

Log

December 10, 1956

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Allen:

INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY FOR SOCIAL STUDIES, PRO DEO

Over the past weeks I have had several meetings on the subject of Father M. and his University, the most recent meeting having been last week just before Harry Luce returned to Rome.

Monsignor De Angelis was present at this meeting and brought the rather significant news that Cardinal Siri had been confirmed by the Vatican as the top ecclesiastical "uncle" of the outfit, furnishing the bridge between this non-sectarian University and high Vatican policy.

De Angelis also conveyed that the financial situation in Italy was pretty solid, and expressed the hope that it could be similarly solidified in this country. In order to help, he said that M. was sending a certain Father Moreau, English speaking Belgian Priest who knows all about Pro Deo and also has had a certain amount of fund-raising experience, to the U.S. in January in order to help out.

All in all, this was a rather hopeful meeting.

But then the bombshell came when after the meeting Fred Dolbeare advised me that you had decided not to carry on with support, and that the 1956 support which you had originally advised was "possibly a terminal grant", was indeed a terminal grant.

This raises some very difficult problems. Not only does it mean that the private support will have to make up the difference, but it also means that whatever private Americans have become involved in this at your explicit or implicit request, are now really holding the bag.

And it is a very difficult bag to hold. Of all the various outside activities in which I am involved, this one, because of its very nature and the way Father M. operates, consumes more man hours than almost any other. Furthermore, I am constantly in the very uncomfortable situation of siphoning money out of Harry Luce -- and a large part of his willingness to be siphoned is his belief that you consider this an important activity.





Right now I am faced with the problem of asking him for some year-end money and a large pledge for 1957, and at the same time having to advise him that you are out of the picture. Besides, I have involved the Standard Oil of New Jersey and several other prospective corporations.

All logic indicates that I should tell Luce that it is no longer worthwhile to continue his contributions, and that I myself should stop hitting myself on the head with this particular hammer and let the outfit fight its way out of the woods on its own, or fold.

Now the reason that I am presenting it to you as a problem rather than simply advising you that Luce and I are through, is because I think that there is real value in the outfit if the idea were approached from a somewhat different angle than the one which has obtained up to now, and that there is sufficient value in the operation to warrant either your continued support or at least a real effort on your part to help find the half dozen or so American individuals and organizations who would respond to an energetic appeal by you for funds.

Here is the way I see it, and in the following presentation I readily admit that I am on the outside and therefore unaware of whatever wheels-within-wheels there may be.

I understand from Fred Dolbeare that the yardstick you have applied is whether or not you and your boys have been receiving your "money's worth".

I do not think that the tid-bit intelligence that these people can furnish you will ever constitute full "money's worth". My reason for saying this is that actually this is not an intelligence situation. This is much more a foreign policy situation.

If ever the worldwide organization represented by the Catholic Church was of value to the foreign policy of the United States, it is today. Not only is the Catholic Church on the side of the Protestant angels on the general subject of Communism, but the Church is also in a position of great tactical value in some of the areas that are newly opening up as a result of the confusion in the Soviet Empire. In Poland, Cardinal Wisninski; in Hungary, Cardinal Mindszenty; elsewhere, and as developments occur, there will always be some Catholic Prelate emerging from prison who will immediately occupy a highly important emotional and political position in the area.

Right now, the Polish and Hungarian thing is absolutely fascinating. Here are these two Cardinals, impeccable Prelates

both, yet facing totally different local situations, and at the same time having to operate and speak within the appropriate Vatican framework.

In Rome itself, who is interested in Pro Deco, over and above Father M's salesmanship?

In the first place, the Pope himself, who has grasped the profound socio-religious fact that the Church in today's world must not only move forward religiously, but must also move forward socially and sociologically -- the only way that it can move forward politically without being accused of interfering in politics. The Pope had the wisdom to see that by giving his blessing to this kind of operation, he could move forward internationally without getting into dogmatic problems in Vatican City.



Besides the Pope, there is now Cardinal Siri -- I gather one of the young comers and a definite candidate for the Papacy. It might turn out to be a very useful thing a few years from now to have Cardinal Siri remember how well he was supported in the Pro Deco endeavor to which he has just been assigned.

Then there is Archbishop Montini, until recently Vatican Secretary of State, still a leading candidate for the Papacy even though he has not yet been made Cardinal. Don't forget that it was Montini himself who originally sparked this idea.

There is also Monsignor dell'Acqua, now Acting Secretary of State at the Vatican.

I submit that this is an impressive list, and it is only partial.

Now the value of the operational link between Pro Deco and the Vatican is not a "hussy's-worth-for-incidenta-Intelligence" value. Its value resides in two areas.

One is what I would call studies-in-depth. For instance, if you and your brother could have the definitive monograph on this strange triangular operation between Warsaw, Budapest, and Rome, it should be of great value for top level U.S. foreign policy thinking. Other such situations will arise from time to time. They will not arise on a monthly-report basis.

Some of these studies-in-depth can come up on the initiative of the principals involved -- De Angelis is very much aware of this kind of thing, and is prepared to do a lot of work and to organize top people into this. Others could be produced at your request.

The other area is that as major Vatican foreign policy trends come under discussion and begin to evolve, you could be advised earlier and with greater detail and profundity than simply as a ten-line Intelligence item.

In summary, I feel that having gone through some awkward growing pains, including some unfortunate indiscretions and a certain amount of flapping around, the outfit is now on the threshold of achieving real significance and value, both for the Church and for you and your brother -- and therefore this is hardly the moment to drop it because some of your boys have apparently reported that the poop furnished by M. is not particularly valuable in the strictly Intelligence category.

The currents that ebb and flow around the Vatican, and now because of the real link to Pro Dec can be immediately and directly felt by that organization, constitute the tremendous imponderables of the world we live in -- imponderables which have in the past and certainly will in the future profoundly affect the minds of millions of people. They are therefore the imponderables which should also flow to you and your brother. But I repeat, they must be thought of as imponderables, and not as an Intelligence document, or a bazooka, or a shipment of arms which has a certain money value and which you can buy.

I do not know if you have ever talked to Foster about this operation in these terms. If you have not, and if you think my thesis has any validity, I would hope that you would have a word with him soon.

Even though the U.S. Government apparently does not wish to revive the Myron Taylor type operation, the top echelons in the U.S. Government should nevertheless consider it almost a must to have some kind of tie to Vatican thinking and operations. And here is a made-to-order mechanism which does not arouse any sleeping dogs.

I would greatly appreciate some word from you, not only as to the practical problem outlined at the start of this letter, but also as to the more philosophical problem which concludes it.

Kindest personal regards.

Sincerely yours,

C. D. Jackson



Mr. Allen W. Dulles
2430 E. Street N.W.
Washington 25, D. C.

cc: Mr. Frederic Dolbeare
Mr. John C. Hughes
Mr. Henry R. Luce