

luth: 5208/17/41

Minute.

SECRET

Mr. J. A. ORDWAY, an undergraduate at Harvard, came to see me to-day with a very warm recommendation from Mr. Hume Wrong of the Canadian Legation. Mr. Ordway makes an extremely favourable impression; he is obviously intelligent and sincere, and it seems to me there is much to be said for his ideas, which are as follows.

2. He is anxious to organize a group of young Americans of college age who would go to England to do any work in which they could be useful. They would be prepared to do semi-skilled labour such as dock-construction (in which they ~~would be~~ trained before going to England); to work in civilian defense; or to join the armed forces. They would want to stay on in England after the war to assist in the work of reconstruction.

3. Their motives would be threefold: firstly, to do the work; secondly, to arouse in America the idea that there is something practical that individual young men can do to help; and thirdly, to show the English that there are people in America who feel that way and to perpetuate into the post-war period the existing co-operation.

4. As I told Mr. Ordway, his suggestions do not really fit into any of the existing schemes for recruiting American manpower, except insofar as members of the group would want to join the armed forces. They would not be suitable for the C.T.C. or for the trained scientists which the Supply Ministries require. But I still think the idea a very good one and that we should telegraph about it to the F.O. Apart from the actual services they might be able to render, the propaganda value would be considerable. Their main source of recruitment would be at Harvard and the other Eastern Universities; and at Harvard in particular there is a good deal of isolationist feeling among the undergraduates.

5. I asked Mr. Ordway how far he had got in the way of organizing a group. He said that in the absence of any indication that their services would be required in England, it was not possible to go very far, but he had been talking to a great many people in Harvard and elsewhere and was sure he could collect plenty of recruits in a short time. From what I have seen of Mr. Ordway I think he is probably right. He has been in touch with President Conant, who encouraged him, and he also proposes to write to Mr. Winant, with whom I gather he has some connection.

WGH:EM.

/6. Mr. Ordway

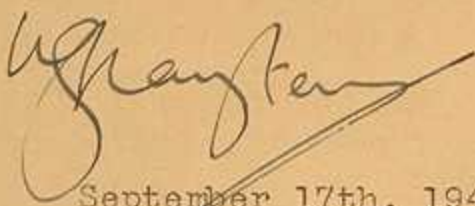
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6. Mr. Ordway hoped that he could get an early decision about this, the main reason being that he and his friends are mostly of about the draft age; they will therefore be lost to us if we cannot get something settled soon.

7. I suggest that we should telegraph about this to the F.O. asking for permission to encourage Mr. Ordway and to assure him that if he can arrange with the U.S. authorities to collect a group to come over, every effort will be made to utilize their services to the full.

Mr. Ordway's address is:

J. A. ORDWAY, ~~Dr.~~
Eliot, H 53,
Cambridge, Massachusetts.



Mr. Hoyer Millar.

September 17th, 1941.

Draft
CTC
not killed