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# INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHRISTIANS AND JEWS

## CONSEIL INTERNATIONAL DE CHRÉTIENS ET JUIFS

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### Summer Workshop

University of Fribourg

Switzerland, 30 July 1948

*Dear Governor Lehman -*

To NCCJ Board Members and Other Friends:

I wish that you were with me on this 1948 mission in Europe. You then would realize that through NCCJ you are part of a significant development that is taking root world-wide. We are building a combination of men of faith capable of supplying the intelligence and will-power so desperately needed in the struggle now proceeding between free men and tyranny.

According to a Finnish proverb, "When the peasant has built up the farm, death comes." Europe is working. Restored buildings, food on sale, better clothes, shop window displays, and promising harvests are evidence. However, the ghost of death to human dignity and freedom stalks along the Kremlin border. Every European wonders, "Is every bridge we repair, field we sow, machine we build, child we teach, to be taken over in the death grip of fanaticism and tyranny?" It may well be that our efforts through ICCJ and related agencies of schools, churches, and community organizations in moderating the age-old fears and hatreds, will tip the scales in favor of peace.

Over here, war does not appear imminent, nor inevitable. The encounter with Russia, however, requires the power of fresh ideas and spiritual motivation to supplement Western political firmness and economic improvements. Only if all men of goodwill show a far greater disposition to work together, can the tensions and conflicts be kept this side of suicidal warfare and catastrophe. In a brilliant discussion at tea in the American Embassy in Eire, this point was underscored.

There Minister George Garrett convened Eire's Foreign Secretary, the Minister of Interior, the Speaker of the Dail, three Senators, the President of National University and the Provost of Trinity College, industrialists from Ford Motors, Guinness, and other concerns, plus a few professional men, Catholic, Protestant, and Jew. We presented the case for a Chapter of ICCJ.

As in Dublin, so in Belfast we found deeply disturbed men ready to rise above the notorious Northern Ireland Protestant-Catholic hostilities and work on better terms across religious lines in this crisis. Queens University sent a faculty member to this Fribourg conference.

Father Cardinal of Chicago, Vice-President Mayne of Detroit, and Staffman Visseur left me in London. They visited Chapters in Holland, Belgium, Luxembourg, France, and Italy (where they had a friendly audience with the Pope). Russell Bradley, who has come to our European staff from the Yale University faculty and Yale Alumni Secretariat, joined me for work in Stockholm, Oslo, and Copenhagen. We went armed with this message from ECA Chairman Paul Hoffman:

"....I am happy to know that this educational work for all people of goodwill is now being taken up in earnest throughout western Europe....I have profound respect for and interest in the program....Your work can and should become a supplement to the work of the Economic Cooperation Administration..."

The State Department had introduced us to Information and Education officials in Europe. Ambassador Marvel in Denmark, Ambassador Matthews in Sweden, and Ambassador Bay in Norway were extremely helpful, as were the national ministries of education and the church leaders in each country.

Formal teas were given in each city, and the foundations of organizations were laid on which we will build this fall. The Scandinavian countries have many lessons to contribute to the rest of Europe and to America in this field of liberal human relations.

We flew from Copenhagen toward Frankfurt, but the "Operation Vittles" closed the Frankfurt Airport to commercial flying, and grounded us in Hamburg, British Zone. A German IIIe classe train picked us up for an over-night trip on plain board benches, with friendly Germans exchanging opinions with us far into the darkness. We pulled into Frankfurt in time to shower and shave for a luncheon with 18 Frankfurt school, church, labor, business, labor, press and radio leaders. These men remained until four o'clock that Saturday afternoon to discuss NCCJ objects and methods. Throughout twelve days Carl Zietlow, our Secretary in Germany, scheduled similar luncheons or dinners with leaders in six cities, and informal sessions in four other towns. We now have beginning operations in seven German centers.

125 people from 17 countries came to Fribourg for study in methods. The setting is a great Roman Catholic University. We are housed in the colleges, and Sisters serve the meals. Dr. MacCracken is presiding and we conduct the studies in four commissions: schools, churches, civic programs, radio and press. The assembly is twice as large as last year, and of a more influential calibre. Luxembourg sent its Vice President of Parliament, Germany sent two Oberbürgermeisters, France has several distinguished professors, and the school and church leaders from all of the countries are of a high level, Protestant, Catholic, and Jew. General Clay sent Dr. Sterling Brown, whom we loaned to OMGUS, as his personal representative.

We will emerge from this workshop with "graduates" who will go back to their countries as volunteer workers and organizers - 25 from

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the religious commission, 40 from the civic organizations program, and 60 from the educational profession.

John Foster Dulles cabled this message to Fribourg:

"....United efforts of all religious groups can accomplish much for world peace."

University of North Carolina's President Graham:

"....In this darkened world religion and education are our chief hope for the long haul."

We are able to announce that Thomas E. Braniff, Arthur H. Compton, Allen Dulles, Herbert H. Lehman, Basil O'Connor, William Green, Roger W. Straus, James N. Rosenberg, and Charles E. Wilson are serving as advisers for ICCJ on the American side.

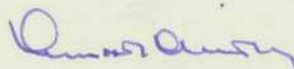
Our goal is nothing less than the permeation of every community in America and Europe with educational impulses for goodwill and cooperation among Catholics, Jews, Protestants, and all other "men of goodwill."

Your support, together with grants of \$25,000 from the Ford Motor Dealers, \$15,000 from the Louis J. Horowitz Foundation, \$7500 from the Lessing Rosenwald Foundation, will make this year's foreign extension historic.

I shall start back to my New York desk tomorrow.

With warm personal regards,

Faithfully yours,



Everett R. Clinchy

