

(Copy)

January 19, 1942.

In reply refer to
A-B/H

My dear Mr. Wright:

I acknowledge the receipt of your letter of December 27 regarding Mr. Blair Gunther and his inquiry respecting the advisability of holding an American-Slavic Congress. The courtesy of the sponsors in inquiring as to the attitude of this Department is appreciated, although you of course realize that the final decision as to whether or not such a congress should be held does not lie with the State Department.

The full support for our war efforts of American citizens of Slavic descent, who are such a large factor in our production programs in heavy industry, is particularly important. All efforts, however should aim at minimizing differences in racial background and at stressing the fundamental unity of the country. Provided therefore that the purpose and program of such a congress aims at stimulating American unity and is concentrated on this subject and not on controversial problems relating to the future of Eastern Europe, it could be of constructive assistance.

Sincerely yours

signed by the Secretary

The Honorable

James A. Wright,
House of Representatives.

