

R. Walton Moore Papers
Box 6
Dodd, Wm E (1938)

Personal

July 23, 1938.

Dear Dr. Dodd:

With your note of the 21st instant there was enclosed only the letter which I am returning herewith after having had a copy made of it for reference hereafter. The lady does not indicate that her son will find any difficulty in entering this country, but she may wish to say something further on that point. As I understand, what she mainly has in mind is the possibility that he can secure employment should he come to the United States, and, as concerns that, you and I both know that many thousands of our citizens are now seeking and unable to find work. If there is anything I may do after she gives you further information I will be very glad to make an effort.

Relative to your note of the 22nd instant, I think you should not hesitate to cash the check you have received. I have never heard, nor has Mr. Flack with whom I have talked, of the item being questioned by any responsible official of this Department. The matter appears to have been handled in a routine way by the Department's accounting office and the allowance has not only had the approval of that office, but of the Comptroller General, and you may safely assume that it does not represent any concession to you which in the slightest degree deviates from the law and regulation.

I must reluctantly tell you that I have not changed the view expressed to you at the outset about your son's candidacy. I then told you frankly that under the circumstances I did not believe he had any chance of winning and nothing has occurred since to change my opinion. When I was young my enthusiasm led me to think that I could defeat a man who was pretty strongly entrenched in office and I suffered the only political defeat -- and it was a very bad defeat -- I ever experienced. That was a county contest.

I

The Honorable
William E. Dodd,
"Stoneleigh",
Round Hill, Virginia.

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I am sorry you are not feeling well. Sometime in September, or perhaps beginning a little earlier, I hope to take two or three weeks away from the perpetual grind here and then nothing would give me more pleasure than to have you spend a few days with me in Fairfax. I wish to see more of a man for whom I have the respect and affection I entertain for you.

Very sincerely your friend,

Copy

Leipzig, July 6th, 1938.
von der Pfordtenstrasse 2.

Dear Sir.

I am venturing to apply to you as you were once student of the University of Leipzig. I am the widow of the late professor Felise Salomon who was professor for American, English and French history at the university of Leipzig. My late husband came in 1896 as young unsalaried lecturer to Leipzig. Perhaps you attended to his lectures. My husband had also once an American assistant, a so-called famulus, but I don't remember his name. I have written all that in order to introduce myself to you. I live still at Leipzig. I have many very heavy sorrows. It is not possible for me to say you everything, you will understand that. I only will say you that my and my late husbands children and myself are Christians by religion but not -Aryans by race. Now you will understand why I am so sorrowful.

A specially heavy and very oppressive sorrow for me is at present the destiny of my youngest son whose first name is Werner. On his behalf I am appealing to you. My youngest son Werner had his 34th birthday in January 1938. He is unmarried and not betrothed. As my late husband and myself contracted a Christian (Protestant) marriage Werner is a Protestant Christian. After having been at a classical college he studied science of the law and political economic at the Leipzig University. He passed the two official juridical examinations among them the examination for judges with good marks and his doctor of laws magna cum laude. Then he was the only juridical assistant of the managing committee of the German lawyers confederation at Berlin. Besides he was the assistant of a university professor of commercial law.

By the political change that you know, he lost his two posts in 1933 because he is Non-Aryan. He didn't get any indemnity or even any pension. Nothing of this kind. Then he tried to procure an entirely new existence. He learned nearly one year in a wholesale house for tubes made of steel and iron. Then he went again to Berlin and was there till the end of February 1938 the juridical and economist adviser of a great industrialist who produced tubes made of steel and iron, this man had promised to my son Werner year after year to take him with himself when he would emigrate to Czecho-Slovakia where he has a big factory. In February 1938 the mentioned man emigrated very suddenly to Czecho-Slovakia. My son wrote him on the ~~ix~~ end of March he should allow him to follow him as he had promised him. The industrialist replied that is impossible not only transitorily but for long on account of the lately changed political position in Czecho-Slovakia. The mentioned man himself has to fight against unforeseen difficulties for this reason. To the foundation for a new existence which my son attempted to build up year for year after 1933 has broken down again. It is quite impossible now for my son to find any work or post or situation

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of any kind in our native country. Therefore Werner is forced to emigrate and to earn his living in a foreign country. Now I am venturing to apply to you, Dear Sir, and to beg you heartily to help my son Werner. You have such important and influential situation and are acquainted therefore with so many people.

Could you procure for my son Werner a commercial post or situation of any kind or another position of trust of any kind in U.S.A. or anywhere else which would make it possible for my son to earn his living. I am so sorry, but I cannot give my son money along with him for his subsistence or to send him money abroad. Of course I shall pay the expenses for my son's journey, voyage and passage. If it is not possible to procure for my son a post or situation at once, so I ask you for another thing. Could you then procure for my son first of all an economic instruction of any kind in U.S.A. after whose termination my son can get any post or situation in U.S.A. How above mentioned I cannot pay an instruction and the subsistence for my son. But my son who gave formerly on occasion private lessons to classical school boys with very good success is willing and disposed to give lessons by request in German and also to give lessons in Latin and French for beginners. He has no possibility more to do that here.

My son speaks English well and French too. I beg you very much, Dear Sir, to give me a good reply. I am writing you two letters with the same contents in case either don't reach you. I also will send you, if it is allowed, the last work of my late husband about American and English history.

By request I shall send you with pleasure photos of my son and copies of certificates about my son's performances, personality and character. They are all very good.

Excuse this long letter. But I hope very much you have fellow-feeling with the great and heavy sorrows I have.

With kindest regards

Yours very sincerely,

Mrs. Hedwig Salomon

July 25, 1938.

Dear Dr. Dodd:

I am returning Mr. Messow's letter.

What has thus far been done at Evian and elsewhere relative to the refugee problem does not waive the requirements of our immigration laws and regulations, and with which it is clear from Mr. Messow's statements he is now unable to comply.

I have thought there is a possibility a fund may be raised in this country that will take care of such cases as Mr. Messow's and as to this I am having an inquiry made in New York of the result of which I will advise you.

Yours very sincerely,

Enclosure:
As stated.

The Honorable
William E. Dodd,
"Stoneleigh",
Round Hill, Virginia.

C RWM:AHM

[Translation]

Hotel Royal

Evian (Hte. Savoie)

July 7, 1938.

My dear Mr. Dodd:

From reverence and gratitude to your President, I came here, to linger, full of gratitude, at the spot at which your highly honored President has laid the corner stone for such a beneficent work. Chance brought it about that my flight began here, on the same spot, in 1935. Friends from Holland who were living here at the Royal had me come here, to take me back to Holland with them in their car. Then they soon left me in the lurch. In reply to a letter to your highly honored President (in January), I was informed through the Rotterdam Consulate that the Consul had been instructed by the Department at Washington to answer my letter (File 611.11 RSH/JH, Rotterdam, April 23, 1936). With this letter the regular blanks were enclosed, which I was to fill out. But I have no blood kin in the U.S.A., and I have hardly any money left either; the two required certificates of character I have not received from Germany up to this date, and have only one of 1935, that is, after my flight. My dear Mr. Dodd, you know conditions in Germany as hardly any other person does. I read with great interest your radio talk, and likewise your report when you returned to the U.S.A. from Germany. Interest yourself in my case, I beg you from the bottom of my heart, and you

would

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would be doing it for an inexpressibly grateful human being. I am a well-known Berlin wholesaler, capable and clever. Take me up as a collaborator, over there, here in Europe, wherever you can use me, in the combat against inhumanity and injustice of the present age and in the fight for what is noble and good, in the sense of your highly honored President. I hope, my dear Mr. Dodd, that my request will not have been made in vain and that you will help me quickly.

Yours very truly,

Lothar Messow,
Beethovenstraat 50,
Amsterdam, Holland.

August 22, 1938.

Dear Dr. Dodd:

There has just come in your note of the twentieth instant enclosing a letter which I herewith return. I am certain that the President has never, even remotely, entertained such views as that expressed by the author of the nasty letter. There are not only some small very undesirable groups in this country, but, of course, a lot of cranks and no one who has been or is in public life need feel much concern about the abusive criticism in which they indulge. As was the case only a few days ago, I am compelled quietly to submit to the observations of such people respecting myself.

I thank you for the invitation for next Sunday and, being a little uncertain now, will ask you to let me telephone you towards the middle of the week.

Very truly your friend,

Enclosure:
Letter from M. H. Carter
returned.

The Honorable
William E. Dodd,
Stoneleigh,
Round Hill, Virginia.

C:RWM:MLM

STONELEIGH
ROUND HILL, VIRGINIA

Aug. 20, 1938

Dear Judge Moore:

If you can come out to our place for mid-day meal on Sunday Aug. 28, I shall be glad. Mr. + Mrs. Johns are taking care of things and will be glad indeed to see you and get your opinions.

I enclose a curious letter from an Alabama business man. It is the

third or fourth letter of criticism I have received since I arrived Jan. 8. If you think the President felt as this man said, I wish you would let me know. It would be inconsistent with our conversations of October 17th, also inconsistent with letters I received about my book.

Yours sincerely
William E. Dold

COPY

CARTER & COMPANY

COTTON

Troy, Alabama Aug. 17th, 1938.

Mr. William E. Dodd,
Somewhere.

Dear Sir:

I have just finished reading your article in Liberty "Why Hitler Persecutes the Jews".

I did not know so much ignorance, prejudice and venom could be spread on two pages.

If you think the crowded nations of Italy, Japan and Germany will slowly starve while England and France hold over half the world, all taken by conquest, you are not only naive but just a damn fool.

When you came back from Germany all of us from President down heaved a sigh of relief. If you had gone to Timbuctoo instead of coming back we would have heaved two sighs of relief. The people of Virginia showed you in a recent election what they think of you and your tribe.

Cannot you and your misguided son take a hint?

Yours truly,

M. H. CARTER

December 9, 1938.

Dear Dr. Kirchberger:

The Honorable William E. Dodd has referred to me your letter to him of November 29, 1938, in which you state that you arrived in the United States from Leipzig, Germany, on October 30, 1938, on a visitor's visa, and wish to be informed as to whether there is any possibility of your remaining permanently in the United States.

Before you could obtain an immigration visa, it would be necessary for you to depart from the United States and file your application with an American Consular office in some foreign country, remaining outside of the United States until your application was approved and your quota number reached.

The question of the extension of your present visitor's visa should be taken up with the immigration authorities at the port through which you entered the United States in October.

Yours very truly,

Dr. Hans Kirchberger,
606 East 115th Street, Apartment 55-E,
New York, New York.

C:MMH
VD:RCA

[Translation]

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR FILM PROPAGANDA

12 Avenue George V - Paris 8^e

Paris, December 16, 1938.

Mr. Ambassador:

The application of racial theories in certain countries has been effected by extortions and cruelties which have aroused the indignation of all people of feeling. Thousands of human beings driven from their homes, despoiled of their property, have been reduced to exile, shut up in concentration camps, sometimes put to death.

In States where opinions may still be voiced, the democratic press has denounced these persecutions and the highest voices of the Churches have joined those of liberal Governments and organizations in condemning them.

Nevertheless, despite such solemn condemnation, racial propaganda threatens to increase, making its appeal to fanaticism and cupidity. Our Committee decided that, in order to combat this malicious work, it was necessary to resort to propaganda by the film, which is the most direct, most universal medium, but which, unfortunately, has hitherto, except in rare instances, had no aim but to soothe or to amuse.

Convinced that it can and should serve nobler ends, our Committee is producing a great moving picture, the profits

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profits from which will be given over entirely to works to assist the victims of race prejudice.

Produced in several languages, this first film, a great fresco evoking centuries of history, will show the difficult road which humanity travels to thrust forward from the tragic depths of persecution to the bright glades of justice, liberty and tolerance.

Our plan has thus a double purpose: to combat racial propaganda, and to aid its victims. To insure its complete efficacy throughout the whole world, the Committee is appealing, without regard to religious or political affiliations, to men of feeling, chosen from among the most representative of public opinion in all free countries.

Knowing your devotion to all generous causes, the Committee has the honor to request your high patronage for this work and it hopes to be able very shortly to record your favorable reply.

Please accept, Mr. Ambassador, the assurance of my high consideration.

The Chairman:

Michel Dumesnil de Gramont.

Mr. William Dodd,

Former Ambassador of the United States at Berlin,
Washington.