Bei ; Bei

Belgian Consulate General
50 Rockefeller Plaza
New York 20, N.Y.

Telephone: Columbus 5-0367

Commercial Department

January 9, 1947.

Ref. No. 530/D.8201
VC/FW.

Mrs. Eleanor D. Roosevelt
Washington Square
New York City.

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt,

I have been requested by Miss Emilie De Bruycker, Ertsbrug, 48, Serscamp (Oost Vlaanderen), Belgium, to send you the enclosed piece of Belgian lace as a Christmas present. She is a manufacturer of handmade laces, such as bridal veils, table cloths, etc.

Unfortunately, a delay in the postal delivery prevented me from sending it in time.

I hope, Dear Mrs. Roosevelt, that you will accept this little lace medallion as a token of the great esteem in which my country holds you.

Yours very truly,

Charles Hallaert
Consul General of Belgium.

Write Mrs. Lady too

Belgian

Bell

~~the big brown dog jumped over the lazy human fox~~

November 27, 1947

My dear Mr. Bell:

Your letter was interesting but it seems to me that you have over-looked something.

There is very little possibility of one man working along the lines which happen to be natural and easy to another man.

Of course, I know all the things which you give as explaining Russia's rights. I have gone over them many times but it is practically impossible to have watched over the past two years the changes coming over the Russians without realizing that this is a very strong dictatorship and that the group at the top doing the dictating, has not given up the idea that it is possible to carry through a world revolution.

I think it would go a long way toward ironing out our difficulties if the Russians could be induced to stop infiltration in other countries and be content with developing the land they have without swallowing up more people on every frontier. If she would do those two things, I have an idea we would become more reasonable also, but how to bring those things about seems to be a real problem.

I hope things will go better at the present Foreign Ministers' meeting. I think General Marshall has a better approach than Secretary Byrnes. At least, I hope so.

Very sincerely yours,

PHONE DEXTER 0507 RES. GASPEE 6299

JOSHUA BELL
ATTORNEY AND COUNSELLOR AT LAW
823 HOSPITAL TRUST BUILDING
PROVIDENCE 3, R. I.

Interesting

November 10, 1947

"Judge not thy neighbor until thou art come to his place." (Hillel)

"Human errors should be neither ridiculed nor condemned, but under stood." (Spinoza)

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
Hyde Park, N. Y.

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I am taking the liberty of addressing the following lines to you, and I allow myself to hope that you will not regard me as a presumptuous individual, since my primary aim is to attempt to clarify a situation which has been seriously disturbing the world for a full generation.

You have been reported in the local press the other to have made the following statements in your Daily Column: "One wonders what it is that frightens them (the Russians) so much. People do not protest so violently unless they are frightened... I have seen no desire for war on the part of people in this community... It is hard to make the USSR to understand this."

Taking the sound maxim of my unforgettable teacher, Prof. Walter Wheeler Cook, formerly of Yale Law School, as my guide, "never to discuss cases in a vacuum, but always in the light of surrounding circumstances," I shall endeavor to analyze the problem in accordance with his wise counsel, namely, "in the light of surrounding circumstances."

In attempting to comprehend the Russian "fright," one must, as a condition sine qua non, thoroughly familiarize himself with the history of the Russian regime from its very inception a generation ago and bear in mind all the vicissitudes it has experienced up to the present time. Without the slightest attempt of whitewashing the leaders of USSR or subscribing to their doctrines, I have found the "Great Conspiracy" by Michael Sayres and A. E. Kahn of enormous help in understanding the position Russia occupies in the world today. From a careful reading of said book, I am inclined to believe that it is not tainted with communistic propaganda. It is, in my opinion, a collection of facts based on and supported by documentary evidence, informing us of the origin of the Bolshevic Revolution and the titanic struggle it had to face on the part of a hostile world from its very beginning and up to the present time.

It is, of course, beyond the limited scope of a letter to attempt even a brief review of the book. A few illustrative facts, however, will be helpful to make us realize the full significane of the Russian "fright." So, for instance, when Col. Raymond Robins was sent by Pres. Wilson to Russia as a Red Cross official, he made a thorough study of

the then prevailing conditions, as if by intuition, "in the light of surrounding circumstances," and he was ready to make certain recommendations to our State Department, when he was prevented from transmitting his message by our the Ambassador Francis, who had allied himself with the British and French officials who had determined to destroy the Russian regime. Most unfortunately, we still have a very abundant crop of Francises with us at the present time.

What can one say about "Winnie," as your late husband and our greatest President, was fond of calling him? We learn from the said book that five years after the Russian Revolution, Mr. Churchill motored one Sunday morning with Boris Savinkov, an arch-conspirator, to the country home of Mr. Lloyd George for the specific purpose of obtaining the latter's blessing for a crusade against Russia. The "holy mission," however, turned out to be a complete fiasco, chiefly because the Welsh "Fox" nipped the attempt in the bud. Has Mr. Churchill ceased his attacks upon Russia? Of course not! Only about two years ago, as the personal guest of President Truman, he delivered a most inflammatory address, practically calling for a Holy War against Russia. Now, in all fairness, let us take a sincere introspective view of the situation and ask ourselves how we would have reacted had "Uncle Joe" invited a guest to the Kremlin and had him deliver a similar speech, inciting the people of Russia to wage war on us. I feel it was very undiplomatic on the part of President Truman to have sanctioned such an address, our constitutional guarantee of free speech notwithstanding!

I often ask myself why it is that, during the last Administration, whenever any disturbing cloud appeared on the horizon, ostensibly marring our friendly relations with the USSR, there was insurmountable difficulty experienced in having it dispersed immediately, Somehow, there was always a Harry L. Hopkins or a Joseph E. Davies on hand, and all the angles were ironed out, and smooth relations fully established. Why, even the late Chief Executive himself, did not hesitate to leave a sick bed and undertake a most hazardous flight for the sole purpose of meeting with the Russians with the aim in view to maintain peaceful and even friendly relations. The answer, of course, is obvious: There then was a sincere desire for co-operation! What, however, do we behold now? More than two years have elapsed since the first and final meeting between President Truman and Mr. Stalin, and no renewal of the first acquaintance is in sight. Moreover, the Hopkins's and Davies's have been replaced by the Herbert Clark Hoovers, and we all know what that means. Is there any wonder that a "war of nerves" is raging so bitterly on both sides?

Permit me also to comment on your statement hereinbefore quoted: "I have seen no desire for war on the part of people in this community." Has it ever occurred to you that the Russians have 350 million potential enemies in the world, and that at least 25 million of them in our midst? It is common knowledge that an intense hatred for the Russian system of government is being harbored in the Vatican and, hence, among all its adherents. Just the other day, I happened to meet a couple of brother attorneys, both of whom are Catholics, who conducted a very heated and spirited discussion condemning the present administration for not utilizing the atomic bomb against Russia. "The time to do it is now," and both of them agreed to it. This is not an isolated instance,

if we bear in mind the utterances of our Bullitts, Earls, Berie McCormicks, and Hearsts. Our disgruntled first Ambassador to Russia occupies a very prominent position among the preachers of war against Russia, and he indeed has a multitude of followers. If my premise is correct, the inevitable conclusion is that there is a valid reason for the Russian "fright!" The real reason why "it is hard to make the USSR to understand this" is to be found in the fact that there is no sincere effort manifested to convince the Russians that they have nothing to fear. It is quite clear that a "get tough with Russia" policy will not bring about peaceful relations. The only proven method is the one floowed by the Last Administration, as aforesaid, and I believe it is very much worthwhile to follow the sound precedent!

I am taking the further liberty to enclose a "suplement herewirh.

Very respectfully yours,

John Bell

JOSHUA BELL
ATTORNEY AND COUNSELLOR AT LAW
823 HOSPITAL TRUST BUILDING
PROVIDENCE 3, R. I.
PHONE DEXTER 0507 - RES. GASPEE 6299

October 2, 1947

Hon. J. Howard McGrath
Senate Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Howard:

Permit me to extend my felicitations to you on your designation as Chairman of the Democratic National Committee, and I may as well include my congratulations on your election, as it is a foregone conclusion!

I feel absolutely convinced that you will guide the destinies of the Democratic Party with an expert mind. I am apprehensive, however, that you will have a most difficult task ahead of you, and I ardently pray that you, as an ingenious and skilled pilot, shall succeed in weathering the stormy seas between October 29, 1947 and November 2, 1948. My feeling is that, as long as our Chief Executive keeps on posing with, and sitting at the feet of, (presumably for the purpose of seeking "wisdom") the former occupant of the White House, who had turned over a hysterical and panic-stricken Nation to his successor, the prestige and success of the Democratic Party will not rise zenithward. Instead of following the alleged example of our 26th President, who, when confronted with serious and momentous problems, is reported to have placed himself in front of Abraham Lincoln's portrait and say: "Abe, what would you do if you were in my place?," the present incumbent chooses to spurn the very rich inheritance left to him by his great predecessor.

As a faithful disciple of the immortal F. D. R., (in my opinion the greatest of all our Presidents) I am seriously disturbed to perceive that his wise policies are abandoned and his precedents discarded. Are we, as a nation, so really ungrateful for the rare divine gift we possessed as to completely forget that it was F. D. R. who had elevated the Democratic Party to such unprecedented heights?

It is my firm conviction that, unless we cherish the memory of Franklin Delano Roosevelt and honestly live up to his rich tradition, we cannot possibly gain the full confidence of the American Electorate, even though we may temporarily be successful at the National Convention.

Best of luck!

Cordially yours,

COPY

ER

BELMONT GALLERIES
INCORPORATED
Primitives OLD MASTERS *Portraits*

26 East 55th Street
NEAR MADISON AVENUE
Telephone Plaza 3-6956 *New York*

Jan. 14th, 1947

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I would like to tell you how touched I was when for the second time, the Color-Music Paintings of my husband, were suggested as a medium of inspiration for the forthcoming Concert in memory of the immortal Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

My husband's ideal is the great music of the Masters and it is their message which he has enshrined on canvas. To him the humanitarian spirit of Franklin Delano Roosevelt has its reverberations in the beautiful melodies and harmonies of music.

And so the Belmont canvases interpreting the eloquence of such Masters as Wagner, Beethoven, Elgar, Tschaikowsky, Moussorgski, Sibelius, Debussy, Brahms, Shostakovich, Massenet, etc., will be used as spiritual background for the publicizing of the Concert in the windows of the leading establishments on Fifth Avenue and also on 57th Street. They will vibrate and beckon to all, to help the cause of a significant charity and to aid in perpetuating the memory of one who is a symbol of hope and courage to all of mankind.

I am sure that you would like to know that it has been a warming and fortifying experience for me, who has assembled this exhibition, to receive a response for this charitable endeavor with such enthusiasm, compassion and generosity.

I hope that the spirit of music can lure you to these windows, which are Bonwit Teller, Saks-Fifth Ave, Henri Bendel, Scribners, Hammer Galleries, Knabe & Co., George Jensen, Yardley of London,etc.

With my deepest admiration and sincerest wishes for the New Year. I am

Faithfully yours,

(Mrs. I.J. Belmont)
Elsie K. Belmont

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