

Winslow, Richard S.
1946-52

Winslow

UNITED STATES DELEGATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

250 WEST 57TH STREET
NEW YORK 19, N. Y.
CIRCLE 6-4400

JK

January 8, 1946

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Now that the pressure of the General Assembly and the Holiday Season has declined and our staff reflects upon the whole General Assembly operation, I wish to extend to you on their behalf, as well as my own, our very great appreciation of the note of congratulation which you address to me on December 16.

In view of my newness to the job, I must say that most of the credit belongs to the experienced staff which it was my pleasure and privilege to lead, at least nominally.

May I take this occasion to say that because of your extremely modest requests for assistance from us during times of pressure, the staff frequently expressed their high regard for your considerateness. Nevertheless, I would like you to know that we are actually well prepared to handle any extra tasks which might relieve you of some of your extraordinarily heavy burdens, and I hope that you will really call upon us more frequently during any future sessions of the Assembly or any of the Commissions.

We all look forward to seeing you again in the near future and express our best wishes to you for the New Year.

Sincerely yours,

Richard S. Winslow

Richard S. Winslow
Acting Secretary General

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt,
29 Washington Square,
New York, New York.

Maston

I think the
feelings expressed
in the letter you
sent me are
justified but I
do not know how to
change the
situation

11/23/46

UNITED STATES DELEGATION TO THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS

To: Mrs. Roosevelt

From: R. S. Winslow

The attached letters reflect a very common feeling which has been expressed by many of my former colleagues in UNRRA field operations in Germany. The writer of the ^{main} letter was one of my most outstanding assistants and is a mature, level-headed American ex-civil engineer, who now is field director of the largest district of DP operations in U.S. Zone, Germany.

There are items in this letter and in between the lines of it and many others which are filled with serious implications for human rights when the morale and stamina of the field staff collapse. We may

UNITED STATES DELEGATION TO THE
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be on the verge of having an IRO constitution and budget but no experienced field operators of integrity and human sensitivity.

Some day, if time ever permits, I would be interested to go into this picture further with you since the day-to-day field staff often raise some very penetrating questions about the way in which high policy and field practice often do not coincide.

(I have given copies of the attached to Mr. Warren, Mr. Burnett....)

Winslow, R

(Copy of letter to R.S. Winslow from one of the most reliable, veteran, key field directors in UNRRA's DP operations, U.S. Zone, Germany)

At a meeting of District Directors at Heidelberg November 1st, we were confronted by a Russian General and 6 - Nov. - 46, willain in the place had now entered. They quoted Resolutions, Directives, Agreements. They read off numerous violations, insults to their

Dear Dick, 10. In 12 points they demanded lists of the Balts, lists of Ukrainians, a seat in the Screening teams, right of

I am wondering if all this sorry mess is not finally getting my wind up. It would, perhaps, be a relief to sit at your distance and view objectively all the ramifications of current policies. Possibly you can justify some of them from your wider sources of information. To us today there is creeping in a cloud of fog and disillusion that is hard to cope with and difficult to talk about. Either we are to go down as the world's prize hypocrites or we are going to, one day soon, wash our hands of the unclean job and bow out. I see, in the next phase of our work, that that choice is to be ours. We must walk with Judas or walk out.

So far we have done our level best to carry out the provisions of the directives, to do so as decently as we were able. Just in the past few weeks have we come to realize the enormity of the outrage we are lending hands to. Not many of us will be willing to look into the faces of these D.P.'s when the last pressures are applied -- or into each other's faces for that matter.

You see -- in the past couple of months a lot of international pressures have been exerted. (1) There has been the almost forcible repatriation of Poles - the dangling of quantities of food before them, the moving of masses from camp to camp, each less attractive than the other. Between the allure of food for their hungry eyes, the weariness of travel and harshness of existence, many have gone home as a choice of miseries. We have carried on a system of Ballyhoo, emphasising any favorable information we could get, leaving out all the other disquieting rumors that fill us with apprehension. We have tried to bolster up our doubts with the belief that the deterioration resulting from camp life has gone on too long, that Poland needs workers, that repatriation is UNRRA's mission. (2) My feeling about the infiltrating Jew is a mixed one. They are still the chosen people with powerful friends. Their worst sufferings are at their own hands, their unwillingness to cooperate, their aversion to work (even for themselves), their delusions about conditions to expect here. We are displacing the settled Balts and Poles to give them the Jews better accommodations. Immediately the new accommodations deteriorate and there is never any thanks. None the less, these people will survive, but it takes infinite patience to deal with them. (3) The Balts are filled with apprehension as they feel the pressures. They also feel a chill from the East. UNRRA, the protector, UNRRA asylum, UNRRA understanding, all seem pretty cheap now. A very few have gone home.

Excerpts from letter to R. S. Winslow from UNRRA colleague in
Germany, letter dated November 11, 1946

Dear Mr. Winslow:

. . . UNRRA seems bent on discharging as many people as possible, and is doing it in a way which I believe to be wrong. The entire screening process is being carried out without capable personnel, families are being separated, no reasons are being given to the DPs concerned, no adequate appeal system is operating, and the entire attitude is too close to **Naziism**. About 60% of our people here were screened out not because they were war criminals, or collaborators, but on the grounds of voluntary entry. Thus we have a 78 year old woman who is no DP but her entire family is. She being sick and infirm, must go out from the camp! Etc. Frankly it is a terrible business. A large store of ill will against the United Nations is being created. . . .