

REC'D BY 803
21 FEB 1959

19 February 1959

W.C.
Mr. Erwin D. Canham, Chairman
Ad Hoc Committee on Communist
Economic Offensive
Chamber of Commerce of the United States
1615 H Street, N. W.
Washington 6, D. C.

Dear Mr. Canham:

Thank you very much for your letter of 6 February concerning a meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee on Communist Economic Offensive to be held at the Hay Adams Hotel on 5 March.

As I mentioned to you on the telephone this morning, March 5th is Mrs. Dulles' birthday and I have a long standing engagement for that evening with her. You were very understanding of the priorities of such a commitment; however, if your Committee desires, I should be very glad to arrange for [redacted] and [redacted] who know everything on this general subject of the Communist economic offensive that I know, and more, to be with you that evening and to contribute to the discussion in any way that you may desire.

O/DCI [redacted]:dd

Retyped: AWD/ji

1 - DCI

1 - [redacted] w/basic & encl. via DD/I

(not return to DCI prior to 5 March)

1 - AAB

1 - ER

1 - Col. Grogan

Sincerely,

SIGNED

Allen W. Dulles
Director

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NO CHANGE IN CLASS.
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Chamber of Commerce of the United States



1615 H STREET, N.W. • WASHINGTON 6, D. C.
NAational 8-2380

February 6, 1959

The Honorable Allen W. Dulles
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Dulles:

While aware of the weight of your obligations and responsibilities, I would like to impose upon you in a matter of special concern to both of us.

Impelled by a sense of urgency, the National Chamber is taking unprecedented action in forming a small ad hoc committee of top people from the professional and business world to spell out the import of the communist economic offensive for American business. Enclosed is a list of those who have agreed to serve on the committee. I will be serving as chairman of the group.

As you can see from this list, the committee is composed of experts who are very close to the problem of Sino-Soviet aid and trade and who have given serious thought to the potential role of American business in combatting communist economic warfare.

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Could you and [redacted] as well as any other assistants you may wish to bring along, meet with this group on March 5 for dinner at 6:30 p.m. in Room 120 of the Hay Adams Hotel? We will not expect you to make a speech. Rather, we have in mind an informal and off-the-record exchange of views.

It may help you to know the objectives of the ad hoc committee. The group will try to do three things: 1) define the threat to American business posed by the Sino-Soviet economic aid and trade offensive; 2) determine the limits of practical action available to private companies and private management in countering the communist economic threat; and 3) recommend what action, if any, the National Chamber might take to help mobilize American business in the economic war with communism.

I hope you will be pleased that your speech at the National Chamber's Annual Meeting last year is beginning to bear fruit. I also hope, and earnestly so, that you will be able to accept this invitation.

Sincerely yours,

Erwin D. Canham

Erwin D. Canham, Chairman
Ad Hoc Committee on Communist
Economic Offensive

Chamber of Commerce of the United States of America Washington

Ad Hoc Committee on Communist Economic Offensive (as of February 2, 1959)

Erwin D. Canham - Chairman
Editor
The Christian Science Monitor
One Norway Street
Boston 15, Massachusetts

Robert Loring Allen
Department of Economics ✓
University of Virginia
Charlottesville, Virginia

Russell Baker
Baker, McKenzie & Hightower
One North LaSalle Street
Chicago 2, Illinois

Joseph S. Berliner
Department of Economics
Syracuse University
Syracuse 10, New York

William C. Foster
Vice President
Public Affairs
Olin Mathieson Chemical Corporation
1000 Connecticut Avenue, N. W.
Washington 6, D. C.

W. R. Herod
President
International General Electric Company
150 East 42nd Street
New York 17, New York

Milton Katz
Director
International Legal Studies
Law School of Harvard University
Cambridge 38, Massachusetts

Klaus Knorr
Center of International Studies
Princeton University
Woodrow Wilson Hall
Princeton, New Jersey

✓ Stacy May
International Basic Economy Corporation
30 Rockefeller Plaza - Room 5600
New York 20, New York

George C. McGhee
President
McGhee Production Company
2420 Republic National Bank Building
Dallas 1, Texas

Forrest D. Murden
Public Relations Manager
Ford International Division
Ford Motor Company
P. O. Box 207
Dearborn, Michigan

L. D. Stinebower
Assistant Treasurer
Standard Oil Company (N.J.)
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York 20, New York

Robert Strausz-Hupé
Director
Foreign Policy Research Institute
University of Pennsylvania
Room 102-133 South 36th Street
Philadelphia 4, Pennsylvania