

HARVARD UNIVERSITY  
CAMBRIDGE

1-30-39  
(DATE)  
RDW

*Please send by letter*

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

January 28, 1939

President Robert D. Leigh  
Bennington College  
Bennington, Vermont

Dear President Leigh:

The Presidents of the undersigned American Universities or their personal representatives came together in an informal meeting hastily called in New York on December 31 to consider the refugee problem as it affected men of learning. The enclosed declaration of principles and tentative program for joint action was adopted by this group.

We are hoping that you will join with us in subscribing to this document which is for the time being strictly confidential. Steps are being taken to attempt to raise funds for this undertaking. As the urgency of this matter is great, we should like to obtain the approval of as many leading American Universities as possible in the next few weeks. We should, therefore, appreciate hearing from you in the near future. Would you kindly address your reply to President Nicholas Murray Butler who is acting as chairman of this informal group.

Very sincerely yours,

- H. M. Wriston, Brown University
- R. A. Millikan, California Institute Technology
- N. M. Butler, Columbia University
- E. E. Day, Cornell University
- J. B. Conant, Harvard University
- Isaiah Bowman, Johns Hopkins University
- A. G. Ruthven, University of Michigan
- F. P. Graham, University of North Carolina
- T. S. Gates, University of Pennsylvania
- H. W. Dodds, Princeton University
- J. L. Newcomb, University of Virginia
- Charles Seymour, Yale University

*Sincerely yours,  
Robert Leigh*

*Dear President Butler:  
I have received a copy of the declaration of principles and tentative program for joint action in relation to the refugee problem as it affects men of learning. The program seems to me sound in every respect and I endorse it most heartily. It seems to me to protect standards and teaching opportunities of American scholars and to be a real step toward absorbing as many refugee scholars as funds make possible.*

*J. Adams  
Gen.*

February 7, 1939

President Nicholas Murray Butler  
Columbia University  
New York City

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Sincerely yours,

Robert D. Leigh *RL*  
President