

O C F R

Mehnert 19 May 1975

26 May 1975

To: Rolland Bushner  
From: Ken Wise  
Re: Mehnert Meeting

Meeting #10, 19 May  
Present: [2] (including speaker) 21  
Subject: "The Great Triangle: Washington, Moscow, Peking."

Given his discussion at noon with representative faculty and administrative staff of Creighton University, and with several of the faculty members of the Committee in a rump session following the evening meeting, I think we should have asked Dr. Mehnert to speak on "The Youth Revolution of the 1960s Around the World." That is his forte of the moment, his highest interest, as you indicated.

Dr. Mehnert's presentation to the committee was somewhat weak on the China portion of the triangle...as well might be anyone's presentation on PRC. Questions showed the group had listened closely and was excited by Mehnert. E.G.: What is U.S. credibility now? (U.S. unsold its own credibility with the arguments Ford and Kissinger made in Congress trying for the \$1 billion to stem the flood...SVN was demoralized by the U.S. pushbutton war and the millions going into the wrong pockets...Europe is more worried about U.S. treatment of U.S. domestic problems than about U.S. treatment of SVN.) What does Europe think of Kissinger? (Other than the grain deal, he's on the right track.) Where did the 20 million intelligentsia in the USSR come from? (Science, to get to the moon, etc.) What of Moscow and the New Left? (Listed various examples and showed Moscow's response, e.g., Marcuse = anathema.) Gas supply? (Embargo created a new political-economic world; Europe went to its knees.)

Committee members crowded round Dr. Mehnert afterward full of thanks.. He struck me as a German Colin Jackson with much more on the ball these days. What he lacked in depth he made up for in enthusiasm and openness to others' ideas. Oh, did he charm the ladies[ I enjoyed the time I spent with him during the day, even in fulfilling his request to view part of the tornado damage. (It's a pity Omaha doesn't need a freeway in the storm's path.)

I doubt that there will be more donations from the Omaha Committee for this season. But I would like to point out two things. First, for the third year now I have not asked the Council to cover its share of the hotel bills. Second, our new Chairman may well be able to pull us into shape for next season. The Omaha Committee went into its savings this year to the