Gurewitsch, David and Edna
1947-52

Gurewitsch

Sunday 12.21.47.

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt,

I have just been listening to the Christmas oratorium by Bach from Paris and very beautiful, and I have been reading in the Bible. Last year I heard it in St. Thomas's church, also Sunday before Christmas. Nemone sang in it.

It is very peaceful and festive, your rug is just wonderful to keep one comfortable, you are safely home after what I figure us undue further delays, a while ago I have finished another chapter of the story I am telling Grania in installments. Outside the snow has been falling in big dense flakes since yesterday. The silent falling snow has something soothing. I feel spoiled and happy and grateful. And my thoughts and my heart are with you. It will arrive too late for Christmas - this sign of my closeness. But I will be with you also on Thursday morning. I loved your letter. I am sure you are right. What we can do, is to do our best in whatever task is given us, attack every thing in a positive spirit as you do and the President seems to have done as well - all this regardless what the others do or seem to be doing. I am sure you are not too optimistic. I loved to read about the final report about your meeting, that without your patient and polite but very determined and positive guidance it would have ended in nothing. And the more I think about it the more it seems to me that this effort to rewrite and readjust the principles only started in the French revolution may be the one big positive contribution of this post war period. In all the political deadlock this may be accomplishable. Having stated the principles and cristalised them in itself will be an achievement. Once established they will work their way into practice, may be slowly and not completely, but as a step forward. - I am very eager to read them. Gurewitsch

I shall of course report to you on the Institute of the Human

Sciences.—

I have a very unorthodox suggestion about dealing with the Russians. The Russian distrust is very deep seated. It is based on 1. a chain of experiences (1917, 18, 14, 25, 38–41) and 2. in their character, which is suspicious, but specially towards somebody who is different. The Russian does not understand the Anglo-Saxon and vice-versa, resulting now in mutual distrust. The only ones who have a chance to understand the Russians and to make suggestions how to deal with them are Russians. Possibly former Bolsheviks, now Trotskiists, those who know the working of the Russian revolutionists brain but who now are anti Stalin, anti majority Communist. Stalin with his purges and persecutions has made it easy to find sworn ennemies of the Soviets.

An unorthodox and dangerous suggestion. The Russians would hate more than anything else to deal with their declared enemies, protected by U.S.A. uniforms. They would have to remain very much behind the scenes. And to what extent are they trustworthy or their judgement reliable? Difficulties, granted. But a big attempt to draw on their knowledge and experience should be made. But of course they too will be difficult to understand and the american state dep. official will withdraw from them still more than he does from the Russian proper. But still it should be tried. They, Stalinist and Anti-Stalinist, understand each other! Some trustworthy, U.S. assimilated, bourgeois Russian would probably be the connecting link. Talking to Rut Fischer the other day gave me that idea. She is a former German Communist, without sense of humour, fanatical, like a steam engine, I am sure drawing many worms

conclusion - but still how much does she know about communist techniques and mentality and how much one, I mean an average Harvard trained American State Dep. man, can learn from her - not to mention me. I imagine you have seen your share of them. One has to take from them their knowledge - not their suggestions. -

Again I am mixing myself into politics. -

This morning I wrote an outline of my life for which I have been asked by Sir Ralph Cilento, an Australian, who is the one responsable for the medical services at the U.N.

I wondered whether I could put your name down as a reference. But as I have not asked you I shall send the letter to you, for you to mail - if you approve. But as you have encouraged me to follow up this possibility, I hope that you will not mind.

I was unable to examine for myself how serious the whole project is. It would be a step which had to be considered from all sides before really going into it. It would mean giving up practice and hospital appointments and become dependant on a job. -

I hope it is not too difficult to decipher this all.

Affectionately

David.

Gurewitsch

12.24.47.

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt,

It is a wonderful day. Very hot sun and the white mountains clear and still.

I am to get a telephone call from America. Somehow I am hoping, that it will be from you. I will not know what to say in that precious and short time.

If it is from you could you possibly try to reach my Grania on the telephone, it is High Falls 3311 and tell her that you have spoken to me and I am sending her a big hug?

I think I never thanked you for the chocolate and the stockings. But actually I have been saving both as Christmas presents. Only the rug I have been using all the time - except for today. -

I am sending you this letter. I hope you will find it alright. Actually I am ill 2 minds about it. I do not want to turn into an administrator - but some administration I do not mind and the 1/2 time to be spent at N.Y. University they give the right balance. Also to work without pressure would be a good thing. But most likely they have to get somebody who is now on the spot. If for instance would like to study the plans for the U.N. buildings and see what medical, gymnasium, swimming pool facilities

are planned for. I would like to see the number of people and the type of service contemplated.
Whether I can be interesting enough to them, to start all this by mail I since that doubt.
It seems that the N.Y. University Medical Group, who has a contract with the U.N., is willing to suggest me for this position.
I do not know Sir Ralph Cilento's title at the U.N.
I do hope this is not too much of a bother for you. –
Switzerland has changed since that since you are no longer in it. My thoughts are with you very much.
And I will be thinking of Hyde Park tomorrow.
I am picturing Park Avenue with its trees,
the people with Christmas presents under their arms,
the innumerable Christmas trees, the excitement of the children, the limitless good will under the surface of rush and irritation.
I feel a little sad, having done nothing about Christmas from my terrace. But this I hope is one of the many privileges one enjoys when ill.
My warm love and devotion go with those lines.

David

And Greetings and New year's wishes for Mr. Thompson.

P.S. 5 P.M.