

**The original documents are located in Box C49, folder “Presidential Handwriting, 10/2/1976” of the Presidential Handwriting File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

### **Copyright Notice**

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Gerald Ford donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 2, 1976

ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR: BRENT SCOWCROFT  
FROM: JIM CONNOR *JEC*  
SUBJECT: UNESCO General Conference

The attached paper concerning the UNESCO General Conference to be held in Nairobi, Kenya from October 26 to November 30 was returned in the President's outbox with the following notation:

"Professor Joe Graf, of Grand Rapids Jr. College, who I appointed to some delegation, was in town and gave me the attached.

No action but I do hope our delegation does a good job.

Obviously, HAK can't do it but I hope Kirk et al will do a good job."

Please follow-up with appropriation action.

cc: Dick Cheney

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Brent)

Prof. Joe Neal, of N. R.  
Gr. College, who I appointed  
to some delegation, was in town  
& gave me the attached.

No action but I do  
hope our delegation does a  
good job.

Obviously, HAK. can't do  
it but I hope Kirk et al will  
do a good job.

The UNESCO General Conference, to be held in Nairobi, Kenya, from October 26 to November 30, has particular symbolic importance in terms of our relationship building with Africa. The Director-General of UNESCO, Amadou-Mahtar M'Bow of Senegal, is the first black to head a Specialized Agency of the United Nations. M'Bow is a moderate and friendly toward the United States.

This is also the first time in the 30-year history of UNESCO that a General Conference is to be held on the continent of Africa. Unfortunately, it comes at a time when the U.S. Congress has cut-off funds for UNESCO and a political vacuum has grown within the organization, diminishing U.S. influence.

In view of this, it is important, if not imperative, for the United States to deliver a strong general debate speech which, while criticizing the politicization of the organization to which we object, at the same time underscore the strong basic commitment of the United States to the high ideals of UNESCO's charter and international cooperation in UNESCO's fields of education, science, culture and communication. Many of UNESCO's programs, i.e., the building of schools, teachers training, publication of educational material, aid to the handicapped, etc., are principally directed toward Africa and the developing world; that is why an up-beat U.S. presence at the Nairobi meeting is so important. The President and the State Department have demonstrated leadership in this regard by the appointment of a strong delegation and advisors. A dramatic infusion of creative diplomacy would be for the Secretary of State to deliver the U.S. general debate speech since UNESCO means so much to the intellectual community in Africa. His doing so, would have far reaching symbolism and is compatible with the Administration's new African diplomacy.

1. The UNESCO General Conference to be held in Nairobi, Kenya, from October 26 to November 30, 1976, will include the discussion of a "Statement of Principles" on the gathering and dissemination of news. This statement embodies limitation on the free dissemination of information and on the activities of private press organizations. This is obviously unacceptable to the United States and to other western nations.

2. The U.S. National Commission for UNESCO is meeting this issue head-on. The President has appointed Clayton Kirkpatrick, Vice President and Editor, Chicago Tribune, as a delegate, as well as Sarah Goddard Power, Chairman, U.S. National Commission (and Regent, University of Michigan).

3. The National Commission assumed a leadership role in convening a meeting representing the media leadership of the United States. This group, under the leadership of Kirkpatrick, William Harley, former President, National Association of Educational Broadcasters, and with the backup of Sarah Power and John Upston, is preparing a strong U.S. statement on freedom of the press to be used by the U.S. Delegation in Nairobi. The National Commission is also serving as the link with private journalists and broadcasters toward developing alternative language for the "Statement of Principle" resolution to be more acceptable to U.S. and western interest.

4. The leadership of the free press in this country is vitally concerned with the freedom of information issue. They greatly appreciate the role the U.S. National Commission for UNESCO has played in involving this vital element of free enterprise in the formulation of position papers and statements to be made by the Delegation

the President has recently named to represent the United States at the Nairobi conference.

5. In terms of the United States having strong communications representation on the Delegation, Sarah Power talked to Mr. Buchen, on the President's staff, who in turn played an instrumental role in designating Clayton Kirkpatrick as a Presidential appointee to the Delegation. This appointment has been very well received within the U.S. communications industry.