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Rehabilitation program
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RF Officers' Conference

November 19, 1947

Present: TBA, RFB, CBF, RBF, AG, RAL, IMM, RSM, JMP, FMR, HSS,
GKS, WW, JMW, and Robert J. Havighurst

Discussion centered on the summary report prepared by RJH on his recent trip to Germany for the purpose of observing conditions and making recommendations as to possibilities for RF program in that country. In addition to the report, detailed interview and diary material is available to the officers. One complete file of all material will be placed in the Paris Office and one in the New York Office. Here the Reference Service will break the supplementary material up under headings of universities, youth organizations, natural sciences, social sciences, teacher training, etc., circulate the list and let staff initial by topics the materials they wish to see.

Before general discussion got under way question was raised as to how, in the event of grants made to institutions in Germany, dollar payments could be arranged. RJH said that since Germany is still an enemy country, it is against the law for Germans to possess dollars. Grants might be made to an organization in one of the contiguous countries, arranging for it to act as fiscal agent, purchasing the materials and paying the bills in dollars; or, possibly the AMG might receive the funds. Some question as to the legality of the second procedure.

RJH - General Impressions left by trip.

Upon the whole the two months spent in Germany did not leave RJH pessimistic. Conditions with regard to the morale of youth, for instance, are not much worse than they were in this country in 1932. There seems to be no imminent danger of a breakdown of the social organization. Possibility of food riots this winter unless the people are too tired. Orderliness of life in Germany is still impressive. Probably a big lift in morale after the Conference of Foreign Ministers, no matter which way the decisions go. Things now at dead center and they must move in some direction. If Europe is split down the middle, Western Germany will come pretty heavily into UN. Such a split, RJH thinks, would not make war inevitable. If some sort of rapprochement is worked out with Russia, it will mean not quite as tight an economic union of Germany with Western Europe. Thinks Europe will "come back" at least once again before the center of civilization moves from there, that is, unless we have another war, which would destroy Europe's natural resources.

RJH - recommendations.

If program is to be undertaken, RJH urges small beginnings. Some immediate help would have enormous morale-building effect. German people getting tired of telling their needs and of having nothing happen. Recommendations are given in order of priority as rated by RJH.

1. Help restore communication between Germany and the outside world through:
 - a. Aid in securing books and periodicals. (Still impossible for a German to get a book on American democracy unless he lives near one of the information centers set up by AMG.)
 - b. Interchange of persons. (Just as important as a.) Should be possible soon to get a flow of persons both ways. Americans going to Germany seems increasingly important to RJH. Such persons would get an understanding of Germany and return here to help form a useful and desirable policy toward that country.
2. Leadership training. (We should be unashamed about offering this because we have made important advances in this field that other countries may well benefit from.) RJH sees possibilities of fruitful efforts in:
 - a. Social sciences. (Any work here, however, calls for substantial efforts since a complete rebuilding is required.)
 - b. Teacher training. (The whole German educational system needs overhauling. AMG will probably force through some structural changes. The important thing, however, is to get some key persons into this country, and possibly Great Britain, to study recent educational thinking.)
 - c. Communication arts - radio, movies, newspapers, etc. (How the attitudes of the German people change will depend largely on how these arts develop along democratic lines.)

d. Youth leaders. (In the field of group work Americans have made considerable advance just in the past five years. So has England. An exceedingly important area if the reorganization of German society is to move along healthy, democratic lines.)

e. Medicine and public health.

3. Provision of Scientific Equipment and Supplies. (Here small aid would greatly increase efficiency of German scientific workers. Their work was not so much disturbed by the war as was that of workers in other fields and they are more likely to "come back" fast. \$10,000, for instance, might be put at the disposal of a Notgemeinschaft, giving that agency the responsibility of finding persons who could use research aid most effectively. RJH favors distribution by a German group rather than by persons selected by RF officers. AC mentions experience after last war with Notgemeinschaft was good. The old Notgemeinschaft does not exist as such but it would not be difficult to get one into existence. As to making it possible for such an organization to handle funds -- the research control officers of the American and British zones would have to select the Notgemeinschaft for distribution purposes and then select an agent in Switzerland or Holland to receive money and purchase materials on the order of the Notgemeinschaft. RJH would not favor doing anything at present to reconstruct laboratories. Building priorities are being given to living quarters, and public buildings such as libraries, government offices, hospitals, etc. It would be very difficult to get the necessary materials for any large scale laboratory reconstruction.)

In connection with the above recommendations RJH mentioned that since a number of them fell outside or across divisional lines, the RF might want to think in terms of their consideration by an inter-divisional committee.

Discussion

RBF said that he was rather intrigued by the idea of an inter-divisional committee and then suggested that the officers discuss this possibility and the several recommendations made by RJH.

RSM asked if it would be possible to consider first what he deemed a prior question -- Is it likely that Germany will ever be in condition to sustain a stable society? He elaborated this, expressing some doubt that we are in position to assume that Germany will make future contributions to the well-being of mankind. WW took up this point, saying that for a time he had seriously doubted that we would be morally justified in doing anything in Germany. He has come to believe, however, that a moral principle that you apply to one or two persons cannot be applied to a population of sixty million. Nevertheless he does not believe that we can move, as an act of faith, into a program of reconstruction in Germany along divisional lines. The time has not come for that; there are certain pressing needs for change in German society to which we must give prior consideration. These are changes that will make it possible for Germany to function as a democratic state in a society of nations. RJH's first two recommendations promise to contribute to such changes and WW would go along with them. He would not go along with recommendation #3 and explicitly would not recommend NS activity under recommendation #3. Furthermore he thought it would be most unfortunate if the RF did anything in Germany without being ready to undertake programs of equal size or larger in other needy countries that had been "on the side of the angels." Gives strong support to the idea of using an inter-divisional committee to guide any program that may be undertaken in Germany. Divisional work presupposes a stable society and a stable culture -- and these are not to be found in Germany.

General discussion revealed considerable difference of opinion. JEN did not agree with WW on the matter of ruling out the divisional approach. He said that the moral issue could not be dodged but that, for the purpose of getting on with the job to be done, it was wise to think rather in terms of specific projects; was confident that there would be more agreement here. AG pointed out that a doctor was morally obligated to accept a patient and do all he could for him, whether or not he thought him fit to be saved. WW said that he also was concerned with choosing the best thing to be done for the patient and in the case of Germany action along the lines of the first recommendations should be given priority. GKS thought that moving under recommendations #1 and #2 did not rule out the divisional interest in public health.

At RBF's request RJH then talked about some specific projects that might be considered:

Specific Projects

Under recommendation #1:

Books and periodicals -- The ALA project has been slow in moving. Four sets of periodicals and two sets of books have been shipped but not yet distributed. These will go to Heidelberg, Goettingen and Tuebingen. UNESCO is exploring a way of establishing a book coupon scheme for the purchase of books. RJH suggests entering subscriptions for the next three or four years for a list of 50 journals on behalf of each of 10 libraries in Germany. Doubts it wise to do anything about back numbers. These can be handled eventually by the German libraries themselves. Might possibly help Heidelberg with a microfilm project. Cost of the subscriptions would probably be under \$15,000.

Help establish an international children's library in Munich.

Encourage the inclusion of Germany in any plan worked out by UNESCO for the exchange of books and periodicals.

Make library allowances a part of travel grants.

Under recommendation #2:

Help in sending guest professors to Germany, possibly along the lines of the project now being developed by U. of Chicago. The latter has set up sub-faculties in the humanities and the social sciences that will spend two or three quarters in Germany, taking with them their own working libraries. Will start next spring, and as soon as possible provision will be made for return visits of German professors, and eventually graduate students. If RF could find two or three very able German professors to come here to lecture, they would act as ambassadors. RF should not itself invite them but might use AMG, the ACE, or the Institute of International Education, etc. The American Association of Teachers Colleges might be ready to assist. In any of these projects you will encounter the difficulty of securing military permits. A real bottleneck is here. Also Americans working in Germany should have access to AMG housing and food. Situation impossible otherwise. This is now limited to three months.

Teacher training. American Association of Teachers Colleges has committee to promote the exchange of teachers. The ACE Council on Cooperation in Teacher Education is now working on an international project involving bringing 40 or 50 teachers from all over Europe to the U.S. for a period of 4 months. Three or four Germans would be included. They will welcome our interest. Would be useful to talk with Dr. Karl W. Bigelow who was in Europe this summer -- he is chairman of the Council on Cooperation. We might look for 6 or 8 persons in the field of teacher education in Germany, young persons who could be counted upon to exercise an influence in the reorganization of teacher education there; encourage them to build up their libraries while here; look for persons in child psychology, guidance, tests and measurement, etc. A four-power directive says that all teacher training should be raised to university level. This will be a big job.

Work with youth. This is an especially important area because family life has been so disorganized and about a third of younger men have been killed. It would be a good thing to find a committee of Americans who have had experience in the youth leadership field, and who might work with Germans in selecting a few persons who show promise of developing careers. We might also find one or two lecturers who could lecture at the leadership training institutes, of which there will be quite a number in Germany next spring and summer. Some special consideration might be given to work with young women. The experience of Morey, who has been with the AMG, would be valuable.

Recommendation #4:

Proposal for the setting up of a non-governmental commission that would visit countries where we have responsibility for the development of democratic society (Germany, Japan, Korea and Austria) and examine and criticize our educational program in these countries. Membership might consist of representatives of the various national councils -- SSRC, ACE, ACLS, NRC -- and sub-committees be set up for the several countries. There will be many difficulties involved but it is very important that what the U.S. is doing in the way of reeducation in occupied countries be examined by persons who are not responsible to governmental agencies. If UNESCO were now operating successfully, it would be the agency to set up such a commission.

Summary

There was general agreement as to the desirability of RF program along the lines of Recommendations #1 and #2, and also as to the importance

of exploring possibilities under Recommendation #4. No agreement was reached as to Recommendation #3 -- RJH suggested scrapping it for the time being.

RBF invited RJH to make a report on his visit to Germany to the trustees at the Williamsburg meeting. Desirable that the officers have another meeting before then to discuss a possible plan for program.

FMR:jrm
11/21/47