

Columbia University  
in the City of New York

[NEW YORK 27, N. Y.]

SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

October 14, 1950

Mr. Joseph H. Willits  
Rockefeller Foundation  
49 West 49th Street  
New York, New York

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Dear Joe:

You have asked me to give you some information relative to the financing of the various institutes here at Columbia which are affiliated with the School of International Affairs. Down to date there are three in number - the Russian Institute, the East Asian Institute and the European Institute.

I take it I do not need to comment on the financing of the Russian Institute, as that has been set forth in great detail in our formal application to you for a renewal of the existing grant.

East Asian Institute

Because of the success in the Russian field of the area approach to regional studies, the East Asian Institute was created out of the existing resources of the University in the Chinese and Japanese fields, plus the additions made possible by the grant of \$120,000 for the three year period ending July 1, 1952 by the Rockefeller Foundation which was designed to strengthen the work of the several departments in connection with the East Asian field. With these funds, Professor Franklin L. Ho was added to the Department of Economics and Jay Dixon Edwards to the Department of Public Law and Government. (This last appointment was understood both by Mr. Edwards and the Department to be temporary in its character and to continue only until Dr. Syrl Bates accepted an invitation either from the Department of Public Law and Government or from the Union Theological Seminary to come to Morningside Heights.) If suitable personnel can be found, an additional appointment will be made to the Department of Anthropology, Sociology or Social Psychology during the current academic year.

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In addition to the senior members of the Institute, the Departments of Chinese and Japanese are in the process of developing an extraordinary able junior team. The members of this team have been assigned posts in Columbia College where they are giving half time to the work of their respective departments, e.g., government, philosophy, etc., and the balance to a colloquium on East Asian classics.

Inevitably, the question arises as to how the East Asian Institute will be financed on the termination of the Rockefeller grant. A part of the answer has already been found in the appointment of Dr. Syrl Bates to Union Theological Seminary, with the understanding that after his first year in the Seminary, he will become a full fledged member of the Institute; another part will be found in the junior team to which I have already referred, the members of which are acquiring a maturity which will shortly make it possible to use them in graduate as well as undergraduate work. A further answer will be found, we hope, in the attempt now being made to secure non-University and non-Foundation financing for the salary of the additional member of the staff of the Institute we desire to carry permanently.

If the researches of the Institute are to be carried on as effectively in the future as they are being carried on now, it is well within the realm of possibility that the University will turn again to the Foundations for assistance. I might parenthesize the fact that Sir George Sansom is spending a considerable part of this year in Tokyo doing research on a part of the original Rockefeller grant. Professor Hugh Borton plans to do likewise next year.

#### European Institute

The European Institute was organized as a result of discussions between the officers of the Carnegie Corporation and members of the Columbia faculty who are primarily interested in European affairs. I enclose herewith a copy of the letter of May 5, 1948 which was addressed to the Carnegie Corporation, together with the Working Paper on which it was based.

It was fully realized by all concerned that the European Institute would differ considerably from the Russian Institute and the East Asian Institute in that it would be an attempt not merely to supplement the existing staff of the University in this field by new appointments to posts in the Departments of Economics, History, Public Law and Government, Sociology, etc., as the needs of the Institute might demand, but more important, to integrate the work of a relatively

large fraction of the faculty in a manner it had never been integrated before. This latter we have attempted to do through a series of joint seminars in which a panel of faculty and students, specializing in a particular area participate, and a faculty seminar which for the current year at least is devoting itself to the problems of Europe as an entity as distinct from the French, German and Italian areas covered by the seminars to which previous reference has been made.

In attempting to create a European Institute, both the officers of the Foundation and we at the University realized that we were engaged in an experiment, but it seemed to us that it was an experiment which should be made both for the reasons set forth in my letter to Mr. Josephs, and perhaps even more important, because of the fact that the subject matter of the European Institute is our intellectual and spiritual inheritance without which we should be intellectually and spiritually poverty stricken indeed in the battle of the ideologies now going on. It was for this latter reason perhaps more than the former that the University welcomed the opportunity to strengthen its work immediately in the European field which thus enabled the University to do immediately what it intended to do anyhow, albeit much more slowly. ]

[ Near and Middle Eastern Institute

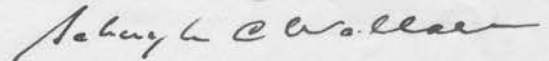
There is a fourth institute in which we at the School of International Affairs are also interested, which would cover the Near and Middle East. In this letter I shall not attempt to spell out in detail the reason for our interest in this region, except to say that it seems to us to be one of the important areas of the world which, so far at least, has been inadequately covered by the university world, about which there seems to be a very real interest on the part of a sufficiently large segment of New York population to justify the University undertaking this work as a service to the population of the metropolitan area. We at the School of International Affairs, however, are in full agreement with the Administration of the University that if such an Institute is created it must be created without in any way dipping into the general funds of the Corporation. It is for this reason that we are moving toward the establishment of such an Institute through the creation of a series of lesser Centers. A Center of Israeli Studies has already been announced and it is highly probable a Center of Pakistan Studies will be announced shortly; a Center of Turkish and Persians studies may follow. No Center will be created unless we have commitments from responsible people for a minimum of ten years or, alternatively, an endowment. Each Center will be so organized that

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it can be liquidated if at the end of the ten year period this financial support is not continued or other support is not forthcoming. I should perhaps add that in each case thus far the support we have obtained has come from sources which would not otherwise be interested in the University, so that the creation of these Centers in no way, directly or indirectly, constitute a drain on University finances. I might add also that each Center is required to bear its proportionate share of the University's overhead. ]

I hope that this furnishes you with the information you desire on this particular point. If there is anything you wish me to add, I shall be very happy to do so.

Cordially yours,



Schuyler C. Wallace  
Director

SCW:mc