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Binn

October 24, 1947

My dear Miss Binn:

In answer to your letter of October 14th I think you ignore some of the past history of Palestine. You must remember that Great Britain and ourselves, without any protest at the time from the Arabs, agreed that the Jews were entitled to a home land in Palestine. In the interim years, 600,000 Jews have gone there and at the cost of many lives, have developed an arid country into a garden spot. Much of it was malaria country and many Jews died so that blood and sweat has literally gone into that land.

Now the Arabs have awakened to the fact that a change is coming over the type of life that some of their own people lead as a result of this Jewish home-land and they are not quite sure they like it. It seems to me that that decision has come a little too late and that all of us must abide by the best plan which has been offered by the majority of a commission of the United Nations.

It will not hurt the Arabs, in fact they will profit by it, but we do not always like what is good for us in this world.

I agree with you that the Jews and the other displaced persons, Catholic and Protestant, from many lands in Europe should have an opportunity to settle in other nations including our own if they wish to and perhaps our Congress will decide in the coming session to let some of them enter.

Communism is already in operation in Russia and there are strong communist parties in a number of other countries. No one is interfering with them but if you happen in your own country to prefer democracy, you must

October 24, 1947

My dear Miss Binn:

In answer to your letter of October 14th
I think you have some of the main history
of Palestine and the Arab and Jewish
British and ourselves, without any
at the time from the Arab, and that
the Jews were the main force in
the Palestine. In the future we

Very sincerely yours,

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Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

Oct. 14, 1947.

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

It seems to me very unfair to partition off such a small country as Arabia in order to give the Jews a homeland. We have such a big territory, and, as already has been proven, the Jews are a people who know how to operate under our profit system and private enterprise to perfection, and I am sure, they or theirs would never become a burden on our government.

So let us take our share of them.

In some countries, as in Mexico, it was found that the influence on government was not good, so the Church was separated from the state.

In our country, government and private
enterprise are one and should be separated.
If communism is such a dastardly
ideology, who not let Russia and those
in accord with her, put it into opera-
tion and take the consequences.

As the late Senator Borah said,
"Russia's form of government is her own
business."

Very Sincerely Yours,
Edna R. Benn.

Birkhaug

DR. KONRAD BIRKHAUG . 184 STATE STREET . ALBANY 6, NEW YORK

June 12, 1947.

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Regret. so many people ask must refuse

Mrs. Anna Eleanor Roosevelt,
Hyde Park,
Dutchess County,
New York.

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I am taking the liberty to follow up my recent request of you to write the foreword to my English translation of my Norwegian book "TELAVAAG", by enclosing a copy of "A Message from Norway" which I found in the May issue of the Journal of the American Medical Women's Association and in which mention is made of Telavaag. This message may inspire you to consider seriously my bold wish that your foreword might launch my "LOOK TO NORWAY" edition.

With kind regards,

Sincerely yours,

Konrad Birkhaug
Konrad Birkhaug, M.D., F.A.C.P.

A MESSAGE FROM NORWAY

The story of Telavaag, a fishing village on the coast of Norway where the American Women's Hospitals in co-operation with the Norwegian Medical Women's Association is installing a sanitary water system for the benefit of the housewives of that community, was told by Dr. Herdes Gundersen of Oslo at a meeting of Branch Two of the American Medical Women's Association and appeared in the Bulletin of that Branch, a publication which has been issued by Chicago medical women for many years. Her message was as follows:

"Dear Colleagues,

"It is a great pleasure to me today to have the opportunity to attend a branch meeting of the American Medical Women's Association and to meet you all.

"I have a greeting to you from the Norwegian Medical Women's Association and I also have to thank you for the gift you sent us to help in our country just after the war had ended. I think I must tell you a little how we felt when we heard of your donation.

"The Norwegian Medical Women's Association had in June, 1945, a big dinner to celebrate the liberation. That was a great event to us all, first because our country was free, and our own again, and second because it was the first public meeting we had had for several years; during the war the Germans did not allow any meetings so we had them secretly in our homes as private parties. In that way we could see each other, also do some help.

"We were all sitting at the table, many of us again joined after several years, some had been in prison, and others had had a very hard time, and now we were all happy. So the president of our association rose and said she had a great surprise for us and she read the telegram from the American Women's Hospital Committee of the American Medical Women's Association with the congratulations and the donation of a thousand dollars for help to our country.

"I should wish that you all could have heard with what acclamation the telegram was received and how grateful we all were for the friendship you showed us in this way.

"At a later meeting we discussed what would be the best way to use the donation as help was needed in so many places all over the country. But we decided it was best to give it to a small place where the population had been very patriotic during the war. In such a place the donation would not be forgotten or mingled up with others.

"The place we selected was "Telavaag", a small fishing place on the west coast not far from Bergen. Here the population was very helpful with their small fishing boats. They helped hundreds of our countrymen to escape to England and finally were discovered as there were no fishing boats left in the small village where about 500 people lived. The Germans grew suspicious and through spies the whole affair was detected and the population was punished.

"They were all deported and not allowed to come back. Also the children and women were taken to prison for some time, and all the men, about 70, were sent to concentration camps in Germany and a large number of them died there, mostly of tuberculosis. At Telavaag all the houses were burned down and everything was destroyed. Now it is going to be rebuilt, but as there is a great need for help all over the country and especially up north, we can't afford to give the population all the comfort we should wish to.

"People in these places are living very simply and it is rare to have a sink and running water inside the houses. The women generally have to carry water from the wells. So we determined that the best thing to do with your donation was to insure these brave and hardy women easier work in the future by having running water and sinks inside every house. We Norwegian women doctors have been glad and proud in joining you in your help, and we have now added to the sum and we are able to put in all the newly built houses in Telavaag running water and sinks.

"A women doctor in Bergen will supervise the work and I will be happy to give you further information at any time you should wish in the future to know how every-

thing is going on. At least I must say that in your donation you have made yourself a lasting memorial and we all appreciate heartily the help you have given us."

Ibid., 1947, 2(June), 306.

NORWAY

From Dr. I. A. Haldorsen in Bergen comes a book "TELAVAAG" written by Konrad Birkhaug telling the story of this village about which we wrote in our May JOURNAL. The book has many beautiful illustrations of this little fishing village on the coast of Norway -- taken before it was destroyed by the Nazis -- and several later pictures showing its complete destruction.

8202 South Park Avenue
Tacoma, Washington, U.S.A.
Dec. 9, 1947.

Mrs Eleanor Roosevelt.

Dear Mrs Roosevelt:

Seven years ago we asked you to donate towards a tree to be planted on the Byrds Square, a tract of land bought by the citizens of the Fern Hill Community, the land to be used as a site for a Library, which was to be a Memorial to the pioneers of the village. Fern Hill was one of the first places here in the Northwest for the settlers. Very graciously you donated and a red oak was planted for our beloved President F.D. Roosevelt. The tree is growing slowly but strong as the oaks grow. It is exceptionally beautiful in the Fall with its leaves taking on the different colors of blue-green and orange, dark red and gold.

The enclosed picture shows it standing to the right.

The Cenotaph left from the center bears the names of 26 of the young men of our village who gave their lives in World War II. It was dedicated on July 20 of this year.

We are still without our Library as most of our 7,000 people who live within a radius of 4 miles are workers. The signs are not always the most encouraging, but we continue to pray that someone will give us a lift.

Your husband left us his memory and his memory will grow with the oak, and in years to come the children will play underneath it and the old folks will rest in its shadow, and the young people will stop and listen to the tales it will tell.

Very respectfully yours,

Nils Bjarke.

Nils Bjarke