Dear Professor D'Souza:

I was pleased to receive your letter of April 14. It is always enjoyable to learn of foreign educators who share a mutual interest. I wish it were possible for the two of us to have a long personal talk. To respond to the five topics you listed in your letter is, of course, impossible by mail. Any one of them would make an interesting topic of discussion for a full evening!

"Change" is the order of the day, and many changes are taking place in the teaching of geography in our country: changes in the philosophy of geography, changes in the role of geography in the school curriculum, changes in methods of teaching geography, changes in the content, and changes in materials being introduced. And there are even changes appearing in teacher education programs!

For example, I strongly subscribe to the principle that we must help our pupils solve problems from a geographic point of view, develop models which can be applied in everyday life, and acquire study skills necessary for problem-solving rather than fill their minds with facts that may be inaccurate and will certainly become out of date long before they are even graduated from our high schools! Hence, I strongly recommend that our classrooms become laboratories, and that youngsters be permitted to work with problems, commensurate of course with their age of maturation, rather than read and recite facts from a textbook!

I also believe that our teaching materials, including textbooks, need to be revised along similar lines. That they become sources of information to be used in problem-solving, and not compilations of facts and generalizations that scholars have already discovered and wish to pass on to the next generation.

Thus, the books I would like you to read have not yet been written! Much of what is available is already outmoded.
I think that the best advice I might give you is that you should find out all you can about the current High School Geography Project. It is doing what I think should be done in our schools, from Kindergarten through College. The present course that is being developed is systematically oriented, but a regional course is being planned. However, in both instances the attention is focussed on how to help students learn, rather than on a mass of materials to be learned!

Thus, the teaching of geography is undergoing a radical change. We are finding more and more geography appearing in our high schools, as geography; and we are developing sounder geographic learning skills in our elementary school programs. Take, for example, the regional concept which you list in your letter. It is important that our youngsters learn "how to regionalize", rather than to memorize fact after fact about a particular part of the earth's surface. They should know how to organize their thinking regionally, to see problems in terms of regional settings, etc.

The curriculum should be planned so that during the several school years children will have been exposed to all parts of the world, but not by means of curriculum that systematically describes one region after another. The problems that they work on should be structured so that their solutions will have students looking at distributions in different areas. And the problems must be socially significant ones. But the emphasis will be on the "active" method of learning -- in order to learn how to learn in geography -- rather than on the "passive" method of reading and reciting.

As you can see, I would very much like to talk with you and exchange points of view. I am sure you will not agree with everything I believe, but it would be good to exchange opinions and insights.

Sincerely,

Clyde F. Kohn
Chairman

CFK: gn
Dear Professor D'Souza:

This is in reply to your letter of 14 April. Your letter was forwarded to me from my erstwhile office in New York City.

There are several sources to which I might refer you that relate to your interest in the gathering of materials. First, there is the book by Professor Jan Broek: *Geography, Its Scope and Spirit*, published by the Charles E. Merrill Company. This book does give you an overview of geography as it is seen by professional geographers today and is written for the school teacher. The latter part of the book is a perspective on what Broek has had to say, with reference to the schools, and I think that you will find it useful. The Newsletters coming from the High School Geography Project, Boulder, Colorado will also be useful to you and you ought to write a letter to Dr. Nicholas Helburn to secure copies of these Newsletters. A new publication that will shortly be forthcoming from the National Council for Geographic Education, entitled "Research Needs in Geographic Education" will also help fill in some of the background about which you raise questions.

After you have had a chance to review this material should you have additional questions I will do my best to respond to them.

Sincerely,

 Phillip Bacon
 Professor of Geography

PB:js
Dear Professor D'Souza:

The National Council for Geographic Education has several publications which I believe will be of interest to you and will answer many of your questions about materials for the teaching of geography. One publication by Mamie Anderzhon is an extensive bibliography which will list for you most of the latest references. Another publication by Dr. Hill entitled Curriculum Guide for Geographic Education will also list several of the references and answer several of your questions.

To secure this information address your letter to:

Dr. Kermit Laidig
Department of Geography
Illinois State University
Normal, Illinois

Sincerely,

John W. Morris
Chairman

JWM/cb
Dear Professor D'Souza:

In regard to your inquiry on the teaching of Geography, I would make the following suggestions:

(1) Write to Dr. Kermit Laidig, Director of Publications, Illinois State University, Normal, Illinois, and ask for a list of publications in this area.

(2) Write to Dr. John Lounsbury, Chairman, Department of Geography, Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, Michigan. Ask him for publications on college Geography that he has available.

(3) I would refer you to the Journal of Geography for much of what has been done in this country.

(4) Two Yearbooks of the National Council for Social Studies in the past 10 years have dealt with the teaching of Geography. I am sure the Alexandria Schools' Professional Library has these Yearbooks.

I trust the above will be of help.

Sincerely,

Lorrin Kennamer
President

Annual Meeting November 23-25, 1967
Conrad Hilton Hotel, Chicago, Illinois
Dear Professor D'Souza:

Your letter requesting assistance in curriculum building arrived over the weekend. You surely have a big order, and obviously I cannot answer in the detail that you might hope for, especially since the five topics you list are too big to deal with except possibly in conference. If it is at all possible for you to visit me here, I shall set aside at least a half-day to show you what we have.

In the meantime, I can refer you to some basic works or the names of people whose writings you surely should dip into. On the Philosophy of Geography, I suggest you read Jan O.M. Broek's Geography--Its Scope and Spirit. On the regional concept in Geography, I suggest you read articles in the Annals by Dr. Preston James. For the Teaching of Geography in American schools, a quick glance through the Index of the Journal of Geography will be helpful. On the Methods of Teaching Geography, especially in high school, I suggest you contact Dr. Nicholas Helburn, Director of the High School Geography Project at the University of Colorado, in Boulder. He will alert you to the experimental work now being carried on. For the research done on the teaching of geography, you might look in periodicals under the names of Clarence Olmstead, William Pattison, Earl Shaw, Thomas Barton, Clyde Kohn, Phillip Bacon, Mamie Anderzhon, and you might add my name to this list. I am enclosing a few reprints which will give you some idea of my interests and if you can arrange a visit, we can explore these to a greater extent.

Sincerely yours,

Henry J. Wثمان
Professor

HJW/ns