

December 22, 1947

Mr. Ronald W. Peirce  
Chairman, Administrative Committee  
Harvard Student Council  
Phillips Brooks House

Dear Mr. Peirce:

You have asked me to endorse your efforts to continue another year a Seminar in American Civilization to be held in Europe under the sponsorship of the Harvard Student Council. I understand you again propose to send a group of outstanding American teachers to Europe to offer a six week's program of lecture courses and seminar work for the benefit of young European teachers, scholars, and professional leaders.

I have received a number of reports about the activities last summer. These have come to me from reliable sources and all have spoken in high praise of the work accomplished at Castle Leopoldskron, near Salzburg. I think your group is to be congratulated on the execution of the plan in spite of many obstacles. The assistance of the International Student Service as well as that of the Austrian authorities I assume will be available again in the coming summer. I understand that both rendered invaluable assistance.

The success of last summer's experiment seems to me to justify its continuation during the coming summer. The University, of course, is in no way concerned with the management or endorsement of the enterprise, but as an individual I am glad to have you use this letter as a letter of recommendation.

It is surely important to enlarge the understanding of our country abroad and the fact that an enterprise instigated by Harvard undergraduates has been successful and offers a concrete example of American education to European scholars must be a source of pride to many Harvard men.

I trust you will find the same generous support in many quarters that you received last year, and that you will again succeed in overcoming the many difficulties.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

(Signed)

James B. Conant