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## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

CARL MARCY, CHIEF OF STAFF  
DARRELL ST. CLAIRE, CLERK

April 29, 1959

Student Body President  
Madison College  
Harrisonburg, Virginia

Dear Student Body President:

You may be aware that this summer in Vienna the leading Communist international student and youth organizations will stage their seventh biennial World Youth Festival. For some time I have followed with great concern the vigorous efforts of the Communists to gain the sympathy and, whenever possible, the support of young people in general, and of the intellectual leadership of the great emerging areas of the world in particular. The vast significance of the impending Youth Festival in this Communist effort becomes clearer every day, and the importance of an informed and vigorous reaction to it by American students can hardly be overemphasized.

It is not necessary to tell American student leaders that the United States is confronted with the gravest of challenges. It may, however, be worthwhile to emphasize the unusually important role that has been thrust on our students by the critical impact which the attitudes and activities of students elsewhere often have on the destiny of their countries. In the face of obstacles and discouragements which would have daunted a less determined and far-sighted leadership, the students of the United States have made, through their national organization the United States National Student Association, invaluable contributions to the creation and support of the Coordinating Secretariat of the International Student Conference. This organization has become a most effective forum through which the non-Communist international student community can discuss ideas, arrange personnel exchanges, and extend assistance to oppressed or needy students wherever they may be. I would be remiss if I did not take this occasion to remind you of the great importance of the continued unflinching support of the American student community for this organization.

Because their participation would enhance the prestige of the Vienna Festival, the chief representative American student and youth organizations, and corresponding groups throughout the

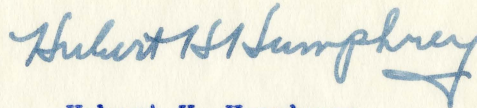
free world, have wisely decided not to participate officially in the Vienna gathering. However, mere non-participation is clearly an inadequate response to the opportunity and challenge that will be presented in Vienna.

I do not think we can afford to ignore the thousands of young people from all over the world who will be assembled there, and who will be subjected to endless propaganda directed against America and democracy. And it therefore seems very important to me that well-informed, well-briefed, enthusiastic American students be encouraged to attend the events in Vienna in their individual capacities.

In this connection, I am taking the liberty of sending you the text of some remarks I made recently in the Senate about the Festival. I would recommend that any students who may be interested in participating as individuals in these activities, contact the Independent Service for Information on the Vienna Youth Festival, 323-24 College House Offices, Harvard Square, Cambridge 38, Massachusetts. It seems crucial to me that Americans planning to attend the Festival have as full an understanding of what will occur there, and of the world situation in general, as is possible. The Independent Service is doing a good job of providing prospective American participants with this type of information.

I hope you will inform as many as possible of the qualified students on your campus about the pitfalls and challenges which will abound at the Festival. To this end, please feel free to use the enclosed material in any way that may seem useful. I will look forward to hearing from you, should there be questions or problems that trouble you in dealing with this important situation.

Sincerely,



Hubert H. Humphrey