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9 October 1951

Dear Mr. Harper:

I regret the delay in answering your letter dated September 14th. The facts of the matter are with my work here in Washington which takes all of my time, I have not been able to play my part in connection with the Study Group on Democratic Leadership, and I would suggest that you endeavor to find someone who would take my place on the group.

Faithfully yours,

Allen W. Dulles

Mr. Harry H. Harper, Jr.  
Council on Foreign Relations, Inc.  
58 East 68th Street  
New York 21, New York

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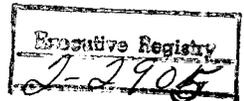
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COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS, INC.  
THE HAROLD PRATT HOUSE 58 EAST 68TH STREET  
NEW YORK 21, N. Y.

September 14, 1951

Dear Mr. Dulles:

In the absence of Whitney Shepardson, who, as you may know, has left for a visit to India, I am writing this brief bulletin to bring members up to date with respect to the plans for the Study Group on Democratic Leadership.

Over the summer a number of us reviewed all of the papers produced by the group, as well as the minutes of the various meetings. Several conclusions emerged. It seemed clear, first of all, that in this final year of the group's activity, we would do well to focus our interests as sharply as possible. The first year was frankly exploratory; and considering the scope of the subject, it has been gratifying to realize how far we have gone in clarifying some of the basic ideas. Now, we feel, the time has come to search for applications.

In this connection, the two sessions devoted to Dr. Yen and to Mr. Lovestone seemed pertinent. We were particularly impressed by the possibilities of stimulating non-governmental activity in promoting leadership abroad -- operations not unlike that conducted by the AF of L -- and of approaching the problem of encouraging the development of free societies by concentrating on specific and crucial institutions within those societies. It seemed to us, for example, that we might profitably devote a good deal of time during the coming year to studying the possibilities of leadership operations in such specific fields as education, land reform, the press, the various legal structures, and business and industry. In each of these fields we would hope to examine the extent of the organized communication between people in this country and their counterparts abroad, with, of course, emphasis on the chances of doing a more effective job of encouraging indigenous leadership.

Of these various fields, the one which seemed the most easily organized for our first meeting was that of the press, the free press in its widest sense. We prepared a short paper explaining the purpose of the study group and proposing an exploratory meeting to consider how this country can best encourage a vigorous and effective leadership of the free press abroad. This paper we tried out on a number of leaders of our own press -- newspapers, magazines and radio -- and we found a heartening degree of interest. Almost without exception these men felt that such a meeting should be held, and expressed their whole-hearted willingness to participate.

Tentatively, then, we hope to bring to the initial meeting in late October six or eight representatives of the American press, and explore with them the feasibility of organizing to promote press leadership abroad. We hope that

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enough interest may be generated so that some of our guests will want to pursue the subject further outside of the Council. If this should occur, they would doubtless welcome the cooperation of any members of the study group who were particularly interested.

The general approach I have outlined is presented as a tentative one, and will undoubtedly be modified and improved as we proceed. Nor will it preclude our giving attention to other aspects of the study which members may feel should be emphasized. We hope, however, that this approach will appeal to all members of the group, and that they will give it the benefit of their suggestions and additions.

Notices of the October meeting will be mailed early next month.

Sincerely,



Harry H. Harper, Jr.