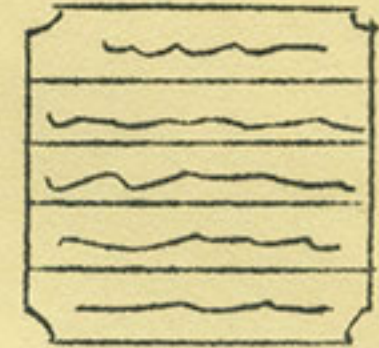


WESTERN UNION



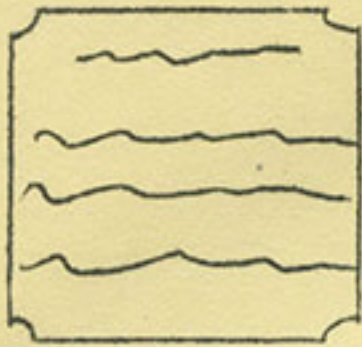
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SECRETARY OF STATE
DEAN ACHESON
WASHINGTON, D. C.

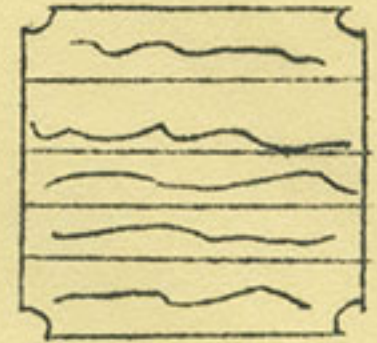
"WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED BY THE PRESS AND BY OUR DISTINGUISHED GUESTS FROM ABROAD THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAS IN SOME CASE DENIED TO AND IN OTHER CASES CANCELLED THE VISAS OF WORLD REKNOWNED BRITISH, FRENCH, ITALIAN AND LATIN AMERICAN SCIENTISTS, ARTISTS AND INTELLECTUALS TO ATTEND THE CULTURAL AND SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE FOR WORLD PEACE.

"WE CANNOT UNDERSTAND THIS ACTION WHICH IS IN DIRECT CONTRADICTION TO THE DEPARTMENT'S OWN ANNOUNCED POLICY OF 'UNSWERVING DEVOTION TO FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND FREE SPEECH'. WE CALL ATTENTION ALSO TO THE DEPARTMENT'S STATEMENT THAT 'THIS GOVERNMENT DOES NOT FEEL VISA AUTHORITY SHOULD BE USED TO PREVENT ANY ARRANGEMENTS, HOWEVER DUBIOUS CERTAIN OF THEM MAY APPEAR, FOR OPEN PUBLIC DEBATE OF OUTSTANDING ISSUES.' TO PREVENT THE ATTENDANCE AT THIS CONFERENCE OF THESE DISTINGUISHED REPRESENTATIVES OF THEIR COUNTRIES' CULTURES WOULD BE INIMICABLE TO OUR GOOD RELATIONS

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WITH THE GREAT PEOPLES OF WESTERN EUROPE AND LATIN AMERICA AS WELL AS TO THE CAUSE OF FREE SPEECH AND WORLD PEACE.

"THIS CONFERENCE HAS BEEN CALLED IN ORDER THAT ARTISTS AND SCIENTISTS FROM THE UNITED STATES MAY EXCHANGE OPINIONS ON THE QUESTIONS OF PEACE TOGETHER WITH THEIR COLLEAGUES OF ALL OTHER COUNTRIES. THAT IS WHY WE HAVE INVITED CULTURAL LEADERS FROM FRANCE, BRITAIN AND ITALY AS WELL AS THOSE FROM THE SOVIET UNION, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, POLAND, RUMANIA AND YUGOSLAVIA TO WHOM VISAS HAVE BEEN GRANTED.

"WE EARNESTLY URGE THE DEPARTMENT TO TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION TO GRANT THE NECESSARY VISAS SO THAT THIS CONFERENCE ON WORLD PEACE MAY BE HELD WITH THE BROADEST POSSIBLE REPRESENTATION FROM ALL COUNTRIES."-

DR. HARLOW SHAPLEY