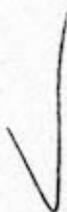


Bowles, Chester  
1947-52

Bowles, C.



CHESTER BOWLES  
ESSEX, CONNECTICUT

December 26, 1947

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I am leaving on January 2nd on a five weeks trip to Europe and I have been wondering if there is anything that I could do for you while I am over there. I am flying direct to Paris. From Paris, I am going to Rome, Budapest, Belgrade, Prague, Warsaw, Copenhagen, and London. I am returning on the Queen Mary on January 28th.

The purpose of the trip is to investigate the extent of children's health and welfare problems; to find out exactly what the governments themselves are doing to meet their own difficulties; and to try to develop some appraisal of the efficiency of the work being done by the Children's Emergency Fund and private agencies in general. I am being sent by the United Nations in my capacity of International Chairman of the United Nations Appeal for Children.

Mrs. Bowles, who has had a good deal of experience in child welfare and educational work, is going with me as a volunteer.

From a brief trip to Europe a year ago, I have some idea of the dismal situation that exists there and I know that the trip will by no means be a pleasant one. I am hopeful, however, that I can accomplish something and at least be in a better position to describe firsthand the miserable conditions in which the new generation is growing up.

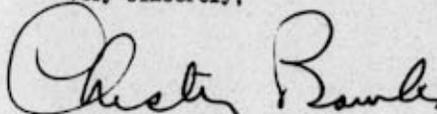
I know that you have visited many of those countries and it occurred to me that there might be some ways in which I could secure some specific information which you might like to have. If so, I will be in Essex until I leave and you can reach me here if there is anything whatsoever that I can do.

When I return, I hope that we'll have an opportunity for a talk. I am one of the few who is not too gloomy over the prospects of a third party. In at least three ways, it seems to me that a third party may be helpful to the kind of political liberalism in which we believe. First, it may lull the Republicans into putting up a weak candidate on the theory that anyone can win. Second, it may force the Democrats to nominate liberal candidates who they might otherwise feel could safely be passed up. Third, it will make us the middle of the road party - "a little left of center" - and free us of the old charge that we are influenced by fellow travellers, communists, "long-haired liberals", etc.

I don't question the fact that we will lose some votes to a Wallace Third Party. But there are other ways in which we may gain, and it is conceivable that our gains may even offset our losses. In any event, I believe that the campaign in '48 will be extremely critical and I'll be anxious to get your views on this.

In the meantime, please let me know if there is anything I can do for you abroad.

Very sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Chester Bowles". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Chester Bowles

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt  
Hyde Park  
New York

(copy sent to 29 Washington Square, West, New York City)