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(Do not send to files)

900
Villa
Serbelloni
16 October 1959

Mr. Dean Rusk
The Rockefeller Foundation
49 West 49 Street
New York City

Dear Dean:

Here's a typed copy of a memorandum I wrote for you and Lindsley at the Villa Serbelloni after the meetings of the first group of conferees. Lindsley read it there, in almost its present form; and, as I understood him, he agreed with it. But of that he will speak for himself.

When I get myself squared-away here, let's have a talk.

Thanks for much!

Sincerely yours,



Henry Allen Moe

M:s

PRIVATE

Villa Serbelloni
10 October 1959

Memorandum for Dean Rusk and Lindsley Kimball:

At a meeting of the conferees held here yesterday, no RF officers were present. This was by agreement of the three RF officers now here: their idea was that perhaps I might encourage the conferees to let down their hair a bit. This happened, and following is my report:

1. As to John Marshall: He has done a fine job, including a particularly fine job on the general public relations side. On the other hand, his general demeanor has been too much as if he were M. le Duc; and this deceives nobody as much as it deceives himself. However, we all agreed that this tendency to regard himself as M. le Duc is diminishing--and diminishing fast.

John's interest in the arts of cookery is a fine thing; but it does lead to too deluxe meals. We all think that, because this is not and is not going to be a de luxe hotel, the meals should be made more adequate nutritionally and less adequate stylistically. Some progress along this line has been made: the wines have been cut down from two to one each meal.

John must get himself into position so that he can occupy himself with things of the mind, not with place cards and protocol. The general feeling was: to hell with the protocol and the place cards and the question whether one room is better than another. The thought was that RF had better get a multi-lingual Italian

inn keeper to do the housekeeping, ordering of meals, assignment of rooms, etc. --otherwise John will go to seed intellectually and, if you have to pull him back to New York, you would have a liability instead of the fine asset he was before he came here. And, if I know John as well as I think I do, he will not long be happy in his present rôle. That rôle is, of course, of his own making; and from many points of view it is well that he will have had the broadest possible line of experience here. But the conferees agreed that John must get into intellectual questions again as soon as possible. All conferees have respect for his mind, as is evident.

As to Mary Marshall: she is as close to perfection in her rôle here as one can imagine. She is gracious and she is kind; and she never forgets that this is RF and not Marshall. Her health worries me: too often she looks over-tired, and I cannot help being concerned as to how long she can take it.

2. As to the plan which the now-present conferees approved, the feeling was that Pomerat is the man to have supervision, on behalf of RF, of the choices of persons to be invited to use the Villa. You will see the implications of this statement when you get the memo of the conferees' recommendations. At this point I must inject my own views, rather than the conferees! I have long admired Pomerat for the way he handles himself and his subject matters at RF meetings; and my admiration was increased when I got Bob Loeb's report to TCRA. What Bob Loeb's report showed was that Pomerat has a rare

feeling for quality. Here, I have come to learn something of the range of Pomerat's interests and competences; and I agree fully with my fellow conferees' opinion that Pomerat is the man for the job.

As to what that job should consist of, I can only give my own views and those views are that Pomerat should be given the same kind and range of authority that was given to George Harrar when the Mexican Corn Program was inaugurated. This would mean that he must be detached from his present responsibilities; and if George Harrar wants to kick me hard at this point, I shall not blame him; but I will still stick to my point.

I have the feeling, on the record as I saw it as Chairman of TCRA, that Pomerat has not been given the scope that his abilities have entitled him to. This is your chance to give him enough scope for his qualities of excellence to bear full fruit. I know the RF officers pretty well; and I don't see anybody else who could handle this job as well as he.

No conferee thought of Pomerat's becoming the resident Director here: all agreed that John Marshall would be better at that than Pomerat.

3. The conferees questions about the plan recommended, were, most deeply, about how first-class choices of scholars and artists could be made. All the conferees were aware of my doings in choosing people for the past 30-odd years, and many questions were directed to me on this head. At the end they were convinced--

or at least they said so--that this matter of choice at the level contemplated is not insuperable: I fortified my answers with concrete examples of choices and how they can be made. And they accepted my conclusion that it would be fairly simple to write a plan, both for choosing and for administration--however difficult it might be to make ^{it} effective.

4. Pomerat grasps everything about this place, both with a roundedness of vision and also a sense of practicalities. He's your man, we think, who can develop the Villa Serbelloni's potentialities as they ought to be developed. It is worth noting, too, that Pomerat himself--subject to all the approvals up the line that must be obtained, of which nobody is more aware than he--is happy with the plan recommended by the present conferees.


Henry Allen Moe