

● PSF

Jessie Thompson

Subject File

Box 107

TELEGRAM

The White House
Washington

NA30POH 91 7:00 a. m.

fr, New York, N. Y., Aug. 28, 1939

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt: (personal, urgent.)

Please, please let me speak to the President on the telephone. I believe I know how to save Germany, save Poland and avoid a war. I think I know the mind of Hitler and the mind of Germany. I will agree that it is practically all I do know. But please let me speak to him earliest tomorrow morning, before it is too late. My telephone is Hotel Lombardy, Plaza 3-8600. The President will understand my idea, but it is essential to get it to Britain before they answer Hitler.

Dorothy Thompson.

88 Central Park West
Brooklyn - 4-5427

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Miss Lott

DOROTHY THOMPSON
88 CENTRAL PARK WEST
NEW YORK CITY

FEB 1 - 1941

January 29, 1941.

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

The Herald Tribune is not renewing my contract. They (or rather Ogden Reid) have never forgiven me for the election stand. It's amazing to me to what lengths partisan feeling can go at a time like this. I am going to the Bell Syndicate, as of March 16th when my contract expires, and will appear after that in the Post as a New York outlet.

I'm sorry, because I think there ought to be more circulation of blood -- I don't like to see all the Liberal writers in one place and all the conservative in another, or all the pro-Administration and all the anti-Administration lined up under separate roofs.

I want you to know that I do not suffer financially by the change. You are so kind, that I feared you might hear of it and that it would worry you, so I want you to know this.

And - a favor. Do you think that some time soon I could have a talk with the President. There are a few things that I am deeply anxious to discuss with him? I have refrained from pushing this, because I know how burdened he is, but I have one or two ideas that I fear to publicize without consulting him.

With warm good wishes,

Faithfully yours,

Dorothy Thompson

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt,
The White House,
Washington, D.C.

file personal PSF: Dorothy Thompson *in letter 4-42*
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[1942]

DOROTHY THOMPSON
88 CENTRAL PARK WEST
NEW YORK CITY

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Here is the memorandum about which I spoke. It is badly typed, because I am a bad typist, and I do not wish to dictate it, or give it to type, even to my own secretary. Besides, she is celebrating Thanksgiving.

I should like to add this: The power of the Axis powers derives from their complete consequentiality. They do not act in a complicated way, but in a simple way. So should we. The simple way is to know who your enemies are, and defeat them, by every known political, psychological, and military means, going on the fully justified assumption that any quarter given by us will be abused and exploited by them.

In advance of being able to act fully militarily, we must act fully politically and psychologically. In the present word, only the act is of diplomatic importance. Hitler's politics consists entirely of acts; words are only used to secure time for acts; none of the time secured, however, must aid the enemy against whom the act is to be directed.

If we take Martinique "holding it in a fiduciary capacity for a Free France", the Act immediately has an immense political and psychological effect, in Europe (in France, Germany, and Britain), in South America (The United States means what she says, and is audacious and powerful), in the Far East, for the same reason, and on American public opinion. America will become excited with the first American coup. Otherwise defeatism and appeasement sentiment will grow. One successful act prepares for another. Nothing succeeds like success. Nothing is so admired as strength. The taking of Martinique, its occupation by American marines, makes the Western Hemisphere policy visible and actual. Talk won't. The repercussions in the "war of nerves" will be world-wide. The smallest act is more important than the biggest talk. There must be no preparation for it, with public opinion. Public opinion in this case must follow, not precede--because

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it has already been prepared...the whole western hemisphere policy and the Monroe Doctrine has prepared it.

Beg the President, from me, to be his own foreign minister, and to tell the State Department, not listen. The President is the only man in Washington with an instinct about foreign policy. Instinct-- the intangible things your unconscious mind and your nerve ends tell you is right; the accumulation of dossiers, diplomatic reports, etc. etc. tell nothing, for they are mostly written by people without noses, who report what the Italian ambassador told at dinner the night before. Everything has an inner logic, and we know all we need to know-- at least the President does: namely, that the Fascist powers intend to conquer the world and exploit all of us, and that the only thing that gives them pause is action. And that democracy is perishing because it is impotent to take audacious action.

The minute we take Martinique, the President should make a peace speech, broadcast on all the short-waves of the world, and to America-- all languages. But it should be a totally different sort of peace speech than any we have heard yet.. not a plea, a statement. It should envisage the kind of world we intend to live in. Be a psychological blitz-krieg.

One must search out ~~and~~ every psychological weakness in the enemy; every Achilles heel. The moment anyone pulls a fast one on Hitler and ~~man~~ catches him (or his henchmen) napping, his magnetism begins to fail. For the United States to be, for twenty-four hours, the world's headlines in an audacious coup d'etat ~~man~~ deflects attention from Hitler. We should crowd the Axis out of the news. Only the political and psychological offensive has glamour-- when it is successful.

Absolute and complete consequentiality-- the deed always completely integrated with the word-- is the whole secret.

If Germany wins the war, it will be necessary to set up a foreign trade syndicate in America, through which all trade and investment will be filtered. This is the Schacht plan. That syndicate would be made to serve the Germans. Why not make it now, to help defeat the Axis?

Thank you very much for listening to me--

With warmest good wishes--

Dorothy Thompson

PSF: Dorothy Thompson *file*
DOROTHY THOMPSON
227 EAST FORTY-EIGHTH STREET
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June 2, 1942

My dear Mr. President:

I am writing you in strictest confidence and only because it is absolutely essential that something radical is done about our information services. I will start with an example.

The short-wave broadcasting to Germany in N.B.C. is in the hands of Ernest Noth, who went to N.B.C. (according to John Royal) at the suggestion of the Donovan Committee. Three weeks ago a German emigré in this country, a man I have known for years and who is a thoroughly reliable citizen, told me that Noth was Paul Krantz, who in 1927 and 1928 had been the center of a terribly scandalous murder case. It involved a whole group of youngsters aged sixteen to nineteen, who were sexual monstrosities. I do not wish to burden you with details - the whole story was like something out of Wedekind - but I remembered the case well, because it was as scandalous at the time as the Loeb Leopold case. Krantz was acquitted, after a long process, which established that he had planned the murder, and lent his gun for it, but that it was not he who fired the fatal shots. Furthermore, Krantz had been a member of the Jungdeutsche Orden, a forerunner of the Nazis, and an armer of German youth (That's how Krantz got his pistol).

Noth was Krantz but that

This man Krantz (alias Noth) has been in charge of political warfare from America to Germany on N.B.C. shortwave. The fact has already been noted in the German press. Despite this, he was not fired. When I called N.B.C.'s attention to the case first, they told me that they knew Krantz had been fully acquitted and that the F.B.I. had vouched for him. I do not know what they investigated or how, but the whole story can be found in the German newspapers from 1927 and 1928, and is told in Paul Wiegler's "Verbrechen und Schicksal" published by Ullstein in 1934. When I called John Royal a second time and he said he was satisfied that Noth was Okay, I looked up the case. He is anything but Okay. That he was acquitted of murder does not acquit him of having been mixed up intimately in the strangest band of young perverts who ever blew the roof off in Germany, nor of having participated in the planning of a quadruple murder and suicide.

James Warburg is in charge of short-wave broadcasting, ~~in the same manner~~ at least as far as Germany is concerned. I consider that fact in itself a catastrophe. Mr. Warburg is not a publicist and he knows nothing about the real politics of Europe. He is also an "international Jewish banker" which even if he were a genius would be a handicap. He has around him members of the group "New Beginning", whose

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leader is Paul Hagen (alias Karl Frank.) I have known Karl Frank for twenty years. He was involved in the Munich Soviet Republic of brief and notorious existence, and has been a racketeer of international politics ever since. He has collected money in this country from well-meaning people for underground movements in Germany with which he was never connected, and is accused by the German Social Democrats of using the money for the purpose of breaking up the party. Apart from that his personal life will not bear inspection at all.

The Donovan Committee is full of German emigres of whom the best can be said that they are unknown or harmless. Not one of them could go on the air and speak to Germany under his own name without being a handicap to us. Not a single German emigre of rank p-- and there are brilliant ones in this country -- has ever been consulted by the committee. Apparently they hire practically anyone who shows up with a letter of introduction. Of course, men like Staudinger, former secretary of state, Brandt, Fallich, Hildebrand, Aufhauser, Wittvogel, Baerensprung - to name a few really distinguished men of impeccable character, do not go and apply for jobs. And they don't need them, but they would be happy to help. I have gotten some of them for C.B.S.

Whoever is in charge of hiring emigres must know, first, the history of Germany in the last twenty years; second, must really know the German colony in this country; third, must know how to use people without being used by them.

Only the deepest perturbation leads me to write this letter, which I beg you to treat discreetly and not to quote to anyone. What I have said here I have said to Royal and to Wallace Duell, who is on the Donovan Committee. But no action is forthcoming. I do not wish to lose my friends and get a reputation for being an interfering and unpleasant woman, but I also do not wish to have this country compromised beyond repair. I have made a study of Germany for twenty years; it is an idee fixe of mine. I have cultivated the German colony with a view to the possibility of this war breaking out; and a mere telephone call to me could have stopped a lot of the nonsense that has happened. But no one who knows anything ever seems to be consulted.

But the German colony itself - the respectable and able people in it - know what is going on, and this will be spilled all over the place unless it is cleared up immediately.

With the greatest regret that I should find no way of getting at this except directly to you, I am, as always,

Faithfully yours,

Please pardon the typing - it is my own. I did not wish to involve a secretary. Dorothy Thompson.

DOROTHY THOMPSON
237 EAST FORTY-EIGHTH STREET
NEW YORK CITY

*full
pers mail.*

June 2, 1942

Dear General Watson:

I am again entrusting to you a highly confidential letter to the President, which involves a serious matter and which I beg you to put directly into his hands. I am sure that he will be grateful for the information in it. Otherwise I would not bother you under any circumstances.

Cordially yours,

Dorothy Thompson.

General Edwin M. Watson
The White House
Washington, D. C.

SOME NOTES ON FOREIGN POLICY.

I. Regarding Foreign Policy in General.

There must be one foreign policy for the United States, conducted by the President and the State Department, and there must be no negotiations of any kind, except through the government.

A... One cannot deal with totalitarian politics and economics through disparate agencies, such as the Red Cross, Mr. Hoover's Committee or any other that may be formed, and, what is completely neglected now, the private business and corporation negotiations with totalitarian countries and their captives.

As illustrations of the latter, Mr. Ford is ~~conducting~~ conducting constant negotiations with Gaston de Bergery, who is his attorney and business agent in Paris and a member of the Vichy government. Mr. Rene de Chambrun, Mr. Laval's son-in-law is in touch with American corporations. Mr. Laval is an agent of Hitler, in the most profound political sense, and is the political heir to Petain, according to the new French constitution. General Motors has heavy interests in Germany which it is trying to protect, and Mr. Mooney and Mr. Howard of the Export Company of General Motors are recognized leading appeasers. But whether they were or not, this is no moment when any American citizen should be confronted by divided loyalties, or permitted to make choices, and conduct any form of relation, privately, with any of the totalitarian governments or their appendages.

The United States government has frozen the funds of the conquered nations and the Treasury has control of all disbursements in connection with deposits and gold and other assets of these powers. Yet our own private corporations are permitted latitude such as they hold in a normal capitalistic society. This makes it absolutely impossible for this government to function powerfully and in a unified manner vis-a-vis the totalitarian powers.

B... The question of whether we should or should not send food, medicaments, or anything else to France, should not be left to the Red Cross, nor to the graces of the British government. The same thing applies to German-Americans who are sending food to Germany and giving Germany thereby extra valuta.

WE SHOULD DO NOTHING WHATSOEVER EXCEPT FOR A CLEAR POLITICAL PURPOSE AND BY AND THROUGH THE GOVERNMENT. A ~~MEMBER~~ GOVERNMENT PERMITTING INDIVIDUAL CITIZENS, COMMITTEES, and CORPORATIONS TO FUNCTION HETEROGENIOUSLY AND INDEPENDENTLY IS UNDERMINING ITS OWN AUTHORITY AND DEFEATING ITS OWN ENDS. IT WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO ACT POLITICALLY VIS-A-VIS the COMPLETELY INTEGRATED AND GOVERNMENT CONTROLLED ACTIONS OF THE TOTALITARIAN POWERS, THE COVERAGE OF WHOSE INTEGRATION ENCOMPASSES NOT ONLY ~~MEMBER~~ CAPTIVE GOVERNMENTS BUT UNWITTING STOOL PIGEONS IN DEMOCRACIES.

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... the intelligent...
... I. ...
... SOME MORE ON FOREIGN POLICY.

The question of whether we should or should not feed France is a political and not a humanitarian question. If we do feed France, it should be done by the United States government and the food exclusively distributed in France by Americans, preferably by an organized and indoctrinated army of selected American youth, who make the distribution of food a visible political mission of one democracy to a stricken democracy. If this cannot be done, the short-wave broadcasting facilities should be used to tell the people of France why we cannot do it. We can no longer afford ~~such~~ private and footless humanitarianism that serves no definite political purpose for the United States of America and may undermine its ~~purpose~~ larger policies.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

All American foreign investments without exception, should be pooled and placed under the Treasury, with an advisory body from banking and business - certainly as regards the countries whose funds have now been taken over by us under trusteeship. This I think could be done without legislation as a matter of regulation. Considering the ruthless treatment that these corporations have had from the totalitarian countries, they will have a weak case for charging expropriation. We should be prepared, if necessary, to ~~make~~ make financial arrangements with a compensation formula. We must not allow any governments to hold American corporate property as hostages, and through these hostages be able to bring pressure upon important American corporations and American public opinion.

If legislation is necessary for such action, or if the regulation seems likely to encounter obstinate difficulties, important columnists, editorial writers, groups like the William A. White Committee, radio broadcasters, should be brought into consultation immediately to prepare in advance a demand for such action from the American public.

II.
THE FRENCH SITUATION AND OUR ATTITUDE TOWARDS IT.

The Vichy government is a pawn in the hands of Germany. It has no independence whatsoever. It has no power of ~~independent~~ independent action. The German government is holding millions of prisoners as hostages. Pierre Laval is an absolutely unscrupulous and dangerous man, who aims to secure his own power by playing the German game. He must have a Total German victory or he loses his own head. Petain is defeatist, anti-democratic, and senile. He is kept there for his prestige as a marshall of France and as a facade for Laval. Laval has his own daughter and son-in-law in the United States.

Nothing whatever can be achieved through the Vichy government and nothing should be done to strengthen it. Everything should be done to weaken it... even without knowing what the result of that weakening will be. The chief value of the Vichy government for Germany is that it is the Fifth Column of the German government in the United States

just as the most effective Fifth Column in Britain was the Mussolini crowd. The German government in anti-Nazi countries always works through intermediaries that are more palatable to the democracies than they are themselves.

What should be strengthened is the deGaulle movement and the anti-Vichy anti-Hitler, anti-Appeasement, pro-British, pro-democracies elements in France-- namely the French people. We believe in democracy! Why don't we trust that they will find leadership when the right moment comes, that rebels will arise! They can't arise if we help their enslavers! This is just A.B.C.

Laval's son and -in-law and daughter were going to sail back last week and changed their minds. Important.

We should not send an ambassador to Vichy. France has signed no peace and is therefore not an independent nation. We should conspicuously honor representatives of free France in America. Alexis Leger should be invited to the White House, with Roussy de Sales.

IV. HOW ONE APPEASES WITHOUT KNOWING IT: THE TACTIC OF THE SELF-DELUDED APPEASERS.

We are in danger of repeating the exact appeasement processes of England and France, which worked not directly with Germany but via other countries.

The professional diplomats of Britain and France fell into this trap, and it is a penchant of all professional diplomats. Their record is of being wrong one hundred percent of the time.

Illustrations: The British and French ambassadors in Italy assured their governments that Italy was unlikely to come into the war. They told their governments that there was a split between Mussolini and Ciano, that Italy was economically ~~incapable~~ incapable of conducting the war, and that the war was universally unpopular with public opinion. One month before Italy entered the war I was told this by Sir Noel Charles British charge des Affaires, by the French ambassador, by our own Ambassador (more cautiously) by the President of the Banca d'Italia, by M. Pirelli, and by everybody except the crack journalists. ~~None of them understand fascism.~~

Only they - the journalists

Correspondingly, Mr. Bullitt was wholly wrong about France-- at least in his talks with journalists. That France could not hold out for more than a few weeks was obvious to me in a week's time.. There are plenty of witnesses that I was of this opinion in the first days of May before the invasion of Holland. I am not a diplomat, but a trained journalist, and the evidences were everywhere, for those who move by instinct, observation, and smell, and ~~some~~ evaluation of social forces, and not by interviewing a certain strata of society, through multiple personal contacts,

Chamberlain appeased Germany by appeasing Mussolini-- and allowing him to get necessary war supplies up to the very minute when he entered the war. Before that, Sir Samuel Hoare appeased Mussolini through Laval. France appeased Germany ~~then~~ through Mr. Beck in Poland, and ~~then~~ both forced appeasement through pressure on Benes. Now we have

