

Kabul, Afghanistan  
December 3, 1945

Dear Dr. Allen,

It is possible that you have had some communication from the Department of State concerning the following matter, but inasmuch as I have not heard from you directly or indirectly, I shall present it to you personally.

In being in a foreign country, and more particularly, in being with the youth of Afghanistan, I have formed the opinion that the basic manifestation of the foreigner's admiration for the American Way is the love of American sports. They want to try all of them, even though the health and physical fitness of youths of other nations are not equal to those of American young men.

It seems to me that the basis of the world peace and world democracy we hope for might well be sports, specifically, American sports. I should think that the sportsmen of America and especially the coaches of America (if they are not already doing it) are missing a golden opportunity to show the benefit and usefulness of sports on a world-wide scale by fostering more ardently the case for American sports abroad.

From experience in Afghanistan I should say that the things most desired are pictures and books on American sports, particularly pictures. Here in Kabul the athletes would revel in films of basketball (they eat it up), baseball, football, boxing, wrestling, in fact, in films of any sports. We have a 16 mm. projector (with or without sound, but no sport films--except a very rare one and usually a rather bad one sent to this part of the world by the British.

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