

G.L.

[? to J. Ramsay MacDonald]

15.3.39



M449

(52)

Strictly Personal

A friend of mine Mrs Fels wife of the late Joseph Fels

An American citizen who before his death ^{in 1914} gave a great deal of money helping

to develop land settlement in Palestine later his wife supported this work

also. She has always been intensely interested in Palestine both for the

Jews & Arabs. I heard from her a few days ago when she asked me to

put a question in the House with a view to recognition of the work of the

Rosenman family during the War & the utilization of the services of

Alex Rosenman the sole survivor of the family in the work of reconstruction

which must form any scheme finally adopted by H.M. Govt. I have

also heard from Brigadier Frithton ^{at mid} whose two letters I enclose.

These letters contain statements as also do the Pass cuttings which I

have no means of checking. I gather that Lord Harlech has

met Alex Hirschman as I did some time ago.

My object in placing these statements before the Secretary of State is apprehension in Palestine. Quite apart from Ispahani & the Brigadier, I have been continually urged by Arab & Jewish friends in & out of Palestine to go to that country as they are certain if outside influences could be withdrawn a rapid advance toward Peace would soon be made. I have stayed at home because it seemed to me too many people were talking & agitating. But this latest appeal on behalf of Hirschman that his influence should be used makes me think perhaps some influence such as his might be useful in helping to bring Peace. I am well aware in fact only too painfully aware that some of the leaders of Jewry do not like the Hirschmans & have had little time for them on their past services. George Lambton

COPY

54

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS GERMANY EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

Bloomsbury House
(late Palace Hotel) 3rd Floor
Bloomsbury Street,
London, W.C.1.

Tel. Mus.2900

Ref. PCW/S
9121

17th March, 1939.

Dear Sir,

PROSKAUER, Artur and family

Thank you for your letter of the 2nd March, enclosing a copy of a letter from Mr. Artur Proskauer.

We have very carefully considered Mr. Proskauer's case, and we are exceedingly sorry to tell you that it is impossible to bring him to this country for employment. His wife and daughter might apply to the Domestic Bureau, Bloomsbury House, if Mrs. Proskauer is under fifty years of age.

Unless they can afford to emigrate, and can get guarantees of support until they do so, I am afraid that we cannot help them.

I very much regret that this is the only answer I can give you.

Yours truly,

(Sgd.) M. I. JONES

Supervisor

The Secretary,
International Fellowship of
Reconciliation,

16 Victoria Street, S.W.1.



M449

55

EMBASSIES OF RECONCILIATION

Canon Charles E. Raven, D.D., *Chairman*
Barrow Cadbury, J.P. }
The Rev. J. Nevin Sayre, B.D. } *Treasurers*
The Rev. Henry Carter, C.B.E.
H. Runham Brown
Prof. F. Siegmund-Schultze, D.D.
Percy W. Bartlett, *Secretary*

16, VICTORIA STREET
LONDON, S.W.1.

Tube Stations: St. James's Park
and Westminster.

Telephone No.: Whitehall 4089

PWB/IF

20th March, 1939.

Mrs. D. Postgate,
45 Hendon Lane,
N.3.

Dear Mrs. Postgate,

I have been passing on to the German Emergency Committee and other refugee organizations the numerous letters from refugees addressed to G.L. that you have been sending here. I do not see what else I could do. As you know, the refugee organizations are overwhelmed and very little seems to be possible.

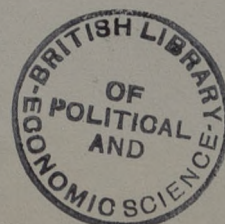
[see 27 Feb. 1939 above from Proskauer]

I have received, however, a reply from the German Emergency Committee of the Society of Friends about one case, that of Artur Proskauer and family and I enclose a copy together with the original letter. It does not seem to me it is much good sending this reply over to Proskauer, but perhaps some sort of note ought to go to him.

Yours sincerely,

Guided

Percy Bartlett



M449

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CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR REFUGEES

Telephone: MUSEUM 2900.

Telegrams: ELPIS, WESTCENT, LONDON.

Replies to be addressed to the Secretary.

BLOOMSBURY HOUSE,

BLOOMSBURY STREET,

LONDON, W.C.1.

YK/EMC

21st March, 1939.

The Right Hon. George Lansbury, M.P.,
39, Bow Road,
E. 3.

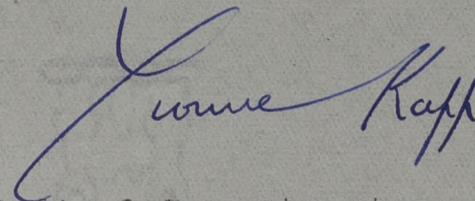
Dear Mr. Lansbury,

The letter to you from Dr. George Landsberg of Berlin has been passed on to this Department.

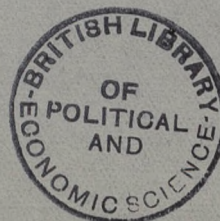
The position about foreign doctors wishing to emigrate is that if they are over sixty, as Dr. Landsberg is, the authorities are inclined to take a very lenient view of their coming to this country and living in retirement, provided their full maintenance and hospitality is assured. No doubt you have tremendous calls upon you at this moment; but if, in view of the fact that Dr. Landsberg appears to be one of the few cases of doctors who have played some part in the socialist movement, you feel you could offer to help him in any way, we would be only too happy to arrange the formalities to enable him to live his life in peace over here.

As this Department alone is responsible for the support and retraining of ninety of the younger Austrian refugee doctors and dentists, we are not actually today in a position to give any guarantees for these older men for whom the authorities are willing to stretch a point.

Yours sincerely,



Medical Department.



M449

CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR REFUGEES

BLOOMSBURY HOUSE
BLOOMSBURY STREET
LONDON, W.C.1

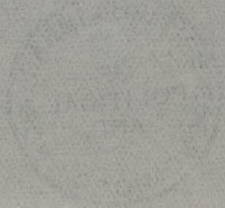
Telephone: MUSEUM 2909
Telex: WESTERN LONDON
Refugees can be referred to the Secretary

I cant do this

INTERNATIONAL

BOND

BEERWIT



Geoffrey Wm. Lloyd
CGO2 -

(57)

Home Office,
Whitehall,
S.W. 1.

H.11591.

28th March, 1939.

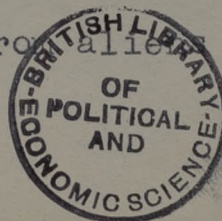
Dear Mr Lansbury

I am now in a position to write to you further with regard to the case of Mr. and Mrs. Heine, about whom you wrote to Lord Winterton last autumn.

You will remember that Mr. and Mrs. Heine came to this country in the first instance on a 6 month permit which was given on the understanding that they would be proceeding to America; and that the proposal we have recently been considering is that they should be allowed to set up in a private boarding house here.

We have gone very fully into the proposal with a view to seeing whether the circumstances had changed in a way which would justify our agreeing to the proposal. The Home Secretary fears however that he cannot see his way to make an exception in this case.

As you know, a large number of refugees have been allowed to come to this country on the definite understanding that they would proceed to the United States, and you will, I am sure, appreciate how impossible our position would be if we were to agree to proposals from aliens to establish



Home Office
28 March 1939

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2.

themselves in this country instead, unless it were in the most exceptional circumstances. In this case I am afraid the circumstances would not justify any alteration in the policy. The Home Secretary is however prepared to consider granting an extension of the time during which Mr. and Mrs. Heine can remain in this country in order that arrangements may be completed for their departure to the United States.

Wm. Lloyd
Geo. Murray Lloyd
Geoffrey (Wm.) Lloyd
(1902 -

The Right Hon.
George Lansbury, M.P.,
House of Commons,
S.W. 1.

Sandgate 78

Walter Harold Gribbon
(1881-1944)

Regency Cottage,
Sandgate,
Kent.

59
see cutting
attached

30/3/39

Dear Mr. Laurbury,

In case you did not see the attached cutting from the Daily Telegraph of the 22nd. March, I am enclosing it as I think it may interest you.

I see that Mr. MacDonald appears now to be off the sick list, but I realise how busy he must still be, as well as yourself.

In case there is any chance of fixing anything up in the near future, would you mind noting that I shall be away on the 3rd. March, as I have to go to Avenmouth to meet my son's ship.

I expect I shall be passing back through London on the 4th. March, but I quite understand that it is impossible for you to arrange anything at short notice.

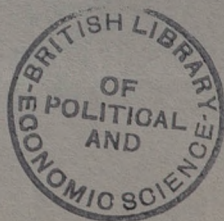
I have heard once or twice lately from Mary Fels. She has great faith in Mussolini as a peacemaker. He might be if he could break out of Hitler's grip.

Looking forward very much to meeting you someday,

Yours sincerely,

W.H. Gribbon

(Brigadier W.H.Gribbon)



M449

THE AARONSOHN FAMILY

Sir—I think it would be well to state that neither the family of Ephraim Fishl Aaronsohn (whose obituary notice you lately printed), nor their associates, formed part of any official organisation conducted by the British Government for espionage. *Daily Telegraph M.P. 13*

In his letter in your issue of Aug. 13, 1938, Mr. Israel Cohen summarised the value of the services rendered by the "Nili" organisation, inspired and directed by Ephraim Fishl Aaronsohn's eldest son, Aaron. In acknowledging these services to the younger son, Capt. Alexander Aaronsohn, D.S.O., Lord Allenby used these words: *22-3-39*

"I am glad to have this opportunity of placing on record my high appreciation of the work done by Capt. Alex. Aaronsohn in the war; and to express my gratitude for the invaluable services rendered by him to the Allied cause before and during our campaign in Palestine. The name of Aaronsohn will through the ages be remembered as that of a family who, with entire disregard of self, endured all—even to martyrdom—in the cause of civilisation and humanity, and whose courage and devotion were largely instrumental in carrying that cause to final success."

So much has been said and written about the assistance of the Arabs in Lord Allenby's campaign that the vital, though unadvertised, part played by these devoted Palestinian Jews has escaped the recognition due. Self-organised and animated by the noblest sentiment and faith in the British Government, they sacrificed their lives and personal interests in assisting the British Forces without payment or favour, in the hope that the British Government would bring an era of peace to their country.

It is remarkable that there has been no revelation of the services of these Palestinians in support of the Jewish claims for consideration in deciding the future of Palestine.—Yours faithfully,

W. H. GRIBBON (Brigadier, Ret.).
Sandgate, March 20.

Lady Austen Chamberlain
(n. by M. Dundas; d. 1941)
[Recd. 16 March 1939]

(60)

April 21/39

24 EGERTON TERRACE

S.W. 3.

1939

Dear Dr. Lamborn,

I am deeply touched
by your kind letter of sympathy.
His end was swift &
peaceful & for him I should
not have it otherwise.

After 31 years of perfect
happiness & companionship
I want not complain.

Be world-wide
tributes to Austen's character

BRITISH LIBRARY

1912

+ necessary are a great
consolation to me & my
children.

With my best grateful
thanks.

Yours sincerely
Jy Chaudhary



M449

Sharpe

(61)

Henry F. Pulitzer

12a, Manor Court,
Aylmer Road,
N.2.

4th April, 1939

*Try the Home Office
This will save the man
can start a new business*

Dear Mr. Lansbury,

A friend of mine is in serious trouble with the Home Office and I am writing to ask if you would be kind enough to give me an opportunity of laying his case before you and of soliciting your help. I am a member of the Peace Pledge Union and appreciate that your time is fully occupied, but as this is a matter of life and death I will make no apologies.

Briefly the case is this - my friend who is an Austrian has been living in England for the past 4½ years and has now been informed by a representative of the Home Office that he must leave the country not later than 31st March, 1939. In spite of repeated requests, the Home Office will not give any explanation for this sudden decision and have refused to grant his solicitors an interview to discuss the matter, but merely reiterate that if the Order is not complied with steps will be taken to enforce his departure.

To leave England and his friends is sufficiently distressing, but added to this my friend finds himself with no passport, his Austrian passport having expired some two years ago, and with the prospect of being deported to Germany this would be a tragedy as he is an ex-Officer of the old Austrian army with a record of political activity directed against the Nazi movement; there is also a trace of Jewish blood in his family. When Austria became a part of the German Reich, his brother was arrested and nothing has since been heard of him.

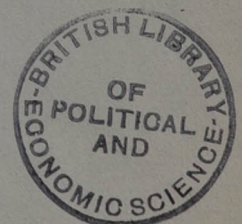
Can nothing be done, Mr. Lansbury, to prevent this man being forced to return to Germany? He has friends in England who will vouch for him financially; his solicitors would be pleased to acquaint you with his activities in this country and with details of his correspondence with the Home Office.

If you could possibly grant me an early interview, I would be more than grateful.

Yours faithfully,

B. D. E. Sharpe
(Miss)

P.S. My telephone number during the day is HOLborn 9512, or after 6 p.m. at MOUNT View 1478.



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COLONIAL OFFICE,

DOWNING STREET, S.W.1.

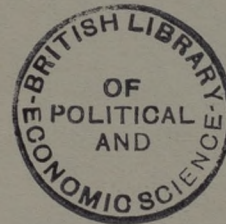
6th April, 1939.

Dear Mrs. Postgate,

I am so sorry that, in Sir Edmund Brocklebank's letter to Mr. Lansbury of the 31st March about Captain Aaronsohn, the enclosures were omitted. I return them herewith with apologies. The fault was mine, and not Sir Edmund's.

Yours sincerely,

A. R. Thomas



M449

Mrs. Postgate.

Sandgate 18317.

Walter Harold Gibbon
(1881-1944)

63
Regency Cottage,
Sandgate,
Kent.

9/4/39

Dear Mr. *Causton*

I was glad to get your letter and enclosure of the 7th. April.

Brocklebank's letter shows how many thousands of miles the C.O. are away from the real issue. Now they have waited so long that the International situation has overtaken them.

I will write again later in the week, if I may, and I shall look forward to meeting you after the 20th. April.

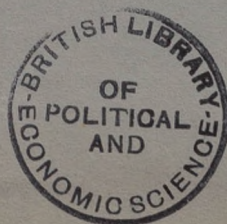
In the meantime I enclose copy of a letter, which A. wrote to me about ~~two~~ and a half years ago, showing how this brother was "jockeyed" by Weizman. He does not mince matters! But you will understand it was written to me personally.

The last paragraph of Brocklebank's letter makes one think that the C.O. are incapable of visualising anyone who does not want a job!! I don't think it could have been made clearer that A. did not seek Government employment.

I hope our Navy are keeping their eye on the Greeks.

Yours sincerely

W. Gibbon



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[with Gibbon letter of 9 Ap. 1939]
Alex Aaronsohn

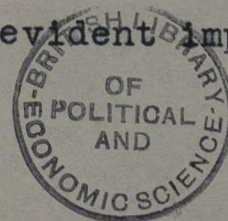
64

Extract from letter dated 22/9/36.

"Aaron was all along for a sane slow agricultural settling of Jews in Palestine. Up to the war he lived in Palestine, opposed to the Zionist's political views and activities. He was considered a traitor because he employed Arab labour with his Jewish labour. He never went to meetings. His activities during the war, his helping the British, were carried on against the spirit of Zionist leaders in, and out of Palestine. These were all pro-Turko-German. Aaron was too noble to disclose this to you people. He did not want to take credit as an individual. He wanted to obtain for Palestine Jewry the credit which was his and his co-workers'. He was right because the spirit of Palestine Jewry, I mean the Palestine born Jewry, was secretly with him. Only the Official Zionists were against him.

After the war, during the peace conference, Aaron was too modest to ask for recognition from the British, which would have given him standing. Weizman cleverly undermined him and undoubtedly cast a spell over him. Again, and again, he ~~would~~ tried to break away from Weizman. (I shall someday let you read Aaron's letters to him), but that Machiavelli crying prostitute's tears knew how to bamboozle poor Aaron again.

Then Aaron also, was under the evident impression that



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Aaronsohn 22/9/36 with
Gribbon 9 Apr. 1939

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Great Britain will do nothing in Palestine outside the Official Zionist channel, and Aaron, who was always standing on his own individual platform, and was great because of his own merit, somehow befuddled himself by becoming a Zionist instrument. It was the most devilish, but cleverist, piece of work that Weizman has ever accomplished. Had Aaron lived a few more days, he would have broken away and returned to Palestine, and history might have been different! But that is why he had to die!! And the Zionist big guns (Weizman and Co., plus Jewish Freemasonry) have made a conspiracy of silence about Aaron's work and have organised a campaign of calumny and desecration of the "Nili".

The British Government saw with bewildered delight that the Jews have wiped out any claims that might have been made by them as rightly earned compensation for active Jewish help to the British Army. Now all this is being paid for. Lawrence's claims for the "blood money" owed to the Arabs, the pro-Arab claims that the Jews have nothing to show for their demands, is the boomerang, the ineffable march of "Justice Immomenti".

Had Zionism known how to appreciate Aaron's achievements, and make them the shining jewels of their crown, the British would have had to take it into consideration, and gradually the world would have been used to know that during the war Jews

Aaronsohn 22/9/36 with
Gibbon 9 Apr. 48/39

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have considerably contributed towards the British conquest of Palestine. - I was never happy over Aaron's enlistment in the Zionist ranks, but I was in Aleppo with my army work when he was in Paris. I worked my head off for G.H.Q. Intelligence, almost dying in wet quarters, going to bed in a sheepskin to guard a little against the humidity - poor Aaron; how the swine played with the pearls. They dug out his brains and soul!

All these leaders, barring none, were jealous of Aaron's victory. They were afraid he would be given too much credit - and when I think that he went to his death without having had an official word of praise, or recognition from your people! Perhaps when the day comes his story will be told, and Sarah's and Absalom's !

How can you think I harbour any ill feeling against Ormsby Gore or against anybody! I hit when I have to for the sake of truth. I never fight for my own interests. - - - But if Ormsby Gore were in personal trouble I would be eager and ready to do for him my best. Don't you understand that my love for humanity is a burning passion with me, not a mere lip service.

A.A.

Walter Harold Gibbon
(1881-1944)

67

Sandgate 78317

Regency Cottage,

Sandgate. Kent.

Dear Mr. Laurbury,

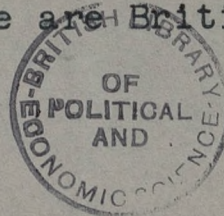
[say between 9 and 19 April 1934]

In continuation of my letter of the 9th April I had written a longer letter with reference to Mr. Brocklebank's letter to you of the 31st March, which I received with your letter of the 7th April. Just as I was going to post it, there came news in the press of further talks in Cairo, and, with the elimination of the two principal gang leaders in Palestine, things seemed to be going better there; so I held it up waiting to check up the situation with Aaronsohn, who is still in Zikhron. From what he tells me there seems no need, unfortunately, to make any change in the letter which runs as follows:-

It really is pathetic and exasperating to have it once more brought home how detached our Colonial Office is from realities, and ^{how} they cannot, or will not, see that the Palestine situation is not one that can be settled by "joint discussions" - if they can honestly be called that. I don't think that Arabs and Jews ever met round the same table, unrepresentative as they were.

The same men, or many of them, are allowed to go on making the same mistakes, if not worse; and they do not appear to be judged by results.

The very first obligation is to restore "law and order". this will never be done while there are British officials who



W. H. Gibbon
between 9 and 19 Apr. 1939 2.

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seem positively to encourage the Arabs to defy the Civil Government. It is useless for the military to destroy the Arab armed bands while settled Arabs are forced by the Terrorists to defy the Civil Government, which allows them to do this with more or less impunity. A recent case in point is the public funeral and mourning which the Arab population were compelled by the Terrorists, and allowed by the Administration, to give Abdul Rahim Haj Mohammed the gang leader, killed in an engagement with British troops on the 27/3/39. A strike was also called by order of the Terrorists, and Arabs who refused to reply were assassinated. It is true that Haj Mohammed was the most moderate of the gang leaders and that this is only one instance, but it shows how little real prestige our Civil Administration enjoys after all this time, if the Terrorists' orders still exact the greater respect.

I understand that the Terrorists are still able to impose the wearing of the Arab headdress upon Government officials and others!

Until the military are allowed full scope and their action ceases to be undermined by Civil complacency it is useless to negotiate. Actually, while the Arab delegation were in London some of them were encouraging and assisting the Mufti to carry on his terrorism. And yet these men were "dined and wined" by British officials and ladies. One of them ^{was} carrying around "in

W.H. Gibbin
between 9 and 20 Apr. 1939

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his pocket" an unpaid bill to a Greek contractor for supply of arms. These Arabs went back to the Near East chanting "Their men in our saddle bags, Their women on our sex"! So much for our British prestige. During the first quarter of this year, including the period of the Conference, there were 348 persons killed and 375 wounded in Palestine.

So the first consideration is discipline and restoration of prestige; and how many people realise that the true meaning of "prestige" is the inspiration of belief in the ultimate ability and determination to support policy by force?—not red carpets and titles.

It is necessary then to have a complete change of method if not of heart. The Arab leaders, as I think I have said once before, represent the country population in Palestine as much, or as little, as the Jewish Agency represents all Jews. The Colonial Office negotiations are as useful as a machine belt running on two free wheels. I know that we are tied by the Mandate to have a Jewish Agency, but this is to be an "~~appropriate~~" "appropriate" Jewish Agency (see article 4 of the Mandate) which the present Jewish Agency definitely is not. If we can't get out of having a Jewish Agency we should have one including Palestinian born, Arabic speaking, members that is prepared "practically" to live in with the Arabs, see their point of view and employ them; not merely to pay lip service to the idea of

W H Gibbon

between and 19 Ap. 439

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cooperation with them, while destroying the soul and face of the country.

Another essential is to have a High Commissioner who will move about the country and get to know the peoples direct, and not merely to sit in an office receiving his impressions through officials and a limited class of self appointed "representatives".

I believe that the present High Commissioner lives imprisoned in his headquarters.

Finally there is the strategical aspect. In this critical European situation, we have the infantry of two divisions tied up by police duties in Palestine, when they should be training with artillery etc. for war - all owing to the "complacency" of the C.O..

How the Germans and Italians must laugh at the way a few thousand pounds given by them to the Mufti costs us millions, as well as the loss of our troops for the field army!.

This is a long letter, and I hope I have not said too much, while you probably know it all already; but what beats me is the manner in which inefficiency is allowed to cloak itself behind political difficulties, largely created by partisanship. One has only to read the daily paper to learn that while the High Commissioner and Mr. Keith Roach, District Commissioner of

W. H. Gibbon

Between 9 and 19 Apr. 1939

S.

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Jerusalem and the "Fatherly Pasha" of the Arabs, were reading the lessons in church on Easter Sunday Arabs were looting a bank in Jaffa.

One would imagine that having failed so dismally up till now, the Colonial Office would welcome a fresh point of view, but Weizman is too plausible and the Jewish Agency holds the field.

The Colonial Office need have no fear that Agransohn desires "employment", he cabled to me quite recently to say that he did not desire even to be heard, unless absolutely essential. But he does want the eyes of the C.O. opened to the false premises upon which they are attempting to settle the situation, and to let them realise the existence of a different spirit to that with which they have been dealing. *Very much looking forward to meeting you,*

Yours sincerely,

W. H. Gibbon

A. Tells me that he must expect German "demands" regarding Palestine and that our Administration is being very weak with the German Colonies!

Sharpe

72

12a, Manor Court,
Aylmer Road,
N.2.

11th April, 1939

Dear Mr. Lansbury,

I understand from your Secretary that you would like fuller information of my friend's case, and I am very pleased to enclose copies of correspondence which he, Mr. H.F. Pulitzer, and his solicitor, Mr. Charles Crisp (of Messrs. Ashurst, Morris, Crisp & Co., 17 Throgmorton Avenue, E.C.2.) have had with the Home Office.

The former landlord of the offices occupied by Mr. Pulitzer's Company, The Ergos Engineering Co., is a Mr. W. McBride, Solicitor, 150, Southampton Row, and he is willing to supply any further details of Mr. Pulitzer's previous business activities in this country; Mr. McBride has in fact written to the Home Office but has received a reply as unsatisfactory as that they sent to Mr. Charles Crisp.

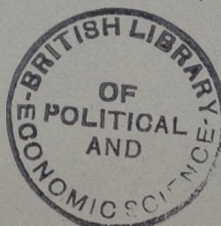
If the Home Office's objection to Mr. Pulitzer remaining in England is based purely on financial grounds, you will require to know the gentleman who is willing to co-operate with him in a new business venture, which is intended to give employment to British subjects, etc. - this person is a Mr. Roye, of Roye Ltd., 20, Sloane Street, S.W.1., and I understand he is prepared to give a written guarantee to this effect.

I conveyed the gist of my telephone conversation with you to my friend, and he implored me to endeavour to obtain for him an interview with you in order to explain his case personally. He is free at any time and as you can imagine would be more than grateful if you could spare him a little of your time.

May I say here, Mr. Lansbury, how deeply appreciative I am of your kindly interest ?

Yours sincerely,

B. J. K. Sharpe.



M449

With Sharpe of 11 Apr. 1939
COPY

~~73~~

The Under Secretary of State,
Aliens Department
Home Office
White Hall, S.W.1.

4th April 1938

Sir

Your ref. P. 2501.

I found the enclosed note in today's Times, requesting former Austrian nationals to call at the German Embassy and to register there.

As an ex-officer of the old Austrian army, I resent the latest development in my country and do not feel inclined to become a German citizen, if it can be avoided.

The purpose of my letter is to ascertain whether the Home Office wish Austrians to comply with the enclosed German request, and whether, failing to do so, would affect my permit to stay in England.

It is my dearest wish to become a naturalized British subject and I have the intention to file my application next year, when I shall have been here the required five years. I am therefore most anxious not to forfeit this privilege.

I am

Sir,

Your obedient Servant

Henry F. Pulitzer.



M449

COPY

[with Sharpe of 11 Apr. 1939]

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~~2~~

P. 2501

HOME OFFICE
STANLEY HOUSE
MARSHAM STREET
LONDON, S.W.1.

[say 5 Apr. 1938]

Sir,

With reference to your letter of the 4th instant I am directed by the Secretary of State to say that, so far as His Majesty's Government is concerned, former Austrian nationals now resident in this country, are free to register with the German Embassy, or not, as they might think fit.

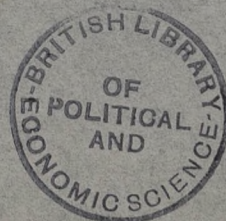
I am

Sir

Your obedient Servant

(C.B. McAlpine, signed).

Henry F Pulitzer
Bayswater Court
St. Stephens Road
London, W.2.



M449

Copy.

[with Stamp of 11 Ap. 1939]

HOME OFFICE
CLELAND HOUSE
PAGE STREET
LONDON, S.W.1.

31 (75)

[6 Feb. 1939]

Sir,

P. 2501

With reference to your letter of the 8th October last, I am directed by the Secretary of State to say that he is unable to agree to your establishing yourself in the United Kingdom and you should, therefore, arrange to leave this country not later than the 14th February.

Your passport is returned herewith.

I am

Sir

Your obedient Servant

(Signed J. Drew)

Henry F. Pulitzer
Bayswater Court
St. Stephens Road, W.2.



M449

COPY

[with Sharpe of 11 Ap. 1939]

4/76

The Under Secretary of State
Aliens Department
Home Office
Cleland House
Page Street, S.W.1.

6th February 1939.

Sir,

P. 2501

I refer to your letter of the 6th instant in which I was refused permission to establish myself in this country and was requested to leave the United Kingdom on the 14th of February.

I beg to draw your attention to the fact that I have no valid passport and have nowhere to go. My active service as an ex-officer of the old Austrian army and my political activity in former Austria was directed against the Nazi movement and my name is therefore kept in evidence. My commander in chief, Col. Wolff committed suicide with his whole family when Hitler arrived, many of my old comrades did the same, and those who survived are in concentration camp. My own brother was arrested when Hitler arrived and I am without news from him since.

I beg to draw your attention also to my letter of the 4th April (copy enclosed), in which I stated that it was out of question for me to become a German citizen and I then mentioned that it was my dearest wish to become naturalized in England after having resided in this country the necessary time of five years.

My Company, the Ergos Engineering Co. Ltd, although dormant at present, is another root which holds me to this soil. I have invested all my money in England and am still a shareholder of the mentioned company. As I am the only officer of my Company who is qualified to work an eventual factory, my departure would entail a severe loss to all parties concerned. My co-director, who was the engineer in charge for Sir John Jackson Ltd. and has built the Naval Base in Singapore, is at present in India liquidating machinery at the Naval Base, and is also trying to secure contracts for our joint venture in the ERGOS Engineering Co. Ltd. My partner would, I am sure, gladly bear out my statement and vouch for my character.



M449

The Under Secretary of State .

6th February 1939.

In my last letter I applied for a working permit, which, it seems, can not be granted. But I beg you to reconsider my case and at least grant me an asylum as a refugee. In the meantime I am able to earn a humble living with my pen and my camera, thus I would not occupy a job that could be filled by a British subject.

I am sure, that your decision was not meant to cause such hardship as it would mean to me. Having no passport, no country to go to, no money to support myself, once I am giving up my good will in England, it would literally mean the end of my existence.

I would deem it a great favour if you would permit me to call and to plead my desperate case personally. I can assure you that I shall not prove unworthy of the generous hospitality which this country is granting me.

I am

Sir

Your obedient Servant

Henry F. Pulitzer.

[with Sharpe of 21 April 1939]

(78)
5.1

HOME OFFICE
CLELAND HOUSE
PAGE STREET
LONDON, S.W.1.

P. 2501

11th March 1939.

Sir,

With reference to your letter received in this Department on the 10th ultimo, I am directed by the Secretary of State, to say, that after full consideration, he regrets he has nothing to add to his letter of the 6th of February 1939. You should therefore arrange to leave this country forthwith and in any event not later than the 31st March 1939, failing which, steps will be taken to enforce your departure.

I am

Sir,

Your obedient Servant

Henry F. Pulitzer
Bayswater Court,
St. Stephens Road
W.2.

(Signed J. Eager)



M449

[with Sharpe of 11 Apr. 1939]

79

12. iv. 39

Dear Private Secretary,

Mr. Lansbury has been approached by friends of Henry F. Pulitzer, until recently living at Bayswater Court, St. Stephens Road, W.2. asking him to intercede with your Minister on th's man's behalf.

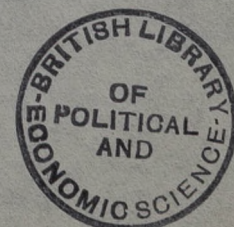
Full particulars of this case are with the Department at Cleland House under reference P.2501. Mr. Pulitzer's solicitor has been informed that for confidential reasons this man must leave the country, although he has been connected with a business here for some considerable time - the Ergos Engineering Co. - and was contemplating applying for British citizenship next year. His friends and business colleagues are as much at a loss to understand what this reason can be as is Mr. Pulitzer himself. He admits to having accumulated debts to an amount not exceeding £200, but his friends are prepared to help him settle these, and a Mr. Roye, of Roye Ltd., 20, Sloane Street, S.W.1. is willing to co-operate with him to start a new business venture which is intended to give employment to British subjects. Also, Mr. Lansbury understands that Mr. Roye is prepared to give a written guarantee to this effect.

As an Austrian citizen until last year, Mr. Pulitzer is now without a passport, and owing to his anti-Nazi activities is naturally extremely anxious not to be forced to return to Germany. In view, therefore, of the assistance his friends are prepared to give him, Mr. Lansbury would be obliged if you would put this man's case before your Minister for his early and sympathetic reconsideration.

Yours faithfully,

Private Secretary.

Home Office,
S.W.1.



M449

[with Skape of 11 Ap. 1939]

Ashurst, Morris, Crisp, & Co.

17, Throgmorton Avenue
London, E.C.4.

80

30th March 1939

H.F. Pulitzer, Esq.

Dear Mr. Pulitzer,

Please quote ref. CC/K.

Since speaking to you on the telephone, I again rang up the Home Office. The Representative to whom I spoke said that it would be no use my arranging an appointment to talk the matter over with him, as the Home Office had come to a definite decision. I protested against the course which the Home Office had decided to take, to which the Home Office Representative said that there were certain facts, which, being confidential he could not disclose to me, but which rendered it desirable that you should be asked to leave the country. - He would not tell me what the nature of the circumstances was, but said that if he were in a position to disclose the position to me, he felt sure I would agree with him that the Home Office had no alternative but to act in accordance with their decision.

I am very sorry that I have not been able to help you. I reported the position to Mr. McBride, who, I understand, is getting in touch with you.

If the Home Office take steps against you for your removal, I will see if anything further can be done.

Yours sincerely

Signed Charles Crisp.



M449

ASHURST MORRIS? Crisp

1912

Dear Sir,
I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th inst. in relation to the proposed change in the name of the Ashurst Morris & Crisp Co. I have conferred with the Board of Directors and they have decided to decline the offer. I regret that I am unable to give you a more favorable answer. I am, Sir, very respectfully,
Yours sincerely,
Ashurst Morris & Crisp

I am very sorry that I have not been able to give you a more favorable answer. I am, Sir, very respectfully,
Yours sincerely,
Ashurst Morris & Crisp

Very truly yours,
Ashurst Morris & Crisp

Yours sincerely,

Ashurst Morris & Crisp

free, perhaps influence the course of much larger matters outside.

Here let me say, with regard to the action of our country over the centuries, that in all the great struggles in which we have been engaged we have survived and emerged victorious not only because of the prowess of great commanders or because of famous battles gained by land and sea, but also because the true interests of Britain have coincided with those of so many other States and nations, and that we have been able to march in a great company along the high road of progress and freedom for all. This is certainly a condition which is established in the policy that we are now pursuing in the Balkan Peninsula. We and the French can say that we have no particular interests, no special claims which we wish to press. We receive no advantages which conflict with the general interest. This should strengthen the Government in their course, and such a policy which they have put forward, and which they are advancing, brings back across the Atlantic Ocean a reverberating echo increasingly encouraging in its tone. One sees a great design which, even now at the eleventh hour, if it could be perfected, would spare the world the worst of agonies. All things are moving at the same moment. Year by year, month by month, they have all been moving forward together. When we have reached certain positions in thought, others have reached certain positions in fact.

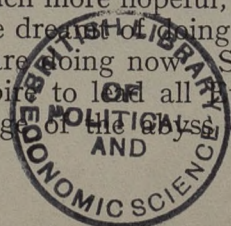
The danger is now very near. A great part of Europe is to a very large extent mobilised. Millions of men are being prepared for war. Everywhere the frontier defences are manned. Everywhere it is felt that some new stroke is impending. If it should fall, can there be any doubt but that we shall be involved? We are no longer where we were two or three months ago. We have committed ourselves in every direction, rightly in my opinion, having regard to all that has happened. It is not necessary to enumerate the countries to which, directly or indirectly, we have given or are giving guarantees. What we should not have dreamt of doing a year ago, when all was so much more hopeful, what we should not have dreamt of doing even a month ago, we are doing now. Surely then, when we aspire to lead all Europe back from the verge of the abyss, on to

the uplands of law and peace, we must ourselves set the highest example. We must keep nothing back. How can we bear to continue to lead our comfortable easy life here at home, unwilling even to pronounce the word "compulsion," unwilling even to take the necessary measure by which the armies that we have promised can alone be recruited and equipped? How can we continue—let me say it with particular frankness and sincerity—with less than the full force of the nation incorporated in the governing instrument? These very methods, which the Government owe it to the nation and to themselves to take, are not only indispensable to the duties that we have accepted but, by their very adoption, they may rescue our people and the people of many lands from the dark, bitter waters which are rising fast on every side.

4.56 p.m.

Mr. Lansbury: I rise for the purpose of putting a point of view with which the overwhelming majority of the House will disagree, but I think I should not be doing my duty to those whom I represent, and to the men and women with whom I am engaged in propaganda, if I did not on this occasion try to state our view and our standpoint in these international affairs. With regard to Russia, when this House was as overwhelmingly against association with Russia as most Members are to-day against association with other Powers, I was one of a small body of men and women in the country who advocated an understanding and an agreement with that great country. But ideological reasons prevented Great Britain at that time from taking such action as, in my judgment, would have made the whole course of European history different. I am speaking of the winter of 1920. I think events have proved that those with whom I acted were right and those who took the view that the Soviet Union should not be recognised and should not be touched, as it were, by respectable Governments, have been proved utterly wrong.

But I have not risen for the purpose of trying to justify anything that I and others may have said concerning the past. It is said somewhere that the way of transgressors is hard. I think that the way of peacemakers is, perhaps, much harder. You are always open to being let down by those with whom you act,



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Reference of revision
T.H. P...

81

13 Apr. 1939

82

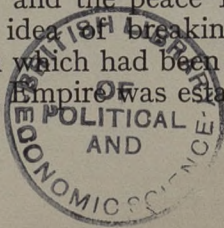
[Mr. Lansbury.]

and you are also open to being misjudged by those with whom you act. The right hon. Gentleman has told us that Great Britain in the past has taken action which, in his judgment, has helped the world, and has helped to preserve peace. I cannot give dates as he can, but I think I can give events. I suppose it will be said that the menace of French domination of Europe was removed with the defeat of the French at Waterloo, and I think it probably will also be said that the Prussian power which preceded the formation of the German Empire, took its rise from that time. All through the intervening years there has been a continual struggle on the part of the Germanic power in Europe to establish itself in place of the old French power. Great Britain and her allies destroyed the power of the French with the aid of the Prussians who, themselves, afterwards established another force which came into play in 1870-71.

At the end of that war, with the establishment of the German Empire, the position of the States in Europe was entirely changed. There was brought into being a united nation composed of the States which formed the German Empire and they became our great competitors in the world. Finally, we had the Great War of 1914-18 brought about partly by our determination not to allow a new Power to arise in Europe and also by the French determination to have vengeance for 1870-71. I asked the House once before to read Liddell Hart's book "Foch—the Man of Orleans." Anyone who reads that book must get a clear and definite picture of why the War of 1914-18 took place, with its alliances with Russia and ourselves, and why the peace which was made after it was such as it has turned out to be. Liddell Hart may not be a good biographer or a good historian, but I think the facts which he puts forward are beyond doubt and beyond question. There was a desire for vengeance for what had happened in 1870-71 and a grim determination that such a state of affairs should never happen again. "Never again" were words heard then, not only in this country but in many other parts of Europe, and the peace Treaty was based on the idea of breaking up that combination which had been formed when the German Empire was established in 1871.

To-day, less than 21 years after the Armistice, we are faced with a condition of things in which the Power which the framers of the treaty imagined to be broken and crushed, is the most feared Power in Central Europe, while one of the Powers which, as the right hon. Gentleman has just suggested, broke away from Germany and Austria and joined us and was one of our gallant allies in the Great War, is now one of the potential disturbers of the peace of Europe. This is what realism has done for Europe. This is what the realists who control the world have landed us into to-day. For my part, I do not intend to try to demonstrate who is right or who is wrong in all the controversies that have taken place, and whether this country or the other country should have been formed in the way in which it is formed. But I would remind the House that when Germany attacked Czecho-Slovakia at least three nationalities that were still members of the League of Nations—Hungary, Poland and Slovakia—joined in tearing Czecho-Slovakia to pieces. That stands out and shows us that the question of who keeps agreements and who keeps their pledged word, is not at all confined to a big Power or a small Power, but that when Governments think it suits them to do a certain thing, they just do it if they have the power.

I want to say a word about Abyssinia. I am very sick of hearing talk about who is to blame in regard to Abyssinia. I say here, and I do not think it will be denied, that there was never, from beginning to end, a hard-and-fast declaration on the part of the French Government of their readiness to go to extremes in sanctions against the Italian Government. I do not put the blame on the Government in this country altogether. I think, perhaps, it would have been wiser if we had been told all there was to be told in regard to these matters, but there is no question about the fact that Ministers of the Crown met Mussolini while the preparations were going on for the invasion. We were told when they came back that that question was never mentioned. Well it ought to have been mentioned—there can be no question about that. I am thinking of the conference at Stresa. The fact is—and now I am about to say something which will sound very extreme, and which I shall be told I ought not to say—that while nearly all the statesmen I have met



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are perfectly honourable and straightforward in their personal relationships with their fellow men and women, when it comes to defending what they think is the interest of their country, undoubtedly many of them never tell the whole truth. The time has come—some of us thought it had come at the end of the last War—when diplomacy should be open and statesmen should tell us straight out, what is in their minds, what is their policy, and with what purpose they are pursuing that policy.

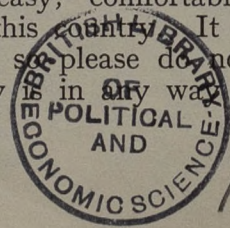
I shall be told that it is no use rehashing that sort of thing. I do so for this reason. One of the most respected diplomatists in Europe said to me, personally, in the presence of other people, "Mr. Lansbury, you are beating the air talking about peace. You will never get peace in the world until we gentlemen, when we sign an agreement, mean to keep that agreement. We get together at a conference, we call in the photographers, we call in the persons with the wireless apparatus, we present a pen to the leader and then we go home knowing damn well that we do not intend to carry out a bit of what we have written." If that had been said by a totalitarian minister many hon. Members would retort, "That is all you could expect from them." But it was said by a democratic Minister and that has influenced me ever since, because I am convinced not only by history generally but by the story of my own times, that what is necessary is that the people should know the truth. I do not need to ransack history for examples. I know from my own country's history during my own lifetime how, often and often, the people of this and other countries have been plunged into difficulties because they never had fair warning, and never had the whole truth put before them.

Now what about to-day? I want some one among my hon. Friends above the Gangway or in any other part of the House, to tell me what guarantee anybody has that, if Europe is plunged once more into a great war, the masses of young men will not again have given their lives in an adventure which leads nowhere. The right hon. Gentleman the Member for Epping (Mr. Churchill) spoke of the "easy, comfortable lives" of people in this country. It is nothing to my credit, please do not think that what I say in my way is self-righteous

because I love to live where I am living—but I live among people who in the days immediately after the War, literally starved and many of whom to-day are in a state of semi-starvation. Easy comfortable lives? All my lifetime those people, or most of them, have never known such a thing, but when the War came in spite of me—and I know that in spite of me they will do it again—the very poorest districts sent the biggest numbers into the Army to fight. Boys of 17 and 18 years of age whom I had known as babies, went away to fight. A few came back maimed and bruised and battered, and we had to fight to secure proper conditions for them when they did come back. But multitudes never came back at all.

Now we are to face the same thing over again. We are to face exactly the same conditions, and I repeat my request. Will someone get up on those benches and tell me that they know that out of this next holocaust there is going to be established peace and freedom? If war could have given peace and freedom to the world in a permanent sense, we would not be discussing what we are discussing to-day because there have been wars interminably all down the ages. But I want to make this clear for the younger men and women who belong to the organisation to which I belong, and who will feel that they cannot take part in this campaign. I would appeal to the comrades above the Gangway here, many of whom were themselves conscientious objectors in the last War. I appeal to them and to all, to see that the conscientious objectors in this case, if this thing does happen, shall have as good and as square a deal as it will be possible to obtain for them. We are all full of indignation at the crushing of conscience in Germany and Italy. You cannot condemn that attitude there if you establish it here on this business of compulsory military service. I say that, too, because I am an old man, and whatever happens to me does not matter. I might be put in prison in safety somewhere and it would not matter one bit; but I do not feel that I have any right to go out and be part and parcel with the younger people in fighting against this business without doing what I can in this House to make that clear.

Finally, I will say this, though there is much more I should like to say, but



M449

13 Apr. 1939

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[Mr. Lansbury.]
 there are many Members who want to speak: I do not attempt to sit in judgment on any man or woman in this House who thinks that we must build up a mighty force in order to win peace. They believe it, and though I think all history proves that they are wrong, I can respect and honour them, because I know many of them will go out and, perhaps, will never come back. But what I want the House to realise is that this world of which we are a part is standing at the parting of the ways. I told Mussolini, and I told Hitler, that it is impossible now to build a new imperialism. The day has gone by. The world is too small. Science and invention have destroyed the power that men used to possess. To-day what the world needs more than anything else is that some men in position shall be found who will understand that a new technique, if you will, is required in international relationships, and that somehow or other we have got to bring to the service of mankind all there is in the world for the use of mankind, plus all the science and all the invention that God and nature have given us.

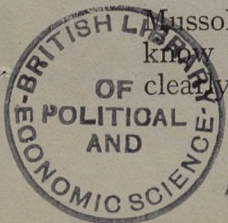
You may say that that cannot be done now. I do not believe it. If this country were threatened to-night by a general strike we should all be hoping and helping to avert it in one way or another. All of us, on both sides, would have said worse things of one another than have been said here to-day in regard to Italy and the rest. Surely when the fate of millions of people—millions of the youngest, not the oldest—are at stake it is our duty to say now, "We will send out the call to bring together whoever will come to discuss how we can use the world and not destroy the world." Mr. Roosevelt makes great speeches and I have a great admiration for him, but I shall have a bigger admiration for him—and for Mr. Cordell Hull—if he will say to Europe to-day, "America is prepared, either through myself or delegates, to come to Europe and meet round a table and discuss, before the die is cast, how we can deal with economic and territorial conditions that may lead to war."

I know that Herr Hitler is an extremely difficult person, I know that Signor Mussolini is a very elusive person, but I know that those two men understand as clearly as anyone in this House what

another war, a colossal war, will mean to them. No one up to the present has flung down the challenge to them in that way, "Come let us reason together."
 [Interruption.] I know what I am talking about. If it can be proved that the challenge has publicly been thrown out to them, I shall give in, of course, but what I want to contend for is that Mr. Roosevelt and our own Prime Minister, and whoever else will join with him, shall say to Europe, "Before we plunge into this inferno we are ready to sit round a table, and we will not rule out any question that you want to raise," and I am as certain as I stand here that a way out will be found. But Imperialism—this House has proved that it does not believe in it by what it is attempting to do in India. We ourselves—and I am proud of our country—are breaking the links of Imperialist domination in regard to India and elsewhere. We can go with a free mind as it were, and say to the world, "We know Imperialism is finished, and we are ready to help to build the world on co-operation, brotherhood, respect and love."

5.22 p.m.

Mr. Eden: I never listen to the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Bow and Bromley (Mr. Lansbury) without feeling the very deepest sympathy and respect with him in every word that he utters, and this afternoon there were one or two points which he raised which I should like to emphasise, because I agree entirely with them in so far as I understood certain of the points that he was putting. Surely there was no one this Easter who did not think back with feelings of horror at the prospect that this world should now be approaching an abyss similar to that from which we emerged not so long ago. I do not think that at the time of the Armistice there was a Member who for one instant contemplated that the world could be capable of such cruel folly as even to be approaching a situation such as that which faces us at this time. For my part, speaking, of course, with no authority at all, I do not believe that the Government of this country, or my right hon. Friend, or anybody else would refuse at any time to make the fullest contribution possible to avoid such a situation, but I do not think any of us would be able to answer the question of the right hon. Member for Bow and



M449

Mrs. R. Carson Little Heath (85)
Acknowledged. upper Bassett
D.P. Southampton

April 15th - 1934 9

Dear Mr. Lansbury

I have just read your fine speech
made in Parliament last night -

A conference is the only way to
save Peace - you carry a lot

of weight ahead, would it be possible
for you to ask the Pope to broadcast

an appeal to the Heads of all
the quarrelling states asking (or

perhaps ordering them) to come
to the Vatican & have a conference

under his chairmanship?
As Head of the largest Christian

Community in the world he has
a higher responsibility in the

matter than anyone else -

He stands apart from the world
or no one can touch him - & I
think even Hitler would find it
difficult to refuse him -
The thought of the wanton sacrifice
of young people in every country
is unbearable - Our archbishops
has done his best but he only
asked for a religious conference -
this must be a wider one -
Surely he can't refuse if he
is definitely asked to save the
world? Couldn't you see him?
Your sincerity would impress him
I know - after all Mussolini is
a so called son of the church &
wouldn't dare offend the Pope -
This is a muddled sort of letter
but I have no time to draft it

properly - The whole of England
would be with the Pope in their prayers
Is it possible to get him to do it?
if any man can you are he -
Forgive my writing -

Yours sincerely

May Casson

(Ms R. Casson)

P.S. I am a conservative but agree
with everything you say & all
the reforms you want brought in.
If the Labour Party were all like
you I shouldn't be a conservative
any longer!

86

15/4/1939

F. E. Fawcett

Sherwood (87)
Ashurst Road
Ladbroke

To The Right Honorable Geo Lansbury
39 Bow Road. E. 3.

Dear Sir

Upon hearing the wireless report
of President Roosevelt's action for Peace
I could not help recalling the wireless
report of your appeal for a Peace conference
in the House of Commons the other day

You must feel very gratified &
encouraged by such speedy action from
U.S.A., this is without doubt a result
of your lone voice

My wife & children join me in
thanking you

Yours very truly
F. E. Fawcett

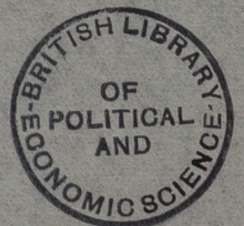
G.L.
TELEGRAM.

(88)
Saturday 15th April, 1939.

HERR HITLER FOREIGN OFFICE BERLIN

Remember your statement made to me April ~~1937~~ 19th, 1937 that Germany would be willing to attend a new world conference, I respectfully beg you to give favourable consideration to President Roosevelt's latest appeal. Will you now demonstrate to the world that yourself and the great German nation will join in a supreme effort to save civilisation. You possess great power. I beg you use that power to give Germany and the world peace. All mankind is looking to you and Signor Mussolini for such a response as will lead all nations away from war and along the road to peace through cooperation and sharing territories, markets and resources for the service of each other,

GEORGE LANSBURY



M449

G.L.

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TELEGRAM

Saturday 15th April, 1939.

SIGNOR MUSSOLINI ROME

Respectfully remind you of conversation July 1937 between yourself and me. Earnestly beg you give a favourable response to President Roosevelt's appeal. Italy Europe and whole world waits to hear that Herr Hitler and yourself are willing to prove you do not desire war but do desire peace. There is no territorial economic financial or other question which cannot be satisfactorily settled by discussion and good will. All peoples long for peace. Today you have a God given chance of leading the world towards cooperation prosperity and peace and I beg you take up the challenge and win the gratitude of the ~~world~~ whole human race.

GEORGE LANSBURY



M449

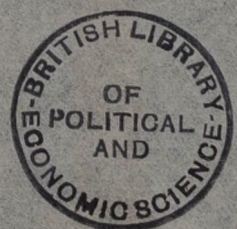
GA
TELEGRAM

90
Saturday, 15th April, 1939.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT WASHINGTON

Please accept personal congratulations and thanks from myself and friends of Embassies of Reconciliation on your courageous efforts for peace. Please don't give up because of difficulties if any should arise. Keep on keeping on until a bloodless victory is won. Masses in all lands pray God will bless your efforts and give you continued courage to persevere.

GEORGE LANSBURY



M449

Sandgate 78317.

Walter Harold Gibbon
(1881-1944)

(91)

Regency Cottage,
Sandgate,
Kent.

19/4/39.

Dear Mr. Lauchry,

Many thanks for your letter received this morning, dated 18/4/39. It is at least satisfactory to know that the authorities are aware of all the factors in the situation.

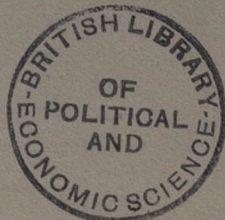
I am sure you are quite right in saying that public agitation would do no good, and I agree that counter "terrorism" is no good either.

I had a cable only yesterday from Aaronsohn, suggesting that I should write to you to say that no action seemed useful at the moment, and I was on the point of writing to you when your letter arrived this morning.

I should much like to meet you next week, and suggest Tuesday, if that would be convenient to you. If so, will you kindly let me know what time in the afternoon will be convenient for you. I am sure you must be very busy.

Yours sincerely

W. Gibbon
2



M449

W. P. Brooks

(92)



Press Gallery

27/4/39

Dear Mr Lausbury,

I am a Press Gallery reporter and a member of the Peaceledge Union. Tonight I listened to your speech & I feel I must just ~~write~~ write to thank you from the bottom of my heart for all you said. Not only I, who of course am 100 percent with you, but several friends who do not take the complete pacifist view, were deeply impressed by your moving appeal.

W. P. Brooks

27 Apr. 1939

(93)



2

Your words are a great encouragement to pacifists in these darkest days and, forgive the presumption, I am convinced that such a speech will do inestimable good in Parliament & in the country.

I do not want you to be troubled with a reply to this note - I know something of the great demands on your strength & time, but I did

W. P. Brooks

27 Ap. 1939

(94)



3

just want to say
thank you & to
assure you that
your efforts are
bearing fruit.

Yours very sincerely,
W. P. Brooks

95

CAN WE STILL FIND THE PATH TO PEACE?



M449



By

George Lansbury, M.P.

"To-day is the day of our salvation if we are wise enough to grasp our opportunities," says Mr. Lansbury. "At this moment it is easier to apply the principles of love and brotherhood than ever before. . . . All the material means are here in superabundance."

"... We must not despair."

WE must and we will. There is neither sense nor reason in giving way to despair and accepting as inevitable the smashing of civilisation. Neither God nor Nature brought us into existence for anything so mad as that.

We have the peoples of the world on our side. If they could make their voices heard they would with an almost unanimous voice demand that at any cost of material possessions peace shall be preserved.

The present generation loves freedom, liberty, equality, as much as any preceding generation, but it knows that war, especially universal war, will destroy for perhaps a thousand years everything which we think of as part of our civilised life. Whatever our religion, we know now that war is more destructive of the finer sides of our lives than ever before.

Those who are Christians know all sin against God and our fellow men and women brings us the Dead Sea Fruit of Futility. We refuse to live according to the Law of God and as a consequence we reap what we sow.



MANKIND is waiting for a new lead; waiting for us who celebrate Christmas, Good Friday, Easter and Whitsuntide to give that lead—a lead which will enable our rulers to say to the world: "We are willing to pay the price of peace by becoming co-operators and sharers of the world and its resources with all peoples."

There is nothing new in this proposition: men of all nationalities already co-operate with each other in cartels and monopolies for controlling and using the territories and resources and markets of the world for business purposes.

But this is not enough. The time when all nations must, with that nationalism, individualism, is played out. Mankind has waited too long for the coming of the Brotherhood of Man.



TO-DAY is the day of our salvation if we are wise enough to grasp our opportunities.

At this moment it is easier to apply the principles of love and brotherhood than ever before. We have indeed a God-given opportunity.

All the material means are here in superabundance.

Think for a moment what sort of a world this would be if the Christian nations joined together and said: "We are now determined to enlist all the forces of brain and physical power, at present being used to prepare for destruction, in a more glorious adventure—the service and benefit of the human race."

There is no doubt at all of the

kind of response that would follow such a declaration.

Nations would rally round and help make the proposal effective.

Men's thoughts would immediately be diverted away from the idea that science and invention should mainly be used for destruction to an understanding of the fact that God has given us brains to use for the giving to each other of life and life more abundantly.



I REPEAT, these are days when it is possible to do this.

Everybody knows the waste of war preparations and of war itself.

Surely not only Christian morality but common-sense also should compel us to direct our thoughts toward these ends as the way to peace.

Do not be impatient and say all this is impracticable and oversimplified.

Just remember truth is always simple. We who call ourselves Christians must cry aloud in the market place that our Government shall not merely support Mr. Roosevelt's plea for a truce and conference, but shall here and now declare Britain's willingness to join all other nations in an honest, straightforward effort to travel together along the path to peace through the establishment of new economic relationships between nations, based on the knowledge that there is room enough, natural resources enough and markets enough for all.

At the time that I write no one knows what Herr Hitler will reply to the President's message. But whatever the first reply it will not be final. If it appears to be hostile or to question our good faith we must not despair.



THE Christian faith says "Sufficient is Thine arm alone and our defence is sure."

Our Lord was no idle dreamer of an empty day.

He went about doing good.

He bade His followers carry the message of the oneness of life into the whole world, and said, "Lo, I am with you to the end."

After 2,000 years the same question as was asked Him is heard in all lands: "What shall we do to be saved?"

I, a very imperfect, sinful man, like you, reply: "We must learn of Him Who spake as no other has yet spoken. Who told those who heard Him that men might gain the whole world and lose their own souls."

I write not as a censorious judge of others, but as one who has discovered through long years of experience that Jesus truly has the words of eternal life.

We must learn the path to

peace through Him Who in His own relationships with the people of His age demonstrated that religion is not an unpractical dream for another day, but is a way of life which will enable us to worship God through love and service of one another, expressed through co-operation and sharing out abundant gifts with one another.

This is the path to peace which mankind is waiting to be shown.

Please God, my countrymen will give the world the call it is waiting for.

(World copyright)

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(96)

**BRITISH COMMITTEE FOR REFUGEES FROM
CZECHO-SLOVAKIA**

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The Marquis of Reading, K.C.
The Earl of Lytton, K.G., P.C., G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E.
Sir Walter Layton, C.H., C.B.E., M.A.
Sir John Hope Simpson, K.B.E., C.I.E.
Sir Harry Twyford, K.B.E. (the late Lord Mayor)
The Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster
The Moderator of the Free Churches

The Chief Rabbi
Viscount Cranbourne, M.P.
Lord Ebbisham, G.B.E.
The Right Hon. L. S. Amery, M.P.
Joseph Hallsworth, Esq.
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**Colonel G. R. Crosfield, C.B.E.,
D.S.O., T.D.**

Telephone Museum 1971
Telegrams

Please quote in your reply : **HR/MZ**
Bitte in Ihrer Antwort anzugeben

1st May, 1939

George Lansbury, Esq., M.P.,
39, Bow Road,
E. 3.

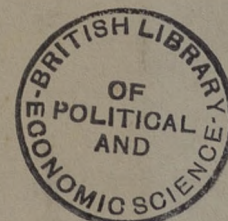
Dear Mr. Lansbury, re Dr. Alfred ADUTT.

Thank you for your letter of the 28th
ultimo .

I am pleased to inform you that permission
for Dr. and Mrs. Alfred Adutt to come to this country
has now been granted, and we have communicated with Mr.
Weinstein to this effect.

Yours sincerely,

Hilde
HILDE REA.



M449

ERNST WEINSTEIN

54, Upper Berkeley Street,
N. 1

97

1st May 39

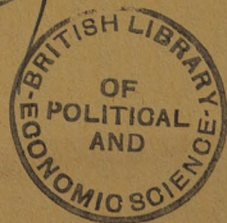
Sir,

By your kind assistance in the matter of my relations, Dr. Alfred Adutt and his family, permit has at last been granted to them by the Home Office for entering this country.

Though I have not had the pleasure of knowing you personally, I knew by your marvellous human reputation, that you would not refuse to help. I thank you, Sir, so deeply and my wish would only be, to have one day the very great pleasure of making your personal acquaintance.

Yours very truly

E. Weinstein



M449

Joseph Patrick Kennedy
1888-

(98)



(and)

U.S.A. Embassy
in London.

EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

1, Grosvenor Square, W. 1,

May 5, 1939

Sir:

I have been requested to acknowledge the receipt by the President of your telegram of April 15th in which you kindly expressed appreciation of his efforts for peace.

Very truly yours,

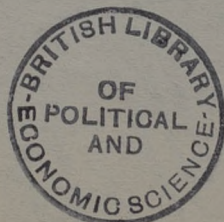
Joseph P. Kennedy

The Right Honorable

George Lansbury, M. P.,

House of Commons,

Westminster, S. W. 1.



M449



Send an
acknowledgment
of thanks

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
EMBASSY OF THE

G.L.

Bow. 5.5.39.

99

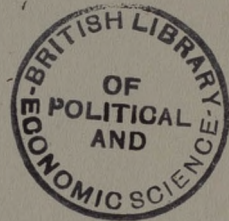
Dear Comrade,

I wish your demonstration great success.
We are living in a mad world of downright illusion.
Pacifists are the only realists. We know and accept the
fact the tyranny cannot be destroyed by tyranny, totalitarianism
cannot be destroyed by totalitarianism. Freedom cannot be
maintained by sacrificing freedom. Hatred cannot be abolished
by hatred.

We must unite in demanding our Government shall
lead the world with a declaration that we will disarm. We will share
the world and its resources.

Best wishes,
George Lansbury.

Written in own handwriting.



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