

Cultural and Scientific Conference for World Peace

April 16-20

AUSPICES OF THE ARTS, SCIENCES AND PROFESSIONS COUNCIL

1591 Crossroads of the World

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F O R Y O U R I M M E D I A T E A T T E N T I O N !

We urgently need your help to combat the onslaught now being mounted against the Cultural and Scientific Conference for World Peace, called by Dr. Harlow Shapley. With the press of the nation hostile, and the Department Of State impeding the assembling of international delegates, everyone who agrees that the question of peace or war is the soberest and weightiest question before us, cannot afford to be inactive.

Briefly this is the situation at the moment:

After first granting visas to delegates from Britain and implying that visas would be granted to visitors from France, Italy, India and Latin America, the State Department reversed its position and withdrew its British visas and refused visas to the others. Meanwhile, after much discussion in the press, visas were granted delegates from the Soviet Union, and Assistant Secretary George F. Allen was quoted as predicting that the visitors would "manipulate and use" the rally for propaganda purposes, but that nevertheless, "the visas were granted because of the Government's unswerving devotion to freedom of speech."

When it was pointed out that this latter statement was inconsistent with the denial of visas to delegates from other than the so called "Iron Curtain" countries, the

State Department again reversed its position and reissued a visa to one British delegate.

As a final disposition, Michael J. Mc Dermott, special assistant to Secretary of State Acheson, officially closed the matter by declaring, "It is the Department's view that at the forthcoming conference the Communist side of the case will certainly be adequately presented by the twenty-one delegates from eastern Europe, and by the Communists and Communist sympathizers in the United States."

Mr. Mc Dermott's quoted statement raises the question of whether the Department is worried about Communism of such internationally known figures as Patricia Burke, British actress; Maria Mich, Italian actress; Louis Golding, British novelist; Sir J. W. Crowther, British scientist; Abbe Jean Boulier, French Roman Catholic priest and authority on international law. Or is it the intention of the Department to keep East and West apart forcibly by preventing Western participation, thus branding this peace conference as a communistic venture.

Full text of Mr. Mann's wire, and Dr. Shapley's wire are attached. Also attached is a list of the important educators, scientists, artists and musicians who will participate in the conference. Of particular interest is the list of musicians, which was printed nowhere, in contrast with the wide publicity given the position of Igor Stravinsky.

When you have examined these statements, we sincerely urge that you join Dr. Shapley by wiring the State Department to reconsider its decision and grant visas to delegates already scheduled to come.

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