

Cultural and Scientific Conference



for World Peace

MARCH 25, 26 AND 27 • HOTEL WALDORF-ASTORIA, NEW YORK
AUSPICES OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE ARTS, SCIENCES AND PROFESSIONS

Conference Headquarters
49 West 44 Street, New York 18, N. Y.
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February 4, 1949

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Dear Sra. Mistral:

I have the honor of inviting you to attend a Cultural and Scientific Conference for World Peace, called by 300 American artists, scientists, professionals and clergymen.

Our Conference is to be held in New York City on March 25, 26 and 27 at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel, and will be attended by some 3000 men and women from all parts of this country who are leaders in various fields of intellectual endeavor.

The enclosed Call of the Conference will give you some idea of its scope. Believing that you are already deeply concerned with the issues to which we will direct ourselves, I hope it will be possible for you to put aside your work for a brief period in order to work with us for peace. Your participation will be invaluable, first in assuring that the conclusions we arrive at will represent the thinking of the intellectuals throughout the world, and second in participating as a leading intellectual in the most important and challenging job of our time.

Naturally, we are most eager to hear from you as soon as possible, since announcement of your participation is eagerly awaited by the American intellectuals who are sponsoring and attending this Conference.

Although our resources do not permit us to provide for all your expenses, we will undertake to be responsible for your housing arrangements in New York City at no expense to you during the time the Conference is in session.

I am sure you will make every effort to be with us, but if it is impossible for you to attend because of previous obligations we would appreciate a message from you to be read at the Conference.

I await your reply by air mail with confidence that you will recognize the importance of our Conference, and I assure you of the pleasure it would give me to welcome you soon to my country.

Sincerely yours,

Harlow Shapley
Chairman

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CALL



to the
cultural and
scientific
conference
for
world peace

CULTURAL AND SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE FOR WORLD PEACE

March 25, 26 & 27, 1949

Waldorf-Astoria, New York City

Park Avenue & 50 Street

*Auspices of the National Council of
the Arts, Sciences and Professions*

Suite 71, 49 West 44 Street • New York 18, N. Y.

THE QUESTION:

"Your work of the past, present and future is not going to be worth anything at all, if the present ominous trends here and abroad lead us into a third world war. The scale of preparation for war (commonly called defense) is tremendous. The next world conflict would not be a bluster, a face-saving maneuver, followed by agreements and prosperous peace. It would end our proud American way of life, whether we seem to win, lose or draw . . . Everybody agrees that the so-called armed truce gives us nothing beneficial except preparation time for the necessary adjustment.

"How can we help, what can we do—we the artists, scientists and professionals in America?"

HARLOW SHAPLEY, *Chairman*
Cultural and Scientific Conference for World Peace

THE CALL:

As American artists, scientists and professionals, we aspire to increase the sum of our country's culture, and contribute something to the happiness and progress of people everywhere.

With many of our colleagues, we hold these truths to be self-evident for our time:

That in this present world, no man can isolate himself.

That those who seek illusory safety in an ivory tower cannot escape the risk of the atom bomb and the concentration camp.

That war—or even preparation for war—disrupts scientific and cultural advance, and perverts creative gifts by drafting them into the service of destruction.

Today there is a threat of war. With the world in tension, our peace, our living standards and the democratic rights of the American people are imperiled.

We believe that in the November elections the majority of the American people repudiated reaction and voted for a program of economic and social advance. We are convinced, however, that this progressive domestic policy is incompatible with and unattainable in a so-called cold-war foreign policy.

While we agree that our country needs adequate arms for self-defense, we need not submit to a program of excessive militarization.

In the period since the initiation of the cold-war policy, we have seen alarming threats to intellectual and cultural progress throughout the world.

Science has come largely under the control of the military which is restricting the development of science for peaceful purposes.

Free international exchange, which is the life-blood of the arts, sciences and professions, is endangered.

In our schools and universities, academic freedom is facing curtailment; censorship and self-censorship are being imposed on our writers, on the motion picture industry, the theatre and the radio.

The teachings of religion cannot flourish in an atmosphere of hate.

The cold-war imperils the inalienable right of the American people to listen to all shades of opinion, discuss them and judge for themselves.

The cold-war is a costly war. It is inimical to the advance of the arts and sciences, and religious and ethical principles for which we stand. One half of this year's \$15 to \$18 billion war budget could vastly improve our housing, health and educational facilities, and subsidize a program for cultural growth and expansion.

The cold-war policy has led to our open intervention with arms and dollars for the support of reactionary and unworkable governments in Greece and China. These expenditures have brought neither economic recovery nor political stability, but instead have encouraged civil war. On a number of critical occasions our government has by-passed the United Nations, first by refusing to continue joint international aid through UNRRA, and most openly in its policy toward the creation of the new state of Israel. The European Recovery Plan has not fulfilled the hopes of many who saw in its announcement the promise of genuine humanitarian aid to the needy of Europe. A large portion of Marshall Plan funds is being used to rebuild Germany which started two world wars. An alliance with Hitler's ally, Franco, is being fostered as a "necessity" of the cold-war.

The cold-war has indeed been costly in material and moral terms. But who could reckon the cost of a new world war in the atomic age?

We agree that mankind must not pay that cost, which is beyond all reckoning. Whatever may be our views in regard to the social, political and economic policies of the Soviet Union, we agree that it is necessary to re-establish American-

Soviet understanding and co-operation, which alone can make peace possible. The necessity for peace through mutual understanding has been officially recognized by many churches.

We do not think the question worthy of debate as to whether or not capitalism and socialism *can* exist together. Both *do* exist. The only question worth discussing is how to restore the mutual acceptance of that fact which brought victory in World War II, and which alone can avert World War III.

These are the considerations that have determined us to call together, in a Cultural and Scientific Conference for World Peace, American artists, scientists and professionals; to meet, to discuss and seek a basis for common action on the central question of peace as it affects our work and our aspirations in the various fields of culture.

We call upon those of no one party but of all parties, on all men of good will, to join with us.

PROGRAM

March 25, 26, and 27

Friday Evening

WELCOME TO OUR
INTERNATIONAL GUESTS

Dinner

Honored guests: leading foreign intellectuals who are invited to participate. Names to be announced later.

Saturday Morning

THE WORLD IN TENSION

Keynote Session

*Panel Discussions
Saturday Afternoon
and
Sunday Morning*

THE EFFECT OF A
DISRUPTED WORLD ON

FINE ARTS:

architecture, art, music, theatre, dance

WRITING AND PUBLISHING

COMMUNICATION THROUGH

FILM, PRESS AND RADIO

EDUCATION

SOCIAL SCIENCES

NATURAL SCIENCES

RELIGION AND ETHICS

Sunday Afternoon

A PROGRAM FOR ACTION

Closing Session

Registration fee:

Three dollars

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