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Dexter,

Robert



Dexter - Personnel

February 8, 1945

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## Churchmen Back Charter Sunday

Special to The Inquirer

ATLANTIC CITY, June 20. — A call to all religious groups to observe July 1 as World Charter Sunday was issued today by the Church Peace Union, international organization of Catholics, Protestants and Jews, at its semi-annual meeting here.

Urging the observance for the support of President Truman and the Senate in obtaining formal approval of the World Charter of the United Nations at the earliest possible date, the Peace Union said in a resolution:

"Our independence will be secure and worthily honored and fulfilled only as we, the people of the United States, accept the responsibility of interdependence in the family of nations."

### SURVEY IN EUROPE ORDERED

Dr. and Mrs. Robert C. Dexter, of Belmont, Mass., were commissioned by the Peace Union to visit Europe for a survey of the fate of 30 pre-war national councils of the Union preparatory to a program of reconstruction.

The Dexters recently returned from Europe, where Dr. Dexter was attached to the American Embassy in Lisbon as a representative of the War Refugee Board. Mrs. Dexter was overseas as acting European director for the Unitarian Service Committee.

Dr. Dexter said he saw new hope for inter-faith efforts toward peace in Europe because the war had brought together in the resistance movements men from all religious groups.



February 8, 1944

DR. ROBERT C. DEXTER, Executive Director and Acting Commissioner for Europe, Unitarian Service Committee.

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Since the fall of 1942, Dr. Dexter, assisted by Mrs. Dexter, has been in charge of the Lisbon office. Lisbon is the last port of freedom in Europe and for this reason the strategic position of the Service Committee's headquarters there cannot be over emphasized in the work of refugee relief. Dr. and Mrs. Dexter have come to be known to hundreds of refugees as the personification of what was often their only friend.

April 11, 1944

Dear Mr. Joy:

The War Refugee Board would like to have in contact with the outside world, their hope of freedom from death and terror, literally sometimes their last chance to escape to a new life of liberty and usefulness. biographical information on Mr. Robert Dexter for use in preparing a press release announcing his appointment as the Board's representative.

Dr. and Mrs. Dexter were in Europe previously for seven months in the winter of 1941 and 1942, where Dr. Dexter directed activities in Portugal and England. Will you be good enough to send us this information at your earliest convenience?

Sincerely yours,

England making a first hand survey of the service problems facing the Unitarian Churches there, especially in the blitz areas.

Dr. Dexter first went to Europe under (Mrs.) Virginia M. Mannons as head of the Commission for Service in Czechoslovakia in 1938, and was decorated by the Czech Government-in-Exile for his work with Czech refugees at that time.

The Unitarian group was one of the first American relief organizations to send Mr. Charles R. Joy, Acting Director Unitarian Service Committee to flee Nazi oppression. 25 Beacon Street Boston, Massachusetts

Dr. and Mrs. Dexter went to Europe for three months to survey the refugee needs and to draw up a blue print for the formation of the Unitarian Service Committee and its operations. At this time, Dr. Dexter visited 13 countries and was instrumental in the release of 1000 prisoners in Hungary.

Dr. Dexter has had special training and experience for work in the field of relief and rehabilitation. As secretary of the American Jewish Relief Organization Society, he spent three months in Europe.

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Dr. and Mrs. Dexter were in Europe previously for seven months in the winter of 1941 and 1942, where Dr. Dexter directed activities in Portugal and England. In the summer of 1942, he spent some time in England making a first hand survey of the service problems facing the Unitarian Churches there, especially in the blitz areas.

Dr. Dexter first went to Europe under Unitarian auspices as head of the Commission for Service in Czechoslovakia in 1938, and was decorated by the Czech Government-in-Exile for his work with Czech refugees at that time. The Unitarian group was one of the first American relief organizations to assist these first refugees to flee Nazi oppression. In 1940, Dr. and Mrs. Dexter again went to Europe for three months to survey the refugee needs and to draw up a blue print for the formation of the Unitarian Service Committee and its operations. At this time, Dr. Dexter visited 13 countries and was instrumental in the release of 1500 prisoners in Hungary.

Dr. Dexter has had special training and experience for many years in the field of relief and rehabilitation. As secretary of the Montreal (Canada) Charity Organization Society, he spent three months in Halifax,

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Nova Scotia, at the time of the great disaster there, working with the Red Cross. Following this he was field representative of the American Red Cross military relief department with the rank of Major.

Before the war, he represented the Unitarian Association in a trip to Hungary and Rumania when he was in close touch with the difficult minority situations. He has always been interested in international affairs and attended many sessions of the Assembly and Council of the League of Nations in Geneva in 1933. In 1934 he spent some time in Germany, studying the situation under the Nazi regime.

In 1926, he was one of 40 or 50 university professors sent to the Hague and Germany by the Carnegie Endowment. Previously he has studied the coal situation in West Virginia and Kentucky, the textile industry in both the North and the South, and also unemployment insurance as carried out in England and Germany. He has written several books on such social questions.

A graduate of Brown University, Dr. Dexter was for 10 years a social worker in the United States and Canada and taught social and political science at Skidmore College and Clark University. His first duties for the American Unitarian Association was as head of their social relations work some years before the inception of the present Service Committee.



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March 20, 1944

: Mr. Stewart

: Joseph B. Friedman

In view of the time and assistance which Mr. Robert Dexter has given to us in the last few days, I think it would be appropriate to pay part of the expenses of his trip here from Boston. The amount involved would be \$50. Would you be good enough to see whether this payment could be arranged?

JB Friedman:dh 3/20/44



February 23, 1944

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mr. Fehle  
FROM: Mr. Friedman

Mr. Dexter, the Unitarian Service Committee representative in Portugal, whom I met at the meeting last Friday in New York, called me today from Boston. He wants to talk to you personally and suggested that he could come to Washington on Saturday of this week or on Monday. I mentioned that we planned to be in New York Friday and that we would get in touch with him there Saturday. He can be reached through Mr. Mueller of the Unitarian Committee at Murray Hill-5-1743.

I indicated to Dexter that if our plans about going to New York are changed we will get in touch with him. His number in Boston is Capital-3660.

JEF:Vdk - 2/23/44