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The Assistant to the President  
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May 19, 1958 INDEXED BY KARDX



Dear Charlie:

This will acknowledge the letter you sent to the President in my care earlier this month concerning the impossibility of carrying on the work of the Foundation in the absence of a substantial financial basis. There has been opportunity since receiving your letter and enclosures to bring them to the President's attention and to go over again the various pertinent considerations, particularly the expiration of USIA monetary support for the Foundation on May thirty-first.

As the President wrote you following our luncheon meeting last month, there appeared to be no feasible course of action for the Foundation other than that which was discussed and agreed upon at that time. The suggestion you reported with regard to possible Congressional action would to all intents and purposes be subject to the same considerations, hence would not seem to warrant any different judgment from that pertaining to the grant previously proposed. x 0799

The President asked me to reaffirm his appreciation of the devoted personal attention you have given to the problems of the Foundation during this effort.

Kind personal regards.

Sincerely,

SHERMAN ADAMS

The Honorable Charles E. Wilson  
President  
The People-to-People Foundation, Inc.  
45 West 45th Street  
New York 36, New York

CROSS CARD FOR STAFF SECRETARY



UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

WASHINGTON



May 13, 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR: Governor Sherman Adams  
The White House

Attached is the latest C. E. Wilson letter to the Trustees of the People-to-People Foundation.

As a last gasp effort he suggests going direct to Congress for the \$500,000 -- but says, "We would not wish to try this without the President's approval. We expect to have advices within a few days as to how the White House feels about the above."

Ambassador Allen is on the West Coast until Thursday, but I am sending this over right away as I am sure he will agree with all of us here that it would be most unfortunate, inconsistent, and confusing were such a move to be made on the Hill.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Abbott Washburn".

Abbott Washburn  
Deputy Director

Attachment

## PEOPLE TO PEOPLE FOUNDATION



TO THE TRUSTEES:

In spite of all our efforts, it looks as if we'll have to abandon the Foundation and close our doors. Following your direction at our last meeting we sent the White House a list of 6 Trustees and 12 representatives from the business community to discuss the future of the Foundation. It appears now that it will not be feasible to discuss the future of the Foundation. It appears now that it will not be feasible to hold this meeting since the government does not wish to provide the necessary funds to implement the reorganization since all our previous fund raising efforts have met with failure. There seems no other course before us. The lack of complete unanimity among the committee chairmen appears to weigh heavily in the minds of many concerned with our future. The vote on the reorganization was 25 in favor, 9 against, 10 not voting.

My inquiries among the members of the financial community indicate a decided reluctance to support the Foundation until the government shows its own confidence in the project with substantial initial financial backing, approximately the \$500,000 enough to provide a capable staff, correlation and publicity. The Office of Private Cooperation has an experienced staff of program executives and secretaries trained to serve most of the committees. They appear reluctant to transfer this work to the Foundation, although this was precisely our understanding when it was organized in February 1957, and the President reiterated this to me as recently as January 25, in these words: "In discussing and developing the right structure for the People to People project, there is no alternative to preserving efforts of the kind you are making -- all based on the principle that this must be a truly private effort, with governmental ties limited to liaison only but with a constant readiness on the part of my associates and myself to help in any legitimate way we can."

The only missing ingredient is money. We cannot launch such an ambitious world-wide enterprise without initial funds adequate to enable us to establish confidence in our ability to do the job. This we never had.

Our sole aim is to help implement the People to People Program as a private effort. We will gladly work with those chairmen who wish to join in the unified effort and have only the friendliest feeling for those who want to work independently. But we must have initial financing and we must





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provide the kind of organization that will merit financial support of those who are able to give it.

It has been suggested that three or four leaders in Congress might be willing to give us this initial financing in the pending appropriation bill in order to give this private effort an opportunity to succeed. We would not wish to try this without the President's approval.

We expect to have advices within a few days as to how the White House feels about the above suggestion. If the reaction is favorable, we will wire you accordingly. Otherwise I will appreciate your response by letter or by enclosed card indicating your willingness to dissolve the Foundation forthwith.

/S/ Charles E. Wilson  
President

May 12, 1958