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November 23, 1931

Dr. Edmund E. Day
Rockefeller Foundation
61 Broadway, N. Y.

Dear Day

Enclosed you will find, in skeleton form, minutes of the meeting of the directors and representatives of organizations for research in international relations held at the office of the Social Science Research Council on November 8, 1931.

No effort has been made to reproduce any of the discussion in detail.

It is proposed to hold a second meeting sometime later in the course of the academic year.

Sincerely yours

J. T. Shotwell

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Minutes of Meeting of the Directors of University Councils and Research
Institutes, under the auspices of the International Relations
section of the Social Science Research Council
on November 8, 1931 at 10:30 A. M.

James T. Shotwell presiding.

Present: T. A. Bisson (Foreign Policy Association); George H. Blakeslee (Clark University); Isaiah Bowman (American Geographical Society); Robert T. Crane (Social Science Research Council); Edmund E. Day (Rockefeller Foundation); Herbert Feis (U. S. Department of State); M. D. Givens (S.S.R.C.); J. V. A. MacMurray (Johns Hopkins University); Walter H. Mallory (Council on Foreign Relations); Raymond T. Rich (World Peace Foundation); Lindsay Rogers (S.S.R.C.); Walter P. Sharp (S.S.R.C.); J. Walter Thompson (Institute of Intellectual Cooperation); George Grafton Wilson (Harvard University); and Quincy Wright (University of Chicago).

Invited, but not able to be present: Harry A. Garfield (Williamstown Institute of Politics); Charles P. Howland (Yale University); Harold G. Moulton (Brookings Institute); and DeWitt C. Poole (Princeton University).

The meeting opened with a statement from the chairman on the problem of securing cooperation in research on the part of the various institutions represented in the conference, without lessening individual initiative or attempting to institutionalize research according to any predetermined pattern. He stated that the International Relations section of the Social Science Research Council was willing to act as liaison between the different organizations in so far as they may find coordination of service to their own plans. The meeting then proceeded to deal with the problems on the Agenda attached.

I. Programs for Research: Coordination and Non-duplication of Effort.

A general survey was made of the researches in international relations at present under way (as listed in Appendix A of the Agenda), along with others undertaken so recently that no public announcement of them has yet been made. It was the sense of the meeting that if a list of researches in progress could be periodically circulated, duplication of effort could be avoided and opportunities would be created for consultation between individuals interested in the same subjects. It was agreed that the feasibility of preparing and circulating such a list should be canvassed.

II. Conference of Institutions for the Scientific Study of International Relations. There was a lengthy discussion of American representation in this Conference. It was the sense of the meeting that for the present the Council on Foreign Relations should continue to be the American representative, so far as the furnishing of information was concerned. With respect to the subject, "The International Implications of the Relations between Government and Business" (Appendix B), which is to be considered by the Conference of Institutions for the Scientific Study of International Relations at its meeting in Warsaw in June, 1932, it was the sense of the meeting that the Director of Research in International Relations of the Social Science Research Council should further explore the possibilities of cooperation on the part of the various organizations represented. If it proved possible to prepare memoranda similar to those under preparation in England, these memoranda could then be forwarded through the Council on Foreign Relations to the Secretariat of the Conference of Institutions for the Scientific Study of International Relations for consideration at the meeting of the Program Committee (Paris, January 1932). The exact subject, as phrased by the Conference, is as follows: "A study of the international implications of the relations between governmental authority

and the private economic activities of individuals and groups, with particular reference to the new forms of public management, control and supervision, national or international, direct or indirect, which have grown up since the War, and to the nature of the motives and policies underlying them."

The question of American representation in the Conference at Warsaw, when the subject will be discussed, could be taken up later. Several of those present undertook to prepare provisional memoranda setting forth their views as to the scope of the subject, Government and Business. The problem will be dealt with more concretely when Mr. E. C. Carter, the American representative on the Program Committee, returns to the United States.

III. Organization of Research in Central and Eastern Europe. There was an extensive discussion of Professor Shotwell's memorandum on the Organization of International Relations Research in Central Europe (Appendix C). The importance of having such additional centers of research as a basis for cooperation with American scholars was recognized by several speakers.

The value of Geneva as a research center in international relations was discussed in connection with the memorandum from Mr. Malcolm Davis (Appendix D). The opinion was expressed that a reform might very well be made at some future time which would prevent duplication of effort and organization at Geneva.

IV. Coordination of Research in the United States and in Europe. The list of possible topics of research in Appendix E of the Agenda was examined, and the sense of the meeting was that Protective Tariffs, Most-Favored-Nation Clauses, Post-War Relations between Nationalism and Economic Conditions and Policies were the topics most worthy of further exploration.

V. What is "National Interest?" The meeting considered the proposal

by Dr. Charles A. Beard (Appendix F) that an investigation be made of the content of the phrase, "National Interest," and it was agreed that Dr. Beard himself would be the best man to make this investigation.

VI. World Peace Foundation Projects. There was some discussion of the scope of the three projects presented by the World Peace Foundation: "The United States Trade Promotion Policy," "The United States Policy Regarding the Protection of American Property Rights and Interests in Foreign Countries," and "The United States Policy Regarding Control of Raw Materials." No action was taken.

The meeting adjourned at six o'clock.

LINDSAY ROGERS