

October 31, 1946

My dear Mr. Secretary:

About eighteen years ago it was my privilege, in association with Honorable Newton D. Baker and Reverend S. Parkes Cadman, D.D., of Brooklyn, to be one of the founders of the National Conference of Christians and Jews. The purpose of this organization was to promote national unity by combatting racial and religious prejudice and by fostering, through educational means, tolerance, understanding and the spirit of friendly cooperation, in pursuit of our common ideals of justice.

The work of this organization has expanded in a notable and most gratifying degree. Its efforts are of national scope and have had a wide-spread beneficent influence. Its efficient Executive has been, and is, Reverend Everett R. Clinchy, Ph.D., and its Co-Chairmen are Arthur H. Compton, Thomas E. Braniff and Roger W. Straus.

Through this instrumentality, steps were taken last August at a Conference held at Oxford, England, to organize a World Council with similar aims. This Conference grew out of many years of intercultural experimentation in South Africa, Australia, England, Scotland, Wales, and on the European Continent. It was attended by 150 delegates from fourteen nations. Resolutions were adopted for the formation of an international organization and a provisional committee was formed, of which Henry Noble MacCracken, former President of Vassar College, is Chairman. In consummation of this plan, the National Conference of Christians and Jews, Inc. of the United States has sponsored the creation of an international body under the name of the World Council of Christians and Jews.

The purposes of this international organization are stated to be as follows:

"The purpose is to advance by educational means justice, amity, understanding, and civic cooperation among the religious cultures of the earth.

"This organization will encourage research in the social sciences, in the field of human relations, and to that end will will seek cooperation with the universities of every nation."

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This World Council of religious cultures desires to be associated with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organizations

As one of the founders of the National Conference, I have been asked to join Dr. Arthur H. Compton, Mr. Thomas E. Braniff, Mr. Roger W. Straus, Dr. Henry Noble MacCracken, and Dr. Everett R. Clinchy, in presenting an application for an affiliated relationship with the UNESCO.

As I am in sympathy with this international effort, I am willing to join in the application, provided, however, that I can be assured that the application to this organization will have the support of the Department of State and of the Government's representative on the UNESCO, or at least will not encounter their opposition.

As I do not know the policy of the Department of State with respect to applications for affiliated relationship with the UNESCO, I beg leave to submit the matter to your consideration in the hope that you will feel at liberty to advise me as to your attitude.

With high esteem, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

(Sighed) Charles E. Hughes

The Honorable James F. Byrnes,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

