

*Chron*

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

May 6, 1975

Your Eminence:

I greatly appreciated receiving your recent letter with excerpts from your Pastoral Message on Peace on May 19, 1972, proposing a Commission to study ways of finding peace in the world.

The tragic course of events in Southeast Asia makes your views all the more timely. In the weeks and months ahead, as we prepare for the Bicentennial Year, we will certainly want to concentrate on the challenges you raise. I have asked appropriate officials in the Department of State to give your suggestion every consideration.

Mrs. Ford joins me in thanking you for your letter and for your kind expression of good wishes.

Sincerely,

*Ronald R. Ford*

His Eminence  
Terence Cardinal Cooke  
Archbishop of New York  
452 Madison Avenue  
New York, New York

Date: May 6, 1975

NSC REFERRAL TO STATE SECRETARIAT

MEMORANDUM FOR:

GEORGE SPRINGSTEEN  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

NSC LOG# 2044

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION:

TO: His Eminence  
Terence Cardinal Cooke

FROM: The President

DATE: May 6, 1975

SUBJECT: Course of world events espically in Southeast Asia

ACTION REQUESTED:

       DRAFT REPLY FOR:

       PRESIDENT'S SIGNATURE

       WHITE HOUSE STAFF SIGNATURE

       OTHER       

       DIRECT REPLY

       FURNISH INFO COPY

XXX DISPATCH

       RECOMMENDATIONS/COMMENTS

       TRANSLATION

       APPROPRIATE HANDLING

       INFORMATION

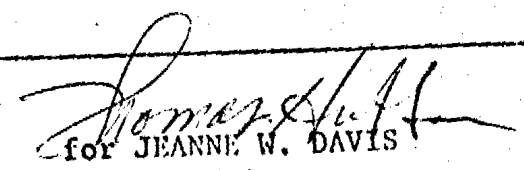
       FOR ADDITIONAL PROCESSING AS INDICATED:       

DUE DATE:

URGENT XXXXXX 

ROUTINE       

COMMENTS:       

  
for JEANNE W. DAVIS  
Staff Secretary

MEMORANDUM

(2044)

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

ACTION

May 5, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: HENRY A. KISSINGER *HK*

SUBJECT: Correspondence with the Archbishop of  
New York, Terence Cardinal Cooke

Cardinal Cooke recently wrote you about a proposal he first made in 1972 for a non-partisan Presidential commission to study ways of finding peace in the world (Tab B).

While the Cardinal's proposal requires further study, I believe it would be appropriate for you to send him a brief acknowledgement.

I have attached a suggested letter at Tab A from you to the Cardinal. Paul Theis concurs in the text of that letter.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the letter to Archbishop Terence Cardinal Cooke at Tab A.

Attachments

- Tab A - Letter to Archbishop Terence Cardinal Cooke.
- Tab B - Letter of March 29, 1975 from the Archbishop.

(2044)

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 24, 1975

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER

FROM: Hal Horan *HH*  
SUBJECT: Presidential correspondence with the Archbishop  
of New York, Terence Cardinal Cooke

Cardinal Cooke has written the President suggesting a Presidential commission to study ways of finding peace in the world (Tab B). I recommend that, given the Cardinal's position, the President personally acknowledge receipt of the letter. The President's response would indicate he has asked appropriate officials in the Department of State to give the suggestion every consideration.

Paul Theis concurs in the text of the recommended letter at Tab A

RECOMMENDATION

That you forward the memorandum to the President at Tab I concerning the subject correspondence at Tab A.

Attachment

Tab I - Memo for the President.

REQUEST FOR EDITORIAL OFFICE ACTION

TO: PAUL A. THEIS

FROM: HAL HORAN - NSC Staff

ACTION REQUESTED:

( ) Speech ( ) Brief remarks ( ) Talking points  
( ) Article ( ) Script ( ) Toast  
( ) Message ( ) Other Letter

Event or publication for which Presidential material is requested  
Responding to letter to President of March 29, 1975 in re  
proposing a Commission to study ways of finding peace in world.

Date, time and place of use N. A.

Time/word length of requested material N. A.

Suggested theme N. A.

Basic research/speech material furnished with this request (please attach)  
N. A.

Persons to contact for additional information Hal Horan  
(x-5022)

Additional comments None.

Rev. Dr.  
HEHoran-NSC (x-5022)  
4/22/75

Your Eminence:

I greatly appreciated receiving your recent letter with excerpts from your Pastoral Message on Peace on May 19, 1972, proposing a Commission to study ways of finding peace in the world.

~~I agree that~~ <sup>THE</sup> tragic course of events in Southeast Asia make ~~consideration~~ <sup>VIEWS</sup> of your ~~ideas~~ <sup>^</sup> all the more timely. In the weeks and months ahead, as we prepare for the Bicentennial Year, we will ~~doubtless~~ <sup>certainly</sup> want to concentrate on the challenges you raise, ~~and~~ I have asked appropriate officials in the Department of State to give your suggestion every consideration.

Mrs. Ford joins me in thanking you for your letter and for your kind expression of good wishes.

Sincerely,

[ for Presidential signature ]

His Eminence

Terence Cardinal Cooke

Archbishop of New York

452 Madison Avenue

New York, N. Y.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT  
TRANSMITTAL FORM

S/S:7506652

Date: April 15, 1975

For: Lt. Gen. Brent Scowcroft  
National Security Council  
The White House

Pursuant to referral dated 4/3/75, NSC No. 7502044 (if any)  
a copy of which is attached, we are enclosing the following:

Information copy  
of direct reply Translation Other  
X Draft reply for: President's signature WH Staff Other signature

We believe no response is necessary for the reason cited below

The attached item, which was sent directly to the Department  
of State, is being forwarded for your attention.

We believe no response is necessary for the reason cited below

A draft reply is attached

A draft reply will be forwarded

A translation is attached

Other

REMARKS:

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION:

To: Pres. Gerald Ford

From: Archbishop Terence Cardinal Cooke

Date: 3/29/75

Subject: Request an International

Commission to establish a Lasting Peace in the World.

*C. Heileman*

for George S. Springsteen  
Executive Secretary

SUGGESTED REPLY

Your Eminence:

President Ford has asked me to reply to your letter suggesting that he set up a Commission to study the ways of finding peace. We all share your desire to live in a world without war and hatred.

Your letter has been forwarded to appropriate officials in the Department of State who will give your suggestion every consideration.

We appreciate your interest and are pleased that you took the time to share your ideas with us.

Sincerely,

His Eminence Terence Cardinal Cooke,  
Archbishop of New York,  
452 Madison Avenue,  
New York, New York.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE



NSC REFERRAL TO STATE SECRETARIAT

Date: 4/3/75

MEMORANDUM FOR:

GEORGE SPRINGSTEEN  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

NSC LOG# 7509044

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION:

TO: PRESIDENT FORD

FROM: ARCHBISHOP OF NEW YORK, TERENCE CARDINAL SUK

DATE: MARCH 29TH

SUBJECT: REQUEST AN INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION TO ESTABLISH  
A LASTING PEACE IN THE WORLD

ACTION REQUESTED:

☒ DRAFT REPLY FOR: ☐ PRESIDENT'S SIGNATURE  
☐ WHITE HOUSE STAFF SIGNATURE  
☐ OTHER

☐ DIRECT REPLY ☐ FURNISH INFO COPY

☐ DISPATCH

☐ RECOMMENDATIONS/COMMENTS

☐ TRANSLATION

☐ APPROPRIATE HANDLING

☐ INFORMATION

☐ FOR ADDITIONAL PROCESSING AS INDICATED:

DUE DATE:

URGENT

ROUTINE ☒

DUE BY APRIL 10TH

COMMENTS:

for JEANNE W. DAVIS  
Staff Secretary

UNC.

CLASSIFICATION

2044

CARDINAL'S RESIDENCE  
452 MADISON AVENUE  
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10022

March 29, 1975

Dear Mr. President:

HK  
The recent tragic developments in Southeast Asia, coupled with the current impasse and the continuing volatility of the situation in the Middle East have once more brought our nation and the world to the realization of the difficulties that still beset the road to a true and lasting peace with justice in our times.

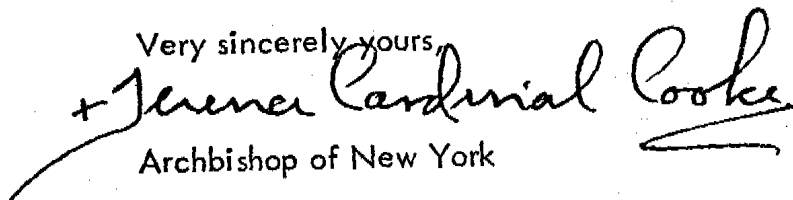
It is because of this that I write to you today to put forward again a suggestion which was made after much thought and consultation three years ago. At that time, immediately around the period of the Paris negotiations, I suggested the possible advantages that might be found in marshalling all the talents and wisdom of our own beloved nation in a concerted effort to study the ways to peace and justice in today's world. There have been non-partisan Presidential Commissions set up with some success on many other issues in the past decades. In this critical time and as we approach our Bicentennial Year, a Commission to study the ways of finding peace in the world could have immense value for future generations.

May I take the liberty of sending you a portion of my statement at that time in which this suggestion is formulated. If the project seems to have value to you in the light of the present status of foreign affairs - and in the light of its usefulness in focusing our own people more certainly on the quest for peace - I should be happy to discuss it further with you if you wish.

-2-

With kindest personal regards to the First Lady and yourself, and with my prayerful best wishes that this Easter Season may be a time of peace for you and for our beloved nation, I am

Very sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "John Cardinal Cooke". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "J" and a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Archbishop of New York

The Honorable Gerald R. Ford,  
The White House,  
Washington, D. C. 20013

EXCERPT FROM THE PASTORAL MESSAGE ON PEACE OF HIS EMINENCE,  
TERENCE CARDINAL COOKE -- MAY 19TH, 1972

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Even before the current conflict is ended, let us face the problem of war itself and begin to develop an instrumentality to prevent future wars. Even though all the guns are not yet silent and the bombs and the rockets still do their ugly work, we must now think of building and preserving a lasting peace guaranteed not by the precarious balance of terrible armaments, but in some other way by an effective covenant of the nations which share this small planet - Earth. It seems incomprehensible to me that nations with enough resources in talent and technology to harness nuclear power and to challenge the world of space cannot harness those talents and resources to prevent war and give peace a chance.

Therefore, I recommend that our nation establish a Commission to mobilize our finest resources in the cause of lasting peace - to bring scholars and scientists and men of every relevant discipline together in the service of all mankind to study and to plan for the prevention of war. There is no cause more noble or more important to this battered world, and there is no moment like the present to launch this hope for the future.

It was at the United Nations seven years ago that Pope Paul uttered the memorable cry "War Never Again!" Three words that express the deepest yearnings in the hearts of men! Can anyone doubt that in this nuclear age we have reached a crossroads of history, a point of no return, where war is no longer an acceptable alternative for nations in order to settle disagreements. The elimination of war, and ultimately of the very capacity to wage it - is an imperative for the survival of the human race. We are confronted by a frighteningly unwanted timetable. The clock ticks on and the bomb which might explode at any time could destroy all of us, friends and foe alike. It is not in the least alarmist to say that we do not, with deliberate speed, develop the means of war-prevention and make impossible the waging of war by any nation on this earth, we run the risk of witnessing, in our own time, the very end of human history.

The challenge is enormously difficult. It will require prayerful study, persevering dialogue, the careful planning of restraints, the development of the technology and the diplomatic initiatives which will be necessary. Because the task is so difficult and will take unparalleled effort we have all the more reason to approach it without delay. War is the problem men must solve and we must begin to solve it now!

-2-

Is it asking too much of America that she take the first step forward and then call upon the other nations of the world to come together in this quest to end war? It is undoubtedly the priority of our era, and the nation which seizes the initiative to accomplish it will earn the gratitude of all mankind.