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Villa Serbelloni  
P & P

Villa Serbelloni Program Committee Meeting

November 27, 1962

FEB 27 1963

JGH, JZM, ER, JJM, GF, DP and KW were present for a discussion of recommendations to be made to the Trustees concerning future program development at the Villa. JGH referred to the earlier understanding that the Foundation would undergo a five year experience with the Villa before undertaking to make a final decision about its long-term use. He also referred to the general understanding that every effort is to be made to keep outside maintenance costs within an amount equivalent to the income from the endowment.

Present assessment of Villa experience indicates that it can be useful: a) as a center for individual study; b) as a conference center; c) a combination of a and b. Meanwhile other types of use can be, and should be, explored.

There was again a discussion of the feasibility of allowing potential outside users to pay direct costs. GF expressed concern that such a policy might cause the Foundation to lose control of the purposes and possible side effects of conferences which would inevitably be associated with the Foundation's name. There was general recognition of this risk but with the feeling that in cases of outside "users" the Villa would merely be a facility. Subject to proper prenegotiation and decision concerning the appropriateness of the objectives of conferences, the idea of allowing an outside organization to pay was not abandoned. Reference was made to earlier recommendations for core themes for Villa use. It was felt that this kind of programming would present too many restrictions, at least, in the present stage of development.

JGH mentioned that a number of suggestions have come in concerning the use of the Villa during the off-season for college orientation in Italian language, art and music. It has also been suggested that the Villa be used as a school for training diplomats through the UN. If, during the five year period of development, it appears that the Villa mainly serves outside organizations it may be advisable to turn it over to an association of universities.

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Villa Serbelloni  
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DATE December 26, 1962 T

December 17, 1962 F

RECEIVED FROM JZMaier

SENT TO Jacques Freymond

RELATING TO Possible conference at the Villa of the "Futuribles" group.

WILL BE FOUND WITH 100

Council for the Future

INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

Villa  
R+P  
900,  
Serbelloni

FROM: JKS

DATE: 12/28/62

TO:

JGH		

COMMENTS:

OCT 22 1963

SUBJECT: Memoranda from GF and CG to KWT about Villa program.

The memoranda I extracted from your pile yesterday afternoon - from GF and CG about possible Villa program - are similar and interesting. They both suggest incorporating the Villa facilities into a study of relations between western Europe and other areas of the world, especially those underdeveloped areas in which the Foundation has been most active of late. CG's memorandum seems to propose the establishment of a kind of institute at the Villa. He speaks of a small rotating staff and seems to be thinking in terms of a scholarly going-business. GF's memorandum seems to propose continued use of the Villa for conferences and meetings, with emphasis on the problem of Europe in relation to the rest of the world.

These are good ideas, it seems to me. As you know, I favor the idea of having the Villa serve to re-link the Foundation with Europe's intellectual life - to avoid the posture of dissociation from Europe that the greater needs of other areas seem to have led us into. But I would like to emphasize the following points:

(1) I think it important to maximize residential use of the Villa facilities, which are after all primarily residential in character, and I believe a substantial contribution to the intellectual community of Europe and the U. S. can be made through such residential use of the Villa.

(2) I think it important to have the Villa used as fully as possible year-round. CG's idea of establishing a kind of institute there is compatible with this goal; but I think that to focus in any narrow way the scope of the pursuits to be carried on at the Villa would produce unnecessary and undesirable restriction. I say: if a good European nuclear physicist wants to stay at the Villa for a couple of weeks, let's let him; and let's see if we can find a good American one to have there at the same time (one that is in Europe anyway).

From: JKS  
To : JGH

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12/28/62

(3) I have less confidence than GF and CG in the power of meetings. This does not mean that I oppose the sort of conferences that GF and CG envision; I think such conferences would be just fine. What it does mean is that I would not like to see us enter upon a new line of conferences instead of bearing down on the problem of increasing residential use of the Villa.

eh