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Ad Hoc Committee of Welcome to the Dean of Canterbury, re: State Department's refusal of visa to Dr. Hewlett Johnson, Dean of Canterbury, 1948.

#### RALPH BARTON PERRY

985 Memorial Drive
Cambridge 38, Massachusetts

September 7, 1948

Dear Rabbi Silver:

The decision of the State Department to refuse a visa to Dr. Hewlett Johnson. the Dean of Canterbury, preventing him from entering the United States to make a speaking tour, seems to us to have very grave implications for the American people.

In the words of one of us, we are "not wholly convinced that Dr. Hewlett Johnson has the whole story of eastern Europe, but he has an important part of it, and should have every encouragement within our hitherto remarkably free society, to express his views and to supplement what our newspapers are daily emphasizing."

The State Department has publicly given as its reason the organization which invited the Dean-the National Council of American-Soviet Friendship--but enquiry as to whether a visa would be accorded him for appearances under some other sponsorship indicates that the real objection of the Department is to the appearance of the Dean himself and the presentation of his information and point of view to the American people for their own mature judgment. It is this element of official censorship that disturbs us.

We are not alone in this feeling. The New York Herald-Tribune, the New York Post, the Boston Herald and the Chicago Sun-Times have editorially condemned this decision, and the American Civil Liberties Union has called it an infringement of the traditional American pattern of free speech and assembly.

We feel compelled to take some action. At the suggestion of the National Council of American-Soviet Friendship, it is our purpose to call into being an ad hoc Committee of Welcome to the Dean of Canterbury. We wish you to join us as a member. The one purpose of this Committee will be to assure the extending of our traditional American hospitality and courtesy to the Dean. As the initiators, we pledge to safeguard the independent integrity of this Committee.

At this point, our Committee will necessarily have to address a letter to the Secretary of State expressing concern over the decision to refuse a visa and asking immediate reconsideration. We will tell Mr. Marshall that, in the interest of free speech, we would gladly extend the Dean an invitation to visit the United States, were such a move to make his visit possible. This action does not require any defense of the National Council of American-Soviet Friendship nor of the views of the Dean but only an appeal to our Government to accord the Dean normal access and opportunity to present in the United States his information and opinion, which is a traditional American right we insist upon for ourselves as well as for the Dean. We would, of course, desire to let the people know of our action through normal press release.

Your prompt and favorable response we very much desire.

Faithfully yours,

RALPH BARTON PERRY

Harvard University

Christian Junes

CHRISTIAN GAUSS

Princeton University

VILLIAM ERNEST HOCKING

985 Memorial Drive
Cambridge 38, Massachusetts

September 18, 1948

as member of the Ad Hoc Committee of Welcome to the Dean of Canterbury; you, together with approximately 100 others, having returned an affirmative reply to the letter of September 7th, 1948 addressed to you by Dean Christian Gauss, Prof. W. E. Hocking, and myself. This release will serve to keep you abreast of our activities to date; and when action has been taken on the Dean's visa, you will be informed of future plans.

RALPH BARTON PERRY

Ralph Barton Perry, 985 Memorial Drive, Cambridge 38, Mass.

# Not for Release Before Tuesday a.m. Sept. 21, 1948

#### CITIZENS' COMMITTEE INVITES DEAN OF CANTERBURY

Professor Ralph Barton Perry of Harvard University released today the names of ninety three prominent educators, churchmen and individuals in other cultural fields, who have formed an Ad Hoc Committee of Welcome for the Very Reverend Hewlett Johnson, D.D., Dean of Canterbury Cathedral.

Dean Johnson had been invited to visit the United States by
the National Council of American-Soviet Friendship for a countrywide tour under its auspices. A visa was refused him on the
ground that the sponsoring organization was on the AttorneyGeneral's list.

The Committee of Acome has extended to Dean Johnson an invitation to come to the United States under its independent auspices in November and December of this year, and to speak at such public gatherings as may be arranged on his behalf.

Pointing out that the Dean of Canterbury was accorded a hearty welcome to the United States in 1945 when he spoke in many cities and was received at the White House by President Truman, and that a visa was again granted him in 1947 for another countrywide trip which the Dean's illness canceled at the last moment, the letter of invitation said that "many American citizens were shocked to learn that a visa had been denied you."

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"In the light of a public statement made by the Secretary of State", the letter continued, "we are encouraged to believe that there is no official objection to your entering the country under other auspices." The Committee has extended this invitation "in the interest of maintaining the traditional American patterns of free speech and hospitality to outstanding personalities from other lands."

Professor Perry also released the text of a letter to

Secretary of State George C. Marshall informing him of the forma tion of the Committee of Welcome and the invitation sent to

Dean Johnson. "We wish to see Dean Johnson accorded the right to
tell his story to the American people for them to accept or reject,
as they themselves choose. We do not by this invitation indicate
our personal agreement of the him."

The letter declined to pass any judgment on the action of the Secretary of State in citing the National Council of American—Soviet Friendship as the reason for the refusal of the visa.

"Our membership embraces persons of divergent views as to the policy of the organization in question", stated the letter. "What concerns us is the abridgement of the American tradition of free and open discussion involved in the exclusion of the Dean and his consequent inability to present his information and point of view to the American people for their mature consideration." As to the message of the Dean, although indicating disagreement with him on the part of many members of the Committee, the letter quoted one of the members as saying, "we are not wholly convinced

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that Dr. Hewlett Johnson has the whole story of eastern Europe, but he has an important part of it, and should have every encouragement within our hitherto remarkably free society, to express his views and to supplement what our newspapers are daily emphasizing."

Invitations to join the Ad Hoc Committee, said Professor Perry, were issued by himself, Professor William Ernest Hocking of Harvard University, and Dean Christian Gauss of Princeton University. They were sent to 380 selected names and replies are still coming in from distant parts of the country. He anticipates a number of additional signers.

In signing the invitation to the Dean and the letter of notification to the Secretary of State, Prof. Perry pointed out that he was simply acting temporarily on behalf of the Committee, and that if the visa were granted, it would be necessary to work out further organizational details to arrange meetings for the Dean and handle his expenses.

The text of the two letters and the list of members of the Ad Hoc Committee to date, are attached below:

In the words of one of us, we are "not wholly convinced that Dr. Hewlett Johnson has the whole story of eastern Europe, but he has an important part of it, and should have every encouragement within our hitherto remarkably free society, to express his views and to supplement what our newspapers are daily emphasizing."

The State Department has publicly stated that the fact the the invitation was issued by the National Council of American-Soviet Friendship was the reason for the refusal of the visa. We are in position to pass judgment on this aspect of the Department's action and make no comment upon it. Our membership emeraces persons of divergent views as to the policy of the organization in question. What concerns us is the abridgement of the American tradition of free and open discussion involved in the exclusion of the Dean and his consequent inability to present his information and point of view to the American people for their meture consideration.

That we are not alone in this concern can be judged from the critical editorial opinion which has appeared in all sections of the country, and from the fact that the American Civil Liberties Union has protested this step as a serious infringement of the traditional American patterns of free speech and assembly. this element of official censorship that has disturbed us and moved us to take action. We have joined together to form an Ad Hoc Committee of Welcome in order to assure this distinguished British Churchman the extension of our traditional American hospitality and courtesy.

Since the formation of this Committee was begun, we have noted with interest the statement made by the Press Officer of the State Department, Mr. McDermott, and reiterated in the course of an interview with the Press by yourself, that there is no personal objection to the Dean's coming to the United States for a speaking tour, and intimating that a visa might be granted him, were he to oe invited under other auspices.

#### LETTER TO SECRETARY MARSHALL (Cont.)

We wish to inform you that our Ad Hoc Committee of Welcome to the Dean of Canterbury has this day extended to Dean Johnson, in an air-mail communication to which our names are attached, a cordil invitation to come to the United States in November and early December as the guest of our Committee.

In taking this action, we desire to make it explicitly clear that we are motivated solely by the question of maintaining full freedom of speech and discussion. We wish to see Dean Johnson accorded the right to tell his story to the American people for them to accept or reject, as they themselves choose. We do not by this invitation indicate our personal agreement with him.

We ask that when Dean Johnson applies again for a visa, as we trust he will wish to do, the State Department, in conformity with its public statements, will reconsider his request and grant him the privilege of entering the United States for speaking engagements as the guest of this Committee.

Sincerely,

(signed) Ralph Barton Perry

FOR THE COMMETTEE

#### RALPH BARTON PERRY

985 Memorial Drive

Cambridge 38, Massachusetts

#### Not For Release Before Tuesday a. .

Sept. 21, 1948

### 3. MEMBERSHIP OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE OF WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Charles B. Ackley, Rector, St. Mary's Church, New York City.

Rev. Prof. James Luther Adams, University of Chicago.

Dr. Thomas Addis, Stanford University Medical School

Bishop C. C. Alleyne, A.M.E. Zion Church, Philadelphia, Pa.

Prof. Gordon W. Allport, Harvard University

Dr. Frank Aydelotte, Director Emeritus, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton University

Rev. David D. Baker, Editor, The Messenger, Evangelical and Reformed Church, St. Louis, Mo.

Rev. Dr. Wade Crawford Barclay, Henry Seidel Canby, Board of Missions, Methodist ChurchEditor Emeritus, Saturday Review of Literature

Rev. Dr. Albert E. Barnett, Garrett Biblical Institute, Evanston, Ill.

Rev. Merrill Otis Bates, Unitarian Minister, Grosse Pointe, Michigan.

Dr. Frederick K. Beutel, Dean, Law School, University of Nebraska

Dr. Algernon D. Black, New York Society for Ethical Culture Bishop Charles Brashares, Methodist District, Iowa

Dr. benneth Irving Brown, President, Denison University

Rev. Dr. T. T. Brumbaugh, Methodist Board of Missions.

Rev. Dr. Emory Stevens Bucke, Editor, Zion's Herald

Prof. Edwin Berry Burgum, New York University

Dr. Frederick Burkhardt, President, Bennington College.

Dr. Allan M. Butler, Harvard University Medical Schoo!

Dr. Victor L. Butterfield, President, Wesleyan University

Angus Cameron, Publisher, Little, Brown & Co.

Rabri Jonah E. Caplan, Congregation Beth-El of Astoria, New York

Dr. Everett N. Case, President, Colgate University

Dr. Rufus R. Clement, President, Atlanta University

Rev. Donald B. Cloward, Council on Christian Social Progress, Northern Baptist Convention. Prof. Henry Steele Commager, Columbia University

Dr. Harry A. Curtis, University of Missouri

Rev. Prof. George Dahl, Yale Divinity School

Dr. Leo M. Davidoff, Montefiore Hospital, New York

Rev. Dr. Mark Dawber, Home Missions Council of North America

Very Rev. John Warren Day, Dean, Grace Cathedral, Topeka, Kansas

Olin Downes, Music Critic, New York Times

Dr. Leslie C. Dunn, Columbia University

Lion Feuchtwanger, Author, Pacific Palisades, California

Rev. Prof. Joseph F. Flotcher, Episcopal Theological School

Rev. Stephen H. Fritchman, First Unitarian Church, Los Angeles, California

Dean Christian Gauss, Princeton University

Dr. Ralph H. Gundlach, University of Washington

Rt. Rev. Elwood L. Haines, Protestant Episcopal Bishop of Iowa

Rt. Rev. Charles F. Hall, Protestant Episcopal Bishop of New Hampshire

Dr. Alice Hamilton, Medical Scientist, Hadlyme, Connecticut Prof. William Ernest Hocking, Harvard University

Rev. Chester E. Hodgson, Centenary Methodist Church, Newark, New Jersey

Dr. John Haynes Holmes, Minister, The Community Church, New York

M. A. DeWolfe Howe, Author, Boston, Mass.

Hon. Stanley M. Isaacs, Councilman of the City of New York

Rev. Prof. Fleming James, Sr., Yale Divinity School

Crockett Johnson, Author, South Norwalk, Connecticut

Prof. Howard Mumford Jones, Harvard University

Rev. Dr. John Paul Jones, Union Church of Bay Ridge, Brooklyn, New York

Prof. Earl C. Kelly, Wards University

Rev. Dr. William E. Lampe Evangelical & Reformed Church, Philadelphia, Pa.

Rev. Dr. John Howland Lathrop, Unitarian Church of the Savior, Brooklyn, New York

Rt. Rev. W. Appleton Lawrence, D.I Protestant Episcopal Bishop of Western Massachusetts

John F. Lewis, Jr.,
President, American Academy of
Music

Prof. Alain Locke, Howard University Rev. Donald G. Lothrop, Community Church, Boston, Mass.

Rev. Prof. Halford E. Luccock, Yale Divinity School

Dr. Thomas Mann, Author, Pacific Palisades, California

Prof. F. O. Matthiessen, Harvard University

Bishop Francis J. Mc Connell, Retired, The Methodist Church

Prof. Wayne McMillen, University of Chicago

Arthur Miller, Jr., Playwright, New York.

Dr. Wesley C. Mitchell, National Bureau of Economic Research

Rt. Rev. Arthur W. Moulton, D.D., Protestant Episcopal Bishop of Utah, Retired

Dr. Stuart Mudd, School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania

Dr. Walter G. Muelder, Dean, School of Theology, Boston University

Rt. Rev. Norman B. Nash, D. D., Protestant Episcopal Bishop of Massachusetts

Dr. John W. Nason, President, Swarthmore College

Rabbi Louis I. Newman, Congregation Rodeth Sholom New York City

Rev. Dr. Louie D. Newton, Druid Hills Baptist Church, Atlanta, Georgia Rev. Dr. Robert Hastings Nichols, Unica Theological Seminary

Rt. Rev. Edward L. Parsons, D.D. Protestant Episcopal Bishop of California, Retired

Rt. Rev. Malcolm E. Peabody, D.D. Protestant Episcopal Bishop of Central New York

Prof. Ralph Barton Perry, Harvard University

Dr. Fritz Reiner, Conductor, Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra

Elmer Rice, Playwright, Stamford, Connecticut

Col. Raymond Robins, Brooksville, Florida

Dr. William G. Saltonstall, Principal, The Phillips Exeter Academy

Vide D. Scudder, Pro . Emeritus, Well onley College

Rev. Dr. Guy Emery Shipler, Editor, The Churchman

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver, Zionist Organization of America

Prof. P. A. Sorokin, Harvard University

Dr. William E. Stevenson, President, Oberlin College

Rt. Rev. James M. Stoney, Protestant Episcopal Bishop of New Mexico

Rev. Alfred W. Swan, Congregational-Christian Church, Madison, Wisconsin Louis Untermeyer, Poet, Brooklyn, New York

Mark Van Doren, Author, New York City

Prof. Oswald Veblen, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, New Jersey

Oswald Garrison Villard, Publicist, New York City

Rev. Edwin H. Wilson, Editor, The Humanist, Salt Lake City, Utah

Rabbi Stephen S. Wise, The Free Synagogue, New York City

(List Incomplete)

RALPH BARTON PERRY 985 Memorial Drive Cambridge 38, Massachusetts October 25, 1948 To members of the Ad Hoc Committee of Welcome to the Dean of Canterbury Word having been received of the granting of a visa to the Dean of Canterbury, the purpose of intellectual hospitality and freedom of discussion, for which the Committee was created, can be said to have been realized. It is expected that the Dean will arrive in this country about November 11, and that he will visit different localities in accordance with the provisional schedule herewith enclosed. It is understood that your obligations as member of the Committee are now fully discharged, and that any participation on your part in meetings at which the Dean is a guest is wholly optional. RALPH BARTON PERRY 2 Enclosures

#### MEMBERS OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE OF WELCOME

#### TO THE DEAN OF CANTERBURY

Rev. Dr. Charles B. Ackley Rector, St. Mary's Church New York City

Rev. Prof. James Luther Adams, University of Chicago

Dr. Thomas Addis Stanford University Medical School

Prof. Henry D. Aiken Harvard University

Bishop C. C. Alleyne A.M.E. Zion Church Philadelphia, Pa.

Prof. Gordon W. Allport Harvard University

Dr. Henry A. Atkinson Church Peace Union New York

Dr. Frank Aydelotte Director Emeritus Institute for Advanced Study Princeton University

Rev. David D. Baker Editor, The Messenger Evangelical and Reformed Church St. Louis, Mo.

Rev. Dr. Wade Crawford Barclay Board of Missions Methodist Church

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Rev. Merrill Otis Bates Unitarian Minister Grosse Pointe, Michigan

Rt. Rev. Stephen F. Bayne, Jr. Bishop of Olympia Seattle 2, Washington

Prof. Erwin R. Beiler Alleghany College Meadville, Pa.

Dr. Frederick K. Beutel Dean, Law School University of Nebraska

Dr. Algernon D. Black New York Society for Ethical Culture

Bishop Charles Brashares Methodist District, Iowa

Dr. Kenneth Irving Brown President, Denison University

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Dr. George B. Cressey Syracuse University

Dr. Harry A. Curtis University of Missouri

Rt. Rev. Benjamin D. Dagwell, D. D. Bishop of Oregon Portland, Oregon

Rev. Prof. George Dahl Yale Divinity School

Dr. Leo M. Davidoff Montefiore Hospital, New York

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Professor O. Horsley Gantt Johns Hopkins University

Dean Christian Gauss Princeton University

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Rt. Rev. Elwood L. Haines Protestant Episcopal Bishop of Iowa

Rt. Rev. Charles F. Hall Protestant Episcopal Bishop of New Hampshire

Dr. Alice Hamilton Medical Scientist Hadlyme, Connecticut

Dr. Georgia Harkness Garrett Biblical Institute Evanston, Ill.

Professor Roy Harris Colorado College Colorado Springs, Colo.

Prof. William Ernest Hocking Harvard University

Rev. Chester E. Hodgson Centenary Methodist Church Newark, New Jersey

Dr. Eugene C. Holmes Howard University Washington, D. C.

Dr. John Haynes Holmes Minister, The Community Church New York

Dr. Douglas Horton General Secretary Congregational Christian Churches New York

M. A. DeWolfe Howe Author Boston, Mass. Hon. Stanley M. Isaacs Councilman of the City of New York

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Dr. Eduard C. Lindeman New York School of Social Work

Prof. Alain Locke Howard University

Rev. Donald G. Lothrop Cummunity Church Boston, Mass.

Rev. Prof. Halford E. Luccock Yale Divinity School

Dr. Thomas Mann, Author Pacific Palisades, California

Rev. Harold B. Marley
The Unitarian Church of Dayton
Dayton, Ohio

Prof. Kirtley F. Mather Harvard University

Prof. F. O. Matthiessen Harvard University

Dr. Benjamin E. Mays President, Morehouse College Bishop Francis J. McConnell Retired, The Methodist Church

Prof. Wayne McMillen University of Chicago

Arthur Miller Jr. Playwright, New York

Dr. Wesley C. Mitchell National Bureau of Economic Research

Rev. Prof. Joseph G. Moore Seabury-Western Seminary, Evanston, Ill.

Dr. John R. Mott International Y.M.C.A, New York City

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Dr. Stuart Mudd School of Medicine, Univ. of Pa.

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Rev. Dr. Robert Hastings Nichols Union Theological Seminary

Rt. Rev. Edward L. Parsons, D. D. Protestant Espis. Bishop of Calif. Retired

Dr. Frederick Douglas Patterson President, Tuskegee Institute

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Dr. John P. Peters Yale University School of Medicine

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Vida D. Scudder Prof. Emeritus, Wellesley College

Prof. Harlow Shapley Harvard Observatory

Rev. Dr. Guy Emery Shipler Editor, The Churchman

Mr. Lee Simonson, Theatrical Producer New York

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver Zionist Organization of America

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Dr. Harold Taylor President, Sarah Lawrence College

Professor Robert Ulrich Harvard University

Louis Untermeyer, Poet Brooklyn, New York

Mark Van Doren, Author New York City

Prof. Oswald Veblen Institute for Advanced Study Princeton, New Jersey

Oswald Garrison Villard, Publicist New York City

Mr. Aubrey Williams Editor, Southern Farmer

Rev. Edwin H. Wilson, Editor, The Humanist Salt Lake City, Utah

The Hon. James H. Wolf, Justice of the Supreme Court Salt Lake City, Utah

Rabbi Stephen S. Wise
The Free Synagogue, New York City

#### PROVISIONAL SCHEDULE FOR THE DEAN OF CANTERBURY

November 5 Meeting in Toronto

November 8 Meeting in Ottawa

November 10 Meeting in Montreal

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November 14 New York

November 16 Boston

November 18 Cleveland

November 20 Minneapolis

November 24 Winnipeg

November 26 Milwaukee

November 27 Chicago

November 28 Madison

November 29 Detroit

November 30 Ann Arbor

December 3 Denver

December 6 Seattle

December 8 San Francisco

December 9 Los Angeles

December 13 New York

December 14 Philadelphia