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510

PEARL S. BUCK

40 EAST 49TH STREET
NEW YORK, N. Y.

April 7, 1942

My dear Mr. and Mrs. Ford,

I should like you to know of The East and West Association, of its work and of the people who are interested in it.

You will find enclosed a memorandum of purpose and plans, but it may interest you to know why and how The East and West Association was started in the first place. It came out of the conviction of a few persons like myself, whose lives have been divided between the Far or Near East and the United States. We have lived since childhood among two peoples and have been deeply impressed with the great human similarities between the everyday people of these two halves of the world. There are differences, too, and the differences are interesting and important.

Yet the peoples of East and West live in almost complete ignorance of each other. That ignorance persists today when we are allies in this war — or enemies. We feel such ignorance is especially dangerous now, when the peoples of the east and the west must fight side by side against a common enemy. It will be even more dangerous in the future when some sort of peace has to be made upon a foundation approved by these peoples.

To help win the war, therefore, and to help prepare for an intelligent and we hope more permanent peace than the world has yet seen, The East and West Association has been formed. We think of it as a human switchboard between the two halves of the world which need now so urgently to know each other's minds and aspirations. Our work is already well begun in radio. We have a good public information service, and our study programs and discussion groups, our preparation for increased teaching of Oriental subjects in school curriculums are under way.

This letter goes to you because I would very much like to have you join in this effort as a Founder Member. The whole success of the work depends upon the interest and support of those who, like yourself, are known to be friends of the Oriental peoples.

The pledge of your support at this time means much to us.

Yours sincerely,

Pearl S. Buck

PSB-P
Enc.

510

MEMORANDUM BY PEARL S. BUCK

East and West today are one. War has swept the peoples of the world together and whether we are ready for this union or not, we have been forced to it by necessity. The union will continue, whether we want it or not, after the war is over. Not the western peoples alone will make this war, nor will western peoples alone make the peace after the war. For the first time in human history the whole human race must shape the world.

It is more essential today than ever, therefore, that the peoples of the East and West understand each other in all possible ways. We must know each other. Our faces, our ways of living, our feelings and thoughts must be familiar and comprehensible to each other. But such understanding can only be based upon knowledge and we have not that knowledge. Our allies, the Chinese, are still strange to us, and we are strange to them. Our present enemies, the Japanese, are still less known, and still more strange to us, and we to them. We do not know our own Oriental people, the Filipinos, nor the peoples of India or of Thailand, or of the Netherlands East Indies, nor do they know us. We do not even know very well New Zealand or Australia, those great western islands in the eastern seas, nor even Russia, a continent whose people is more eastern than western. Nor do these know us any better. Outward circumstances have compelled us now to closeness, but inwardly we are still separate because of our ignorance of each other's peoples.

There has been some interchange between East and West in the upper ranges of culture, but in the spirit of the times this interchange must now be between peoples and peoples. For such interchange, therefore, and for the new understanding necessary today, The East and West Association, a non-profit corporation, has been organized. Its purpose is to help ordinary people on one side of the world to know and understand ordinary people on the other side, in terms which ordinary people can grasp.

The East and West Association does not duplicate the work of any existing group. It seeks to use and spread more widely, through varied means comprehensible to the average person, the results of the studies and activities of other organizations as well as of informed individuals.

The immediate means, planned so far, of disseminating this human knowledge include:

1. Radio programs, national, local and overseas.
2. The sponsoring of motion pictures, documentary and otherwise.
3. An authentic illustrated monthly magazine.
4. Organizing in many places forums and discussion groups, and supplying study programs to these and other groups.
5. Maintaining an information service and reference library in New York.
6. Fostering the translation of the writings of East and West into their several languages.
7. A monthly news-letter for members.

These are only some of the means planned. The Association will use any and all other possible mediums of exchange between the peoples of the eastern and the western worlds as its work develops.

We hope that you, who have already shown your special interest in Oriental peoples, will join us by becoming a Member. Your subscription to Membership may be paid at any time before July 1st, 1942.

The Federal revenue authorities have ruled that contributions to the Association can be deducted in computing income tax.

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510



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