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I highly esteem the Arab-West Report and consider this an extremely important source for factual information about the inter-religious and inter-cultural developments in and outside of Egypt.

Arab-West Report provides, in contrast to many other sources, a balanced view on inter-religious problems. Not even once were wild rumors about persecution of Christians in Egypt (examples are the escalation around Al-Kosheh and the rumors about the kidnapping of Christian girls) proven to be true, because of AWR's intensive research. On the other hand, the service explicitly shows real problems of discrimination against Christians (for example in reports about religious freedom in Egypt) and with this brings the debate to a realistic ground.

The daily and weekly overviews of publications grant an intensive-and in my opinion, possibly unique--insight into intellectual life in the Arab World. I regret that Arab-West Report remains so little known in Europe and the US. I have, therefore, during seminars asked for attention for this excellent source of information. I also informed the universities of Göttingen, Rostock and Marburg as well as the EKD [Evangelical Church in Germany] and the Deutschen Arbeitsgemeinschaft Vorderer Orient [German Society for Oriental Studies] about this service. In the winter semester of 2003/2004 I will teach a seminar about modern thinking in Islam that will mainly use sources published in AWR.

It is very helpful that Dr. Hulsman works on the spot. Because of this he has built up a network of trustworthy personal connections with Muslim and Christian specialists that is, especially in this time of tense inter-religious and inter-cultural relations, of tremendous importance. He has the opportunity to research issues on the spot. Thanks to his help I was able to make an analysis of Egyptian schoolbooks. AWR is for me, and many others who do not live in Cairo, a central source of information.

In a time in which inter-religious and inter-cultural differences sharpen, it is of the utmost importance to have information that counters polarization, pictures of the other as "the enemy" and clichés, and that provides a diversity of information that helps to bring the discussion back to the real issues.