Dear Mr d'Arms:

Let me answer your questions about Dr. Goodman in the order you put them.

As to the need of such a survey as Dr. Goodman proposes to make, there is in my mind no doubt whatever. Much of the work we now do in other countries—or that their own technicians, trained in the West, do—is superficial, if not often harmful, because of our ignorance of native patterns, based on long experience. This is true alike in urban planning, in housing, and in agriculture. Moreover, our own tradition in planning might well be enriched, as it already has been in architecture, by a comparative survey of other traditions. Even a poor book in this field, like Violich's survey of Latin American housing and planning, is valuable and usable.

Is the task feasible? In any exhaustive way, no: to do a thorough survey would require the collective efforts of at least two generations of scholars. The work proposed would be in the nature of a swift reconnaissance, a taking of significant samples and specimens, a first aerial mapping of unknown lands. But it would not be the worse for these limitations: if
would rather provide the incentives and temptations to more detailed research. For such a task a single observer has special qualifications, just because he is free-moving, that a committee or a corps of specialists would lack.

As to Dr. Gutkind's qualifications. As far as preliminary acquaintance with the material goes, I know no one who is even half as well prepared. His books, The Revolution of Environment, The World From The Air, etc. are not impeccable in either judgment or method: but for all that they stand in a class by themselves: and it is an important class. I do not value him as a thinker as highly as did Karl Mannheim: but I respect Mannheim's judgment sufficiently to admit the possibility that his verdict may be more just than mine.

If Dr. Gutkind were starting this project from scratch, I would feel that his age was a decisive handicap. But what he wants to do is to reap, by a more concentrated effort, a lifetime's cultivation of this field: so the risk, with respect to his age, seems to me a tolerable one. Given the time, he has the industry, the perseverance, and the inner drive needed to carry the project through.
Face of the Earth last June.

Curio variations of a. E. W. Turner - Green conference on Homo. Role in changing the
publications. 2. On corruptions since 1946. 3. On prismatic observations.
P. S. 'I should perhaps add that my estimate is based: on 80.000. English

3. The result I would anticipate will not be a monument

of objective scholarship: it will be rather a kind

of book that will open the eyes, raise the imaginary

of the horizons of people working in a

field that has been progressively restricted: not

to forget other people to look more deeply into

problem areas and correct more strengths

against him, will still be in his debt.

As for the job itself, it seems to me

that now, the very fact that

he has had the insight to propose it is no small

preparation. But even those who react most strongly

on his idea, will still be in his debt.

I would urge you to go ahead

even if the only candidate were but half as well

prepared as Dr. Gunki.

Faithfully yours,

[Signature]