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INTEROFFICE MEMO

FROM: C. F. Reiser

DATE: October 9, 1942

TO: Mr. William L. Langer

SUBJECT: Suggested Liaison with Canada on the Far East

Mr. Herbert Norman of the Canadian Legation in Tokyo and his Chief (Mr. E. D. McGrear, first secretary) were on the "SS Gripsholm" and I had an opportunity during the trip from Rio to New York to talk over with them the securing and handling of information on the Far East from the Canadian point of view.

Mr. Norman is a young man who was born in Japan and who has an unusually good knowledge of the Japanese language. He holds a Doctor's degree from Harvard and has done distinguished work in the field of Japanese history.

From the conversations on the "SS Gripsholm" it became clear that closer relations between the Canadians and ourselves in Far Eastern research are desirable. This result might be brought about by having a competent person examine the organization and work in each country and make such recommendations as to liaison or other matters as seem called for.

Mr. Herbert Norman is the right person for such an assignment. He is not in any position from which it would be difficult to give him temporary leave since he has just returned from Japan. He is a young man of initiative and ideas. He has competence as a scholar and has experience in the Far East and in the United States.

It is therefore proposed that a suggestion along these lines be conveyed informally to a Canadian official who is in a position to put it before the right person or persons in the Canadian Government. If Mr. Norman were asked to undertake a study of research on the Far East in Canada and the United States, it might result in his being chosen for the task of liaison. This would be welcome to the Far Eastern Section of OSS and I am sure it would be welcome to others in Washington working on the Far East when once they got to know Mr. Norman.

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ENCLOSURE

Mr. W. L. Langer

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It may be that Colonel Dunnevan will find it possible to make this a suggestion to the appropriate Canadian official or that you will wish to propose some other way of getting forward after conference with him. I appreciate that the suggestion may raise difficulties to which I would not give sufficient weight. But it seems to me so obviously important to have close relations with Canada in the field of Far Eastern research that I venture to put it before you.

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