

2000
Refugee Scholars

STAFF CONFERENCE

June 25, 1940

PRESENT: RBF, WW, DHS, TBA, AG, WAS, SMG, SHW

RBF: Presents subject of small conference of preceding Friday - liberal leaders in jeopardy in France and Foundation's interest in scholars. List of former prepared by Hamilton Fish Armstrong, to which RF officers made additions - forwarded to State Department and by State Department, after conference, to American consuls general in four cities with instructions to give visas if sought. In addition to urgent list a second list was made up with additions from Foundation divisions (SS only had made additions to first list) of people representing first class scholarship who might wish to come to USA. Second list has not gone forward. Situation such as list implies must be thought through carefully - it implies opportunities, if men are brought out on such State Department orders. WW and AG stated that it was their understanding that they were furnishing information - that the Foundation was not trying to find people, the assumption being that the lists were for use in connection with people who took initiative about coming out. WW asks if it would be feasible to send second list to State Department to be held there for future reference in individual cases. RBF thinks we would not be in as good position with State Department as if we took up cases as they arose. WW: Sending of second list would be premature in terms of Foundations preparation for action. RBF: Number of questions are involved - what to do about families - whether there is room in US for any more foreign personnel, etc. SHW points out element of psychology in limitations upon deposed scholars - this psychology has changed recently - must ease in foreign personnel as far as universities are concerned.

WW: Wonders if there is not a technique for Foundation application in Columbia University's plan for having refugees as personal guests of faculties without university responsibility for appointment, etc. SHW: Refers to Crane's plan for invitations for one year only with no further responsibility. TBA: Foundation must be prepared to take full salary with visitor cooperation by universities. AG: Situation calls for new machinery - aid is very likely very important - our presence in Europe largely permissive - no economic margin for university maintenance in a good many places - scholars better off if brought here early before involvement with suffering in their homes breaks into their capacity for work - universities will not be able or ready to make permanent new appointments. Suggests support for 200 to 300 scholars and their families for one year, not in New York - thinks especially of south - scholars to be available for lectures for two, three or four months - from Norway, Holland, Belgium, France, probably England - would need definite organization - suggests fellowship money might be well employed. SMG: In France men not prepared from language standpoint for such lecturing assignments. RBF: Raises question of

quality. Agreement this could be as high as fellowship and almost as strict as deposed scholars. WAS: Raises question of giving attention to persuading people to stay in their own countries, and SMG points out later importance of building up institutions. SHW: Raises question of cooperating with Institute of International Education.

Report received by telephone from State Department that message to consuls went from Foundation, not from Mr. Armstrong - Department asks to add two names.

DHS: Suggests bringing some scholars out to write their reminiscences - also suggests furnishing State Department with list of men already aided.

AGREED To prepare divisional memoranda setting forth suggestions which shall be collated and presented to later conference.

AGREED Not to forward second list to State Department.