

C. COOPER

October 24, 1947

Dear Mr. Cooper:

October 24, 1947.

I do not know what you mean when you say our State Department is not giving leadership and support to the United Nations.

I have been on the delegation for all of the General Assembly meetings and I assure you that no Foreign Office supports its delegation as well as does our State Department.

The Greek situation has two sides. I think perhaps if you would talk to some of the people in the Department you would understand some of the difficulties better and I think that it is not always what lies on the surface that is really the truth.

Naturally this country was aware of the situation in Greece but it was not our responsibility until Great Britain asked us to take it over.

Mr. Shackford's article seems to me one of the stupidest articles I have ever read. I would like our Secretary of State to provide him with good copy ~~not~~ being the person who stands up and argues with Mr. Vishinsky. Russia sent Vishinsky and not Mr. Molotov to do that. We send Senator Austin, not our Secretary of State.

We have provided all of the issues which are being fought out in the present session. We have brought the Greek question into the UN. We have suggested "The Little Assembly" and it is on our suggestions that other people are working. We do not try to dictate, we bring things to the UN and then let everybody argue them out. We could use our great force and prestige and simply push our suggestions through without discussion, but under Secretary Marshall's wise leadership, we do not even try to push things down the throats of the Latin

American countries. It is wise to people think for themselves - far wiser to propose something and then give answers.

citizens do not have a little more... in their own government and back up a good a Secretary as General Marshall a little more enthusiasm, I do not know how they can expect their public servants to accomplish much for them.

Very sincerely yours,

October 24, 1947

Mr. Cooper:

October 24, 1947.

not know what you mean when you say our Department is not giving leadership and to the United Nations.

I been on the delegation for all of the 11 Assembly meetings and I assure you the Foreign Office supports its delegation as well as does our State Department.

Each situation has two sides. I think if you would talk to some of the people in the Department you would understand the difficulties better and realize that it is not always what lies on the surface but really the truth.

Only this country was aware of the situation in Greece but it was not our responsibility that Great Britain asked us to take it over.

Mr. Stokford's article seems to me one of the best articles I have ever read. I would like to ask the Secretary of State to provide him with a copy and being the person who stands up and argues with Mr. Vishinsky. Russia should ask Mr. Vishinsky and not Mr. Molotov to do that. It is Senator Austin, not our Secretary of State.

We have provided all of the issues which are being brought out in the present session. We have brought the Greek question into the UN. We have suggested "The Little Assembly" and we have made our suggestions that other people are making. We do not try to dictate, we bring our suggestions to the UN and then let everybody make up their minds. We could use our great force and simply push our suggestions through without discussion, but under Secretary Acheson's wise leadership, we do not even try to bring down the throats of the Latin

American countries. It is wise to let people think for themselves - far wiser than to propose something and then give the answers.

citizens do not have a little more confidence in their own government and back up as good a Secretary as General Marshall with a little more enthusiasm, I do not know how they can expect their public servants to accomplish much for them.

Very sincerely yours,

JOHN M. COOPER

ATTORNEY AT LAW

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

October 14, 1947

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt  
United States Delegation  
United Nations Assembly  
Lake Success, New York

*Handwritten initials*

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Your remarkable energies and prodigious works are known to me not only through newspaper reports but also through the closer contact of a friend of mine who worked with your daughter (when she was on the editorial staff of the Seattle Post-Intelligencer) and who talked with you on several occasions when you visited here. Like many others, I am turning to you with my worries and complaints because you may be able to use the sum total of these criticisms (not mine alone) where they will do the most good for our country and the world.

Our colossal lack at the present time seems to be an absence of the right kind of aggressive, resourceful and arresting leadership in our State Department. Instead of being one of the strongest governmental departments in times when like today disintegrating forces are operative in the world, our State Department has seemed to be the most disorganized and inept. It was sad to note the other day that one of the undersecretaries, speaking upon the subject of the recent revival of the Comintern, ruefully remarked that the State Department's information relative to such revival, as in a number of other instances, had been reported in the public press long before it came through official channels. Then again the seemingly sensible suggestions for improvement of our foreign relations and program, which are frankly offered by our own foreign correspondents, appear never to reach the State Department, or if they do, they seem to go unheeded. It looks as though we should put the correspondents into the State Department for a time in order to take advantage of their skilled observations and worthwhile suggestions and should send the officials out into the field to discover at first hand the existing needs. Seriously, there appears to be

DEPT. STATE  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

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a woeful lack of coordination of knowledge, effort, and result in our State Department's conduct of our international affairs.

In this regard, the most disgraceful example of this Department's shortcomings in leadership has been and is its consistent failure to give the United Nations all the support at the disposal of the United States. This country sponsored the United Nations Organization, and yet this country was the first to try to circumvent it in the episode of Greece. This move cost us a heavy loss in prestige and honor. This whole debacle of Greece may be laid to the somnolence of the State Department during the developmental stages of the crisis and to that Department's sudden realization that the crisis was upon the world, necessitating direct unilateral intervention rather than an orderly appeal to the United Nations for concerted action. This same lack of awareness of existing conditions, failure to act in time, and disinclination to keep the citizens of this country currently and fully informed of international developments has characterized the State Department's paternalistic and undemocratic handling of the several phases of the Marshall plan and also of other recent matters.

The State Department's failure to concentrate this country's full power behind the United Nations is the more censurable because the large majority of the American public would appear to have favored at all times, and still to favor, giving just such impetus to that Organization and its program. Our citizens, I am confident, want this nation to keep the U. N. O. from sinking into disuse and disrepute. It seems to me that if the State Department would only give heed, it would realize very quickly that our citizens are still demanding this support of the United Nations by our government, but this Department appears to have lost touch with the citizens and thereby to have violated the faith which our citizens have reposed in it.

The State Department should never have placed itself in the position where a news reporter would ever dream of charging that it had failed to give unflagging leadership to the United Nations program. Yet such a charge has been made and is seemingly supported by the opinion of a number of delegates to the United Nations Assembly. Mr. R. H. Shackford, a United Press Staff Correspondent, in discussing the announcement of the revival of the Comintern (Seattle Times, October 6, 1947) has stated:

"The sensational announcement coincided with the growing realization among U. N. delegates that the United States' promised dynamic

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U. N. program designed to take the leadership has failed to jell. Secretary of State Marshall, instead of providing the leadership many delegates had hoped for, has remained aloof."

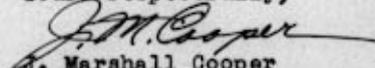
If this charge is even partially true, and there is nothing on record to indicate its falsity, the State Department has been guilty of a deplorable breach of our citizens' faith, and of this nation's pledged word to the peoples of the world, to the living and to the dead.

Instead of harboring doubts as to our leadership, delegates to the United Nations should be convinced that the United States of America, led by the State Department, from the Secretary of State on down, is making as great a fight for the U. N. O. and the cause of Peace as it is humanly possible for a resourceful and powerful nation to prosecute. To this end, our best minds, our most dynamic leaders, and our every resource should be dedicated.

This end should be regarded as this nation's "Operations Crossroads", for it is that more truly than was the man-made upheaval at Bikini. The World is at the Crossroads alongside the United Nations, and we have an awful responsibility to keep the U. N. O. alive and functioning, at least, as the voice and will of the majority of the peoples of the world. Even if we should witness the misfortune of having one ideological group split off from the United Nations, such event should only cause us to re-dedicate ourselves to the unfaltering support of the U. N. O. and its program. If we give that Organization the requisite vital force and implementation today, surely our action in so doing will save tomorrow for the World.

I wonder if you cannot give weight and substance to this appeal.

Yours respectfully,



J. Marshall Cooper  
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