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Honolulu, T.H.
July 26, 1927.

Dr. James T. Shotwell,
Chairman, Research Committee.

Dear Mr. Shotwell,

In accordance with the request that you made in the last meeting of Research Committee, I should like to attempt to set out, in a very brief way, the scheme for the better coordination of the work of universities along the lines of communication between northwestern Europe and south China, across Canada and the United States.

It so happens that in that great track of world movements of goods and persons there lie the institutions which belong to all the nations chiefly concerned in the political and economic problems of those regions, particularly of China. Beginning in Europe, there is in Paris the finest centre for the study of the cultural aspects of the Chinese civilisation, and at the other end of the same track we have a French outpost in the French School of the Far East at Hanoi, where a splendid library is kept and where scholars reside for considerable periods, collecting material and rendering it available to the world. I am informed that this school is at present suffering from lack of funds, and it is probably also suffering from lack of coordination with other institutions in China, but as it has had at one time or another several professors of the College de France upon its staff, it is quite clear that its work is of the very highest standard.

Between these two extremes we have London and the other English universities where Chinese is studied. Crossing the Atlantic we have McGill University, where the Gest Library makes a nucleus for Chinese Studies; and in the United States you have certain institutions and facilities with which you are more familiar than I, including, especially for anthropology, Hawaii.

Continuing on that track we come to the very carefully specialised institutions in Japan, the University of Tokyo, I believe, being responsible for Chinese studies and having what is left of the Morrison collection as well as Sir Charles Eliot's collection of Oriental books.

Then in China we have institutions at Peking, Shanghai, Hankow, Canton, and Hong Kong.

My proposal, briefly, is to make a survey of the Universities and other learned institutions on that track, to discover what special facilities they offer for study of the various aspects of Chinese social phenomena, and to arrange for an interchange of research fellows and if possible of the teaching staff between China and certain of those institutions which might be selected for this purpose. This would have the effect of promoting understanding between the British, French, United States, Canada, the Japanese and Chinese nations in the field of scholarship. It would reproduce, to some extent, the coming and going which formerly took place between the European universities in the middle ages, and by organising studies in such a way as not to duplicate facilities unnecessarily, by arranging carefully for the equivalence of courses and residence in these different centers, it would be possible to build up gradually a whole corpus of research, carried out by members of the various institutions, travelling freely, as their studies required, over the whole of this track.