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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

March 9, 1960

CARL MARCY, CHIEF OF STAFF
DARRELL ST. CLAIRE, CLERK

Mr. Kenley R. Dove
106 W L Harkness
Yale University
New Haven, Connecticut

Dear Mr. Dove:

I am delighted to be able to commend the work of the Yale Russian Chorus, and you may feel free to use my letter in any fund-raising activities that you wish.

From reports that I have heard, including Peter Grothe of my staff who heard your group perform at the Vienna Youth Festival last summer, the Yale Russian Chorus has done a most effective job in communicating the American message to the Soviet people. My enthusiasm for the truly heroic work that the Yale Chorus is doing is unbounded. The only tragedy is that we don't have ten of fifty or one hundred choruses such as yours.

One of my staff members who travelled in the Soviet Union for a month this summer told me that wherever he went he heard the Russian people talking about the Yale Russian Chorus. Not only were the people of the Soviet Union extremely impressed by the professional quality of the singing, but, more important, our boys who were articulate in the Russian language straightened out a lot of the shocking misconceptions that the Russians have of us. From reports that I have heard, your chorus reached more than 20,000 Russians during a month journey, and, of course, those 20,000 all had relatives and friends with whom they spoke.

I wish deeply for you that foundations and private donors will generously underwrite your effort. I can't think of a more fruitful way of helping our foreign policy than contributing to this extraordinarily successful way of reaching the Russian people.

My experience in the Soviet Union - and also that of Russian experts with whom I have consulted - is that although public opinion doesn't count for very much in the Soviet Union, it is becoming increasingly important. There are many questions being raised by the Russian people - and also greater urgings for freedom and more desire to express themselves. We should do everything that we can to nourish and encourage those tendencies

To: Mr. Kenley R. Dove

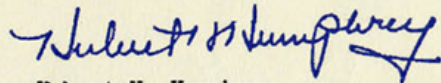
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I want again to emphasize my complete and devoted support for your project. If there is ever anything that I can specifically do to help, don't hesitate to let me know. I would appreciate your writing me later and letting me know how your fund-raising effort is coming along.

My very best regards to the members of the Yale Russian Chorus, and reserve an ample amount for yourself.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Hubert H. Humphrey". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a prominent loop at the end.

Hubert H. Humphrey

HHH/c