

September 10, 1957

Repl - Sept 19

Mr. George S. Messersmith,
1285 Sierra Paracaima,
Mexico 10, D.F.

Dear George:

Thank you very much for your letters. I am anxious to know Mr. Putnam's opinion after reading the revised memo I sent you.

Hettie, Edna and I spent a few days in Marlboro, Vermont where we heard some performances of the Marlboro School of Music, which was set up a few years ago by our friend the pianist Serkin. It was most enjoyable, exciting and makes one forget for a while the misery of this world. I was invited repeatedly to spend a week in the North Carolina mountains by Dr. Sanger, who is doing very good work for the Heineman Foundation. His heart surgery gains in reputation. My visit would have given us an occasion to discuss the research work carried out in Charlotte in this field, but finally I did not go.

You certainly read in the papers that King Leopold arrived in Boston last week, accompanied by Princess Liliame and their oldest child, Prince Alexander. The boy has to undergo (I believe to-day) a heart operation, described by the papers as an obstruction of the aorta. I telephoned Sanger in order to have more information about such case. He explained that this operation is being done successfully since three or four years. I wrote King Leopold yesterday and gave him all the details which I had from Sanger, who is very confident as to the result of the intervention. This operation would not have been possible five years ago. I am convinced that the Heineman Foundation did contribute to make it possible now, which is very gratifying. I remember that both Mr. & Mrs. Baels had heart troubles. Could the boy be affected with an heredity taint?

As you know King Leopold is Chairman of the Belgian Commission of Nuclear Energy. According to the papers, he is going to study this problem here and Mr. Strauss will facilitate his research work. Belgium is studying the production in the Belgian Congo of refined uranium (U-235), for which cheap and plentiful electric energy is necessary. About 34% of the world undeveloped hydro-electric power is located in the Belgian Congo, which also has plenty of uranium. The price of unrefined uranium per ton is about \$40,000, but enriched as in (U-235) the value increases tremendously, one gram being worth \$17.

This enriched uranium will be sold to foreign countries, especially EURATOM. I think that I told you that DeBoeck visited me in Greenwich to discuss this affair with me. The first power station would have a capacity of 2,500,000 kW. The money requirements are enormous. The increase of the population means increased production and consumption.

I am glad you are feeling better. It is not agreeable when you feel far less than 100 % fit, as I do now. I suffer from headaches. My brain is ticking like a cheap alarm clock. I have so much to do, but my tools are getting rusty.

Adenauer is fighting like a man of 40. He is going to win. Ollenhauer is certainly an honest man, but that is not enough to be a Chancellor. He likes to take his recreation playing at card games with his wife in the kitchen, smoking his pipe and drinking a glass of Moselle wine. Adenauer does not show his age, he is growing old gracefully.

Jimmy read again, a few days ago, my old speech of nearly 30 years on the "United States of Europe". He thought it was up-to-date, with exception of a few details. I thought so too after re-reading that paper to-night. I met Coudenhove-Kalergi at a luncheon at the house of Felix Deutsch in Berlin, thirty years ago. Richard Strauss, Gerhardt Hauptmann and Bronislaw Huberman, were also present. Coudenhove explained his ideas about "Paneuropa" and I became interested.

Yesterday I came across a photostat (which, I believe, was given to me some years ago by Conway) of a document by which the Mexican President Porfirio Diaz gave to a Mr. Richard Weightman a concession for the production of light by electricity. This was in 1880, less than eighty years ago. I enclose a translation of the document, which, I think, will interest you.

Take good care of yourself and let me know soon how you both are. The three girls join in sending you and Marion much love and all good wishes.

Yours ever,

Enc.