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COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND CULTURAL RELATIONS

SEVENTH WORLD YOUTH FESTIVAL

Note by the United States Delegation

In accordance with the request of the Committee on Information and Cultural Relations, the United States is circulating in writing the oral remarks made by its representative in the March 20th meeting.

2. The United States regrets to report that the plan for a book exhibit in Vienna during the period of the Seventh World Youth Festival, in which several delegations had expressed interest, has been dropped. We continue to believe, however, that any measures to facilitate distribution of appropriate Western books in cheap editions should be encouraged, and are hopeful of making some arrangements along this line.

3. US press interest in the Youth Festival is increasing somewhat as the date approaches. A New York Times article of 17th March, while basically sound, carried an unfortunate lead and first paragraph which indicated the US Government was urging young people to attend. The following day a UPI story pointed out correctly that the United States, while not discouraging individual travel to Vienna, is not urging it and is cautioning inquirers as to the nature of the Festival.

4. It appears likely that the United States "delegation" to the Festival will be larger and better oriented than in 1957. The size and composition of the delegation is still in doubt, owing to the existence of rival organizing groups, one in New York and one in Chicago. A substantial number of young non-delegate American tourists are also likely to be in Vienna.

5. Efforts are going forward to get good films from the West in Viennese theaters during the event. Any information on other countries' plans in this regard would be of interest.

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6. The United States would welcome a further exchange of views in the Committee on Information and Cultural Relations on ways and means of aiming Western youth delegates more toward uncommitted nations' delegates than at hard-case bloc delegations.

Palais de Chaillot,
Paris, XVIe.