University Press in Cairo, in 2001, I met with Cornelis Hulsman, and have maintained a cordial contact ever since.

I have been following his work since 2001, and admire the unabated optimism and patience he has shown during his difficult voyage ever navigating between Scylla and Charybdis: I pray that his ship freighted with the healing powers of dialogue, mutual understanding and respect for each other's points of view can be moored in a safe harbor so that its precious cargo can reach many people divided by ignorance and fear, estranged from each other and our common love of God and man.

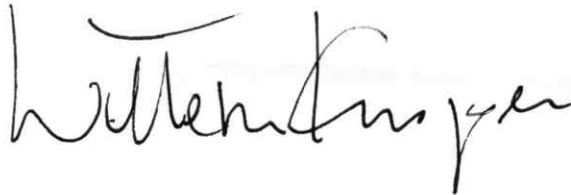
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In 2013, a Muslim Brotherhood sympathizer deliberately destroyed Cornelis Hulsman's entire work, which he immediately dedicated himself to restoring. In 2016, I therefore introduced him to the Data Archiving and Networked Services (DANS) of the Royal Dutch Academy of Sciences where part of his work could be stored and therefore protected from further malicious attacks.

It lies within Your Eminence's powers to help Cornelis Hulsman achieve the successful transition of his work to another's hands as he nears the end of his working life (though I doubt he will ever cease to serve the Church and his fellow man). I sincerely pray and humbly ask that you be willing to extend to him your gracious helping hand. His work truly deserves to continue to grow beyond this one good man's lifetime.

With grateful and respectful greetings, I remain, yours most sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Willem Kuiper', written in a cursive style.

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