

August 1, 1949

**Letter, Frank Wisner to DeWitte Pool [Approved for
Release May 6, 2019]**

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Summary:

Frank Wisner counsels FEC executive secretary DeWitte Poole that the FEC, private but largely government funded, should consult closely with OPC and the State Department on issues of policy, budget, and personnel vetting.

Original Language:

English

Contents:

Original Scan

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ISCAP APPEAL NO. 2012-055, document no. 3
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In reply refer to:

Benjamin I. Salomon
 P.O. Box 5651
 Washington, D.C.

1 August 1949

Mr. Gaudin

Dear Ben:

Recent conversations and communications between you and Fred
 Holboore on one side and Council Officers Nathan Werthman and myself on
 the other have led us to make the following comments in the interest
 of continued harmonious and effective cooperation among us all:

- 1) The National Committee for Free Europe, though partially
 private, is an integral part of a governmental project and as such is
 almost exclusively political. The work of NCFE constitutes one of the
 activities connected with OPC, which is considered a vital and confi-
 dential government agency. OPC was created to serve as an instrument
 for the realization of basic, official policies of the highest order,
 and is directly responsible to the highest ranking government officials.
- 2) In view of the pronounced official character of the enter-
 prise in which NCFE is engaged and due to the fact that a large part
 of the funds at the Committee's disposal are from the government, NCFE
 must be closely guided by government organs, especially by the State
 Department through OPC.
- 3) As you yourself have often taken pains to point out this does
 not mean that the distinguished directors and sponsors of the NCFE are
 "stragglers". It means that all their decisions and acts must be kept within
 the framework of government policies and plans. Naturally, there is no
 desire to discourage the activity or initiatives of your directors and
 sponsors. We all feel deeply grateful to you for playing such a part
 in attaching such men to the Committee. Their interest, participation
 and active backing will add much-desired momentum and prestige to our
 undertaking.
- 4) For that reason we are pleased that you are planning to launch
 a drive for funds as soon as feasible after Labor Day.
- 5) In view of the main source of our funds, of the fact that though
 sufficient they are not unlimited, and of the definite political aims
 which the government expects to attain in expending them, it seems to
 us advisable for New York and Washington to cooperate in working out
 final drafts of the major budget items; among major items we consider
 the National Committee budgets, for example. We are proposing to make
 this suggestion, not because of any disapproval of any budget decision

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made by NSAF but because the prospective activities of certain committees, or activities covered by certain committees, may on occasion be of a confidential nature the ramifications of which can be initially known only to Washington.

Also certain persons attached to the committees, or activities considered by the Committees may have won the disfavor of the U.S. Government. The Committees are closely connected with thousands of refugees in Europe, in which the U.S. Government is interested. Some of these refugees are useful; others are Communist agents; still others are fascists; consequently, some projects require a certain amount of screening by representatives of vital government agencies.

Nothing mysterious or of a "cats and rabbits" nature is intended in this explanation; we are only saying that in the great complexity of vital U.S. government activities, with which NSAF is closely connected, we believe continued close consultation with us on major budget items will be helpful to the project.

6) As a corollary to this, it would help us in planning if you

a) would tell us each month what your expenditures have been and

b) if you'd continue to notify us of each new Committee commitment involving the continuous expenditure of any appreciable sum.

7) In view of the necessity of close cooperation we shall endeavor not only to get authoritative answers from the proper government sources to any policy questions you may raise but shall send you periodical reports on policy developments. With this we do not wish to give you the impression that any day we can immediately get policy information directly from top sources. We go through well defined channels which reach to the necessary sources. Usually the channels work well and ordinarily policy information is given promptly after policy decisions have been made.

8) It is self-understood that we want to cooperate most closely with you in our contacts with the exile leaders. Before discussing any matters involving N.C.F.E. with members of the National Committee whether in Washington or New York or anywhere else we shall endeavor to see one of you, so as to accept a common point of view. We hope you will feel assured that none of us is acting on his own in relations with members of National Committee or in any matter concerning NSAF and if you should get that impression, please tell us of it.

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9) We are engaged in a difficult, complex task, partly private but predominantly governmental; many persons, nations, states, governments and U.S. government agencies are involved; our chance to do something useful for our country is unique; opportunities for misunderstanding and causes for feelings of frustration abound. For these reasons, we consider a continuation of our close cooperation and consultation to be essential.

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FGW: (S)/cuk

Mr. DeWitt Poole, Executive Secretary
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350 Fifth Avenue
New York 1, New York

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