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Refugee Scholars

INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

FROM: TBA

DATE: July 9, 1940.

TO:

COMMENTS:

RBF		Rkt
JM		gm
SHW		SHW

SUBJECT: Refugee Scholars

The more I think of the refugee scholar situation, the more I think that the problem is one in which the Foundation should not operate directly. We cannot use the principals of limitation which control our actions in the case of fellowship awards or aid to deposed scholars. Because we are supposed to have unlimited resources, every grant we would make for an outstanding scholar would bring increasing requests from others who are not outstanding. Incidentally, I am not sure that those who now clamor for our aid in order to leave their native lands are - in many cases - those who most deserve help. There would be inevitable confusion between the hardboiled desire to save intellect and the humanitarian desire to save lives. And this would be complicated by the fact that, because of our aid to institutions and our fellowship programs, we have thousands of friends among the scholars of Europe. To select a few of these for aid and refuse the rest would cause widespread disappointment and bitterness in an area where we want goodwill. In view of all these factors, I suggest that the

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Foundation take no direct action for refugee scholars.

As an alternative, I suggest that the Foundation appropriate funds for refugee scholars to the Institute of International Education. This organization has had a long experience in the field of international education. More recently, through the Emergency Committee, it has had widespread contacts with universities and deposed scholars. On the whole, it has been effective and realistic. And it would have the advantage of having limited funds.

I recommend an appropriation of \$100,000 to the Institute for a program of aid for refugee scholars under the following conditions:

- (1) That those on the so-called "Foundation List" will receive aid without question. We are had ? on these and it should be a prior claim.
- (2) That aid be extended only to outstanding and still productive scholars.
- (3) That aid be extended for not more than two years to any one scholar, and be on the level of subsistence.
- (4) That aid be terminated when the scholar receives other employment.
- (5) That every effort should be made to place the scholar where he may economically continue his work, but that the Institute make no effort to secure employment for any scholar.
- (6) While not wishing to control the actions of the Institute, I think the Foundation should be willing to answer their questions about individual scholars and to recommend in cases which the Foundation knows to be particularly worthy.
- (7) All applications received at the Foundation should be declined and referred to the Institute.

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- (8) I would expect the Emergency Committee to act as an advisory committee to the Institute.

After the major part of the appropriation had been allocated, the Institute should render a report to the Foundation in order that the Foundation could decide what, if any, further appropriation should be made.

BB.

TBA:ECO