

Imperial Hotel, Russell Square

May 4, 1933

Sir William Beveridge,
London School of Economics
Aldwych, W.C.1

Dear Sir William:

We talked last time about the fact that some Jewish groups may wish to raise money for purposes which are different from ours. There are two such plans; A. to raise money for the Palestine University, B. to raise money for an emigrants* university to be founded somewhere in Europe. I saw to-day Sir Philip Hartog, and spent the day attending the meeting of the Jewish committee of which he is the chairman.

Sir Philip Hartog agrees that alternative B. is not desirable. I informed Sir Philip that there is a vague hope of getting Oxford, Cambridge and London universities to take the matter into their own hands in England, and that they may take some steps to raise funds. He seemed to be quite willing to prevent anything that would counteract or interfere with such an action on the part of the universities. As he will lunch with you on Friday, I need not go into further details.

Dr. Weizman's secretary wrote me a letter saying that Dr. W. will see me one of these days.

I do not think I can do anything to persuade Weizman to divert funds from Palestine university for our purpose, but I shall inform him of the consensus of opinion as far as our project is concerned, among those German professors whom I happened to meet in London during the last few days.

Enclosed I am sending you a copy of a letter which I had to-day from Belgium. As you see from this letter, there are many groups everywhere already in existence, and there is a definite need to coordinate these groups.

A possible way of doing this would be to have an international board of some twenty scientists and scholars, including some German professors who are remaining in office, for instance Planck and Hilbert. This board would not need to meet but each of the members would assume responsibility for selecting fellows in his field.

If we had such a central body of prominent scientists and scholars, the fellowships which would be granted through this body would not earmark those scientists who get them, even if some of the groups who raised the money would be antagonistic to the German regime in one way or another. The statutes of the board would merely have to state the willingness of the board to give advice if required concerning research fellowships, and the cooperation with the individual groups could be as loose or as close as would prove suitable.

I have talked over this point with several people, also with professor Laski, and I would very much like to have your opinion on it before I inform accordingly our Belgian and American friends. Professor Laski and myself agreed that it would not be wise to appoint such a board at the present time, but that we could secure right now the consent of those who would be officially asked later.

I shall possibly try and see you some time to-morrow morning, and will get in touch with Mrs. Turin for this purpose.

Yours Sincerely,

PS. I happened to meet Professor Donnan (physical chemistry, U.C.) He has already been in touch with Lord Melchett who promised him his help, and it may be of some use that you meet him sooner or later. I also happened to see Sir John Russell at Harpenden.

c/o Mrs. Hicklin,
65, Ridgemount Gardens,
LONDON, W.C.1.

May 23, 1933.

Sir William Beveridge,
London School of Economics,
Houghton Street,
Aldwych,
LONDON.

Dear Sir William,

I herewith enclose a brief report on my visit to Belgium and Switzerland. I suggested to the Rectors of the Belgian Universities that they keep Professor Gilbert Murray informed about the steps that they contemplate taking, and to Dr. Kullman of the Intellectual Co-operation section of the League of Nations that he discuss the matter both with you and with Professor Gilbert Murray in England in the course of the next few days.

Yours sincerely,

Leo Szilard.

LS/RS

BELGIUM

The Rectors of each of the four Belgian Universities and the President of Brussels University were rather sympathetic and willing to deal with individual cases of professors and research workers on their own merits. War reminiscences make it difficult to establish in Belgium any organisation for the helping of German scientists. The situation would be different if an international neutral organisation were established for distributing Research Fellowships, in which case the Fonds Franqui and other similar Fonds could be expected to contribute funds. The Rectors of the Universities will keep in touch with M. Willems of the Fonds National, whom I also found sympathetic, and I suggested that they communicate with Professor Gilbert Murray at Oxford for the purpose of co-ordination.

Professor Jacques Errera and M. Hendrik de Man would be willing to devote time to any work that may be found useful.

SWITZERLAND (Geneva)

Professor Fryda, who is the centre of this work in Holland, came with me to Geneva. There we saw Dr. Kotschnig of the International Student Service and Dr. Kullman of the Intellectual Co-operation section of the League of Nations. We discussed with them and with Dr. Schlesinger of Vienna the problem both of professors and of students.

The International Student Service is prepared to deal with the student question and will have a meeting in London on Saturday next to arrive at a final decision with regard to this matter.

Dr. Kotschnig and Mr. James Parkes will get into touch with Sir Philip Hartog in London, Dr. Kullman will meet Sir William Beveridge and Professor Gilbert Murray.

Summary of the interviews with the
Rectors of the Belgian Universities.

1. Following some conversations which took place in Vienna with Sir William Beveridge, Director of the London School of Economics, a committee is being formed in England, which will make an appeal to the English public in order to raise funds. These funds are to be used in order to help scientists and scholars, who for various abnormal reasons are deprived of the possibility of pursuing their work.
G.M. Trevelyan, former Minister in Education and Hopkins, President of the Royal Society, cooperate with Sir William Beveridge in creating this committee, of which Viscount Grey will probably be the President, and the Presidents of the Royal Society and the British Academy will be the leading members (the constant of the Royal Society has been voted on the day on which I left London.)
2. There are in England three possible ways of raising funds:
 - a. Voluntary contributions from university professors (a committee set up from the staff of the London School of Economics voted unanimously in favour of a voluntary contribution of two to three percents of the salaries for three years; but we do not yet know how far this movement will spread;
 - b. Contributions from wealthy bankers etc.
 - c. Contributions from the general Jewish relief funds which is controlled through Montefiore and the Nevill Laski.
3. If funds were available one possible way of using them would be to give fellowships for three to five years to scientists and scholars in order to enable them to work as guest researchers or guest lectures in such institutes which are suitable and which would like to have them as guests.
4. If other countries were willing to cooperate, it may become possible to establish a sort of international research fellowship, it would then be possible to use money raised in England or America for fellows who would go as guests to other countries where funds can not be raised, but where one or the

other of these felloww would be welcome as guests.

Professor Guilbert Murray in Oxford considers to take some sort of initiative to ensure international cooperation in this matter; he is chairman of the League of Nations committee for intellectual cooperation, but would act here as a private person. He is in touch with the English committee and if he could be kept informed about the further developments this would be helpful in bringing about such a cooperation.

Letters should be addressed: Prof. Guilbert Murray, Yatscomb Boarshill, Oxford (England). (It would be also helpful to have copies of letters sent to my secretary Hicklin, 65 Ridgemount Gardens, London W.C.I)



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25th May 1933

Dear Dr. Szilard,

Many thanks for your letter and report about Belgium and Switzerland. I shall look forward to seeing Dr. Kullman and Professor Murray next week.

Yours sincerely,

W. B. Murray

Dr. Szilard,
c/o Mrs. Hicklin,
65, Ridgemount Gardens,
W.C. 1.



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c/o Mrs. Hicklin,
Dr. Gailard

Yours sincerely,

W. G. 1.

Murray next week.

Forward to seeing Dr. Kullman and Professor
about Belgium and Switzerland. I shall look

Many thanks for your letter and report

Dear Dr. Gailard,

25th May 1933

LONDON W.C. 1.

ALDWYCH

Houghton Street

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