

October 9, 1987

Dr. Robert Goheen
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Dear Bob:

Your draft report has been stimulating my thinking in several directions - for example, how to develop a genuinely international & professional curriculum? Let me try-out a line of thought:

The Pew initiative to develop case studies of international negotiations seems on the right track. But I would be uncomfortable using case studies written by Americans alone. If there are ethnocentrism or basic misperceptions which have affected American policies and judgments during these years, anyone using the cases runs the risk of perpetuating these errors.

I would like to see a genuinely international set of cases that could be used for practitioner training in all countries. This would involve identification, as a first step, of a sub-set of key cases. Next, scholars in the countries involved would be invited to write parallel versions specifically reflecting how events appeared to their own government officials. (These counterpart versions could be revealing, pin-pointing both differences in perceptions among the original actors and current national differences in interpretations of history.) The parallel versions would give schools, here and abroad, an informed basis for professional training of future practitioners who could observe, possibly agree about, learn from, and avoid some of the mistakes of the past.

To explore these possibilities it would be helpful if we could identify the principal universities and professional training schools in other countries with academic leaders who would be interested in thinking about the growth and future of their own programs in relation to the growth of APSIA schools. In some cases there might be distinctive schools (e.g., at Geneva or one of the quasi-governmental Foreign Policy Institutes in Beijing) for practitioner training; elsewhere the right people might be at a main national university (e.g. Tokyo University or the U.N. University system, about which I know too little)... perhaps it is a measure of how far we have to go that I'm not sure, as APSIA Deans, that we would be confident of our own lists.

I imagine an early B&W newsreel of the 1920s, juxtaposing us in history: "Following the signing of the Kellogg-Briand Pact, the Deans of the world's leading graduate schools of diplomacy come together to discuss how to train diplomats to reduce international misunderstanding and the risks of war..." Obviously we want to avoid drama, melodrama, and pretentiousness - and we don't know whether better professionalization will work - but I think something can be accomplished and that it wouldn't be too difficult.

I wonder whether you have any thoughts about who, outside the U.S. and Canada, we might engage in conversation with us?

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lloyd S. Etheredge".

Lloyd S. Etheredge
Director of Graduate Studies