

H. Weyl

150 East 72nd Street
New York City
December 28, 1933

Dear Professor Weyl:

Your wife wrote Mrs. Flexner a few days ago that Professor and Mrs. Franck would be in Princeton over the New Year holidays. I hope that, in case Professor Franck comes to New York, he will let me know, for we should like very much to have him and his wife for luncheon or dinner as would suit them better, and needless to say we should be happy if you and Mrs. Weyl would join the party.

Mrs. Bailey reported to me her conversation with you on the matter of engaging Dr. Nathan Jacobson for a period of six months, at a salary of \$125 a month, beginning January 1, 1934, as your assistant. Of course, you are authorized to make an arrangement with Dr. Jacobson that is entirely satisfactory to you both.

We are having a very quiet Christmas, for I am devoting myself assiduously to getting rid of the lameness in my arm. I am happy to be able to report that the continued rest has already made a considerable difference, and I hope that the neuritis will have completely disappeared within the next week or two. We often speak of you and your wife and your boys.

You are seeing a very characteristic American winter, though we do not often have so heavy a snowfall so early in winter.

Mrs. Bailey, who came from Princeton to New York on Tuesday, brought with her the book, the volume of Kleist, which Michael sent Mrs. Flexner. It is a beautiful book, which Mrs. Flexner is proud to have. She will herself write

Professor Weyl

December 28, 1933

2

Michael an expression of her appreciation.

Please give our heartiest New Year greetings to your wife and
boys, and believe me, with all good wishes,

Ever sincerely,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Professor Hermann Weyl
220 Mercer Street
Princeton, New Jersey

AF:ESB

CLASS OF SERVICE DESIRED	
FULL-RATE	
HALF-RATE DEFERRED	X
CABLE LETTER	
WEEK-END LETTER	
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J. C. WILLEVER, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

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TIME FILED	

Send the following message, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

DECEMBER 6, 1933 19

To UNIVERSITÄTSREKTOR
GOETTINGEN (GERMANY)

H. Weyl

INTERNATIONAL CLASS NIGHT LETTERS SERVICE

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WEYL

CLASS OF SERVICE

1.74

Mrs. Bauer

WEEK END LETTERS

CABLE NIGHT LETTERS

BARTOL RESEARCH FOUNDATION
OF
THE FRANKLIN INSTITUTE

W. F. G. SWANN
Director

ADDRESS
WHITTIER PLACE
SWARTHMORE, PENNSYLVANIA

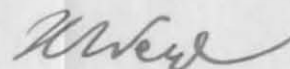
November 23, 1933

Miss Esther S. Bailey, Asst. Sec.
The Institute for Advanced Study
20 Nassau Street
Princeton, N. J.

Dear Miss Bailey:

May I ask you to keep all our mail (mine and Mrs. Weyl's), whether addressed to the Institute or to Fine Hall, after Saturday, November 25. We intend to leave Swarthmore Tuesday the 28th, in the morning.

Very truly yours,



Hermann Weyl

HW:BDW

November 14, 1933

Dear Mrs. Weyl:

I am sending you a line to tell you that Michael came to tea with us Sunday afternoon. I know you will be glad to have my assurance of the fact that he is well, happy, and, as far as I can make out, not the least homesick. There were a number of persons present, and Mrs. Flexner and I were greatly struck by his modesty as well as his humor. He told us that he had witnessed a football game the day before and even undertook to explain the mysteries of football to me - a subject which I understand as little as I do your husband's mathematics. Michael had learned more from witnessing one game than I have picked up all my life.

I hope that you and Professor Weyl are happy and comfortable at Swarthmore. We look forward eagerly to the time when you will join us here.

With warm regards to Professor Weyl and Joachim,

Sincerely yours,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Mrs. Hermann Weyl
Bartol Foundation Institute
Swarthmore, Pennsylvania

AP:ESB

November 9, 1933

Professor Hermann Weyl
Bartol Foundation Institute
Swarthmore, Pennsylvania

My dear Professor Weyl:

A registered package for you from
Dr. H. Heesch, Gaußstrasse 18, Göttingen, marked
"Einschreiben", has been received here at 20 Nassau
Street. As it is quite large, I shall keep it
here for you unless you advise me otherwise.

Very truly yours,

ESTHER S. BAILEY
Assistant Secretary

1228 A

Charge to the account of _____ INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY _____ \$ _____

CLASS OF SERVICE DESIRED	
DOMESTIC	CABLE
TELEGRAM	FULL RATE
DAY LETTER	DEFERRED
NIGHT MESSAGE	NIGHT LETTER
NIGHT LETTER	WEEK END LETTER

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WESTERN UNION

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NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT J. C. WILLEVER, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

Send the following message, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

(October 19, 1933)

Weyl
SS LACONIA

Have written you letter care Cunard Line Boston

Please be sure to get it

Veblen

3.99

SERVICE DESIRED	
DOMESTIC	FOREIGN
TELEGRAM	FULL RATE CABLE
DAY LETTER	DEFERRED CABLE
NIGHT MESSAGE	NIGHT CABLE LETTER
NIGHT LETTER	WEEK-END CABLE LETTER
SHIP RADIOGRAM	RADIOGRAM

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TIME FILED

STANDARD TIME

Send the following message, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

Form 1

To Weyl 193
care Scherrer
Rislingstrasse 8
Zurich

~~Board voted yesterday to begin your salary December first~~ ~~Warmest~~

~~greetings~~

~~Fleming~~

(Charge Institute for Advanced Study
October 10, 1933)

259

October 10, 1933

VD 811.111 Weyl, Hermann

Hon. William Phillips
Department of State
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Phillips:

Your assistant was good enough to write me under date of October 7 that the Consul General at Zurich has made all the arrangements which I requested in connection with Professor Weyl and his family. Professor Weyl himself has cabled me his appreciation of your kindness and has asked me to notify the State Department that he has changed his sailing and will leave Liverpool on the S.S. Laconia on October 14.

With deep appreciation,

Sincerely yours,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

AF:ESB

Zürich, Eidg. Techn. Hochschule

den 9. Oktober 1933.

An den Herrn Minister für

Wissenschaft, Kunst und Volksbildung

durch den Herrn Kurator der Universität

G ö t t i n g e n

Kuratorium Franz Seldte Str.

10/9/33

Sehr geehrter Herr Minister,

Von Neuem ist mir eine Professor für Mathematik am Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton New Jersey, U.S.A., auf 1. Januar 1934 angeboten worden. Die Stellung ist in wissenschaftlicher und wirtschaftlicher Hinsicht weitaus günstiger als die, welche ich in Göttingen bekleide. Ich bin im Begriff, das Angebot anzunehmen und bitte darum, den mir für den Monat November gewährten Amerika-Urlaub auf Dezember auszudehnen und mich auf Jahresende aus meiner Stellung als o. Professor der Mathematik in Göttingen (und den damit verbundenen Nebenämtern) zu entlassen. Ich bin bereit, auf alle Gehalts- und Pensions-Ansprüche von diesem Zeitpunkte an zu verzichten - sobald die Entlassung bewilligt ist und der Uebersiedlung meiner Familie und Habe nach Amerika nichts mehr im Wege steht.

Für die Zeit meiner Beurlaubung bitte ich, wie im November, Herrn Priv. Doz. Dr. F. K. Schmidt, Erlangen, mit meiner Vertretung zu beauftragen. Die Entscheidung darüber, wer die Leitung des Mathematischen Instituts zu übernehmen hat, die mir im vergangenen Semester interimistisch anvertraut war, muss ich dem Herrn Minister überlassen.

- 2 -

Den bereits einmal an mich ergangenen Ruf hatte ich Anfang Januar dieses Jahres schliesslich abgelehnt. Doch war damals meine Entschlusskraft gelähmt durch eine ernste Depression, die zum Teil ausgelöst war durch den Konflikt zwischen der klaren Erkenntnis, dass die Stellung in Princeton für meine wissenschaftliche Tätigkeit unvergleichlich viel günstiger ist als Göttingen, und der Liebe, die mich mit jeder Faser meines Herzens an die deutsche Sprache bindet. Dass ich in Göttingen fehl am Platze bin, ist mir sehr bald aufgegangen, als ich im Herbst 1930 nach 17-jähriger Tätigkeit an der Eidg. Technischen Hochschule Zürich dorthin als Nachfolger von Hilbert übersiedelte. Die Entscheidung ist für mich jetzt völlig eindeutig, namentlich durch die Rücksicht auf meine Frau, welche jüdischer Abstammung ist, und auf die seelische Gesundheit und die Lebenszukunft meiner Kinder. Da nach den neuen Gesetzen Arier als Staatsbeamte unerwünscht sind, die eine Nicht-Arierin zur Frau haben, hoffe ich, dass das Ministerium meinen Entschluss billigen und die dadurch hervorgerufene Entlastung der Situation in Göttingen begrüssen wird.

Auch in Amerika werde ich, wie ich es früher in der Schweiz getan habe, Deutschland und dem deutschen Geiste dienen nach bestem Wissen und Gewissen. Ich kann nicht anders als wünschen, dass die neuen Wege, welche die gegenwärtige Regierung beschritten hat, das deutsche Volk zu Gesundheit und Aufstieg führen mögen. Infolge der (meiner Ueberzeugung nach) unglückseligen Verquickung mit dem Antisemitismus ist es mir persönlich versagt, direkt und in Deutschland selbst mit Hand anzulegen. Und ich schätze mich glücklich, in dem

- 5 -

Augenblick, da in Deutschland die Universitäten eine grundsätzliche Umstellung erfahren, mich einem Forschungs-Institut zu verbinden, dessen Einrichtung nicht zum Wenigsten auf das Vorbild der deutschen Universität alten Stils zurückgeht.

Da das Amerikanische State Department von meiner Angelegenheit in Kenntnis gesetzt ist, bitte ich, durch das Auswärtige Amt auch die Deutsche Botschaft in Washington verständigen zu wollen. Es liegt mir daran, mit den deutschen Kreisen in Amerika Fühlung zu behalten.

Von diesem Brief habe ich eine Abschrift dem Rektor, dem Dekan der Mathematisch-Naturwissenschaftlichen Fakultät und der Deutschen Studentenschaft an der Universität Göttingen zugestellt, - der letzteren, weil sie sich im vorigen Jahre besonders warm für mein Bleiben in Göttingen einsetzte.

Die zeitlich längst festgesetzten Vorträge in Swarthmore zwingen mich, in den nächsten Tagen nach Amerika abzureisen. Darum war es mir leider unmöglich, dieses Gesuch persönlich in Berlin vorzubringen, und darüber mit dem Ministerium Rücksprache zu nehmen.

Für eine rasche Antwort wäre ich dankbar unter der
Adresse

c/o Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton New Jersey
U.S.A.

(Kabel Adresse: Vanstitute, Princeton, New Jersey.)

Hochachtungsvoll

(Sgn) Dr. Hermann Weyl

CLASS OF SERVICE DESIRED	
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NIGHT MESSAGE	NIGHT CABLE LETTER
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RECEIVER'S NUMBER
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TIME FILED
STANDARD TIME

Send the following message, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

Form 1

To _____ 193

Weyl
 Care Scherrer
 Rislingstrasse 8
 Zurich

All very happy Will arrange with State Department and meet boat

Glueckliche Reise

Flemer

Oct. 8

2-5-9

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are sent by Western Union!

The senders of one hundred million
telegrams annually can't be wrong!

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LCO = Deferred Cable
NLT = Cable Night Letter
WLT = Week-End Letter

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J. C. WILLEVER, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

The filing time as shown in the date line on full-rate telegrams and day letters, and the time of receipt at destination as shown on all messages, is STANDARD TIME.

Received at Lower Pine Bldg., Princeton, N. J.

SEP 7 PM 1 14

NAE69 CABLE=ZUERICH 24 7

NLT FLEXNER=

=VANSTITUTE PRINCETONNJ=

MINUTES IN TRANSIT	
FULL-RATE	DAY LETTER

ACCEPT FORMALLY YOUR INVITATION FROM SEPTEMBER 7th
VEENDAM ANNULLED SAILING LACONIA LIVERPOOL FOURTEENTH
PLEASE NOTIFY STATE DEPARTMENT AND VEBLEN=
WEYL.

THE QUICKEST, SUREST AND SAFEST WAY TO SEND MONEY IS BY TELEGRAPH OR CABLE

Weyl

ADDRESS OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS TO
THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON, D. C.



DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

In reply refer to
VD 811.111 Weyl, Hermann

October 7, 1933

My dear Doctor Flexner:

I am now in receipt of a cablegram from the American Consul General at Zurich, regarding the case of Professor Herman Weyl and his family, concerning which you called at the Department on September 23, 1933.

The Consul General states that Professor Weyl and his family will complete their applications for immigration visas on October 9, 1933, and that they plan to sail for the United States on October 14th on the Steamship VEENDAM.

Sincerely yours,

Assistant to the Under Secretary.

Doctor Abraham Flexner,
Institute of Advanced Study,
20 Nassau Street,
Princeton, New Jersey.

Princeton, N. J.
122 Nassau St.
Phone 10

STANDARD TIME
INDICATED ON THIS MESSAGE

Postal Telegraph

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DL	DAY LETTER
NL	NIGHT LETTER
NM	NIGHT MESSAGE
LCO	DEFERRED CABLE
NLT	NIGHT CABLE LETTER
WLT	WEEK END CABLE LETTER
	RADIOGRAM

Form
1

.R3 26 CABLE=N ZUERICH 25 NFT

NLT FLEXNER

VANSTITUTE=PRINCETONNJ=

1933 SEP 26 AM 8 39

THANKS FOR ALL YOUR ASSISTANCE IMMIGRATION PRESENTS NO DIFFICULTY

SHALL WIRE FORMAL ACCEPTANCE AS SOON FAMILY IS SAFELY OUT OF

GERMANY=

WEYL

Postal Telegraph



Telephone Your Telegrams to **Postal Telegraph**

September 26, 1933 \$

Commercial Cables

THE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM

FULL RATE MESSAGE UNLESS OTHERWISE MARKED

FULL RATE	DEFERRED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
URGENT	PREFERRED	<input type="checkbox"/>
NIGHT CABLE LETTER		<input type="checkbox"/>

Sender should mark with an X the class of service desired

Postal
Telegraph



All America
Cables

Mackay

Radio

SEND THE FOLLOWING TELEGRAM SUBJECT TO THE TERMS ON BACK HEREOF, WHICH ARE HEREBY AGREED TO:

ADDRESS: 67 BROAD STREET, NEW YORK

Weyl
c/o Scherrer
Risingstrasse 8
Zurich


Delighted ^{with} cable Will you need diplomatic assistance to remove your household goods Cable

Flexner

1.71

Records of the Office of the Director / Faculty Files / Box 37 / Weyl, Hermann 1932-1933
From the Shelby White and Leon Levy Archives Center, Institute for Advanced Study, IAS

Copy of letter of appointment?

POSTAL TELEGRAPH - COMMERCIAL		LAWRENCE H. MACKAY, PRESIDENT	
CABLEGRAM		TELEGRAMS TO ALL AMERICA	CABLEGRAMS TO ALL THE WORLD
			
INDICATE CLASS OF CABLEGRAM BY X <input type="checkbox"/> ORDINARY <input type="checkbox"/> PREFERRED <input type="checkbox"/> DEFERRED <input type="checkbox"/> CABLE LETTER <input type="checkbox"/> WEEK END LETTER INDICATE CLASSIFICATION IN CHECK IF OTHER THAN ORDINARY SERVICE		CHECK _____ TIME FILED _____ ROUTE VIA _____	

Send the following Cablegram, subject to the terms and conditions printed on the back hereof, which are hereby agreed to. 14

_____ 192

To Weyl
Care Scherrer
Rislingstrasse 8
Zurich (Switzerland)

_____ 192

Have been advised by State Department that you and your family should apply to American Consul Zurich for immigration visas. Consul will advise you regarding documents to be presented if available. Show him cable and letter of your appointment to Institute for Advanced Study. Cable me if any difficulty arises. State Department is also telegraphing Consul.

Flaxner

4.13

The sender will please read the conditions on back and sign name and address thereon for reference.
 The Postal Company's system reaches all important points in the United States and British America, and via Commercial Cables, all the world.

Records of the Office of the Director / Faculty Files / Box 37 / Weyl, Hermann 1932-1933
From the Shelby White and Leon Levy Archives Center, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ, USA

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FULL-RATE	
HALF-RATE DEFERRED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CABLE LETTER	
WEEK-END LETTER	
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NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT

J. C. WILLEVER, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

NO.	CASH OR CHG.
CHECK	
TIME FILED	

Send the following message, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

19

To Weyl
Care Scherrer
Rislingstrasse 8
Zurich (Switzerland)

Have cabled money as requested Please wire

me kind of diplomatic assistance you need

Flemer

(Charge Institute for Advanced Study
 September 21, 1933)

3.41

CLARENCE H. MACKAY, PRESIDENT

CABLEGRAM

TELEGRAMS
TO ALL
AMERICA



CABLEGRAMS
TO ALL THE
WORLD

INDICATE CLASS OF CABLEGRAM BY X

ORDINARY	
PREFERRED	
DEFERRED	
CABLE LETTER	
WEEK END LETTER	

INDICATE CLASSIFICATION IN CHECK
IF OTHER THAN ORDINARY SERVICE

CHECK

TIME FILED

ROUTE VIA

Send the following Cablegram, subject to the terms and conditions printed on the back hereof, which are hereby agreed to.

14

192

To Weyl
N Torbolesulgarda

Will cable money Please wire me kind of
diplomatic assistance you need Greetings

Flexner

(Charge Institute for Advanced Study
September 19, 1933)

2.79

The sender will please read the conditions on back and sign name and address thereon for reference.

The Postal Company's system reaches all important points in the United States and British America, and via Commercial Cables, all the world.

Princeton, N. J.
122 Nassau St.
Phone 10

STANDARD TIME
INDICATED ON THIS MESSAGE

Postal Telegraph

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WLT	WEEK END CABLE LETTER
	RADIOGRAM

Form
16

R7 40 CABLE=N TORBOLESULGARDA 18

NLT FLEXNER:

=VANSTITUTE PRINCETON NJ=

SHALL APPLY TO CONSULATE ZURICH FOR IMMIGRATION WHOLE FAMILY
AFTER GETTING YOUR INVITATION IS DIPLOMATIC ASSISTANCE BY CABLE
POSSIBLE PLEASE ADVANCE ONE THOUSAND DOLLAR CABLE BANKERS JULIUS
BAER CO ZURICH QUIET AND HAPPY JOURS:

=WEYL.

Telephone Your Telegrams to **Postal Telegraph**



RECEIVED AT
976 LEXINGTON AVE.
Butterfield 8-0512
STANDARD TIME
INDICATED ON THIS MESSAGE

Postal Telegraph

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NL	NIGHT LETTER
NM	NIGHT MESSAGE
LCO	DEFERRED CABLE
NLT	NIGHT CABLE LETTER
WLT	WEEK END CABLE LETTER
	RADIOGRAM

Form 16

NA7 13 2 EXTRA=SELVA VA GARDENA VIA PRINCETON NJ 809A SEP 9 1933=

:FLEXNER=

150 EAST 72 ST=

WARMEST THANKS FOR YOUR CONFIDENCE HOPE FOR LONG AND HAPPY

COLLABORATION=

:WEYL.

836A



Telephone Your Telegrams to Postal Telegraph

September 7, 1933

Dear Professor Weyl:

On behalf of the Executive Committee of the Institute for Advanced Study, which has complete power of action, I submit to you the following invitation to become a professor in the School of Mathematics of the Institute. Should I receive your acceptance, this letter constitutes a binding contract.

1. Your duties as professor will begin January 1, 1934.

2. Your salary beginning January 1, 1934, will be \$15,000 a year, of which you will pay to the Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association of America 5%, the Institute for Advanced Study contributing an equal sum monthly, which, as you will understand, amounts to an increase of your salary by that sum. The accumulations of these two sums will be used towards paying you a retiring allowance of \$8,000 a year, retirement to begin at the age of 65, unless your term of appointment is prolonged by mutual consent.

3. In addition, the Institute will pay you the sum of \$1,500 a year in order that you may insure your life for the benefit of your wife, Helene Weyl, and your children.

You will notice that this provision differs from the provisions contained in my letter of December 7, 1932. We had supposed, when the former letter was written, that we could arrange a pension to your wife, Helene Weyl, during her widowhood through the Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association of America. This has turned out to be impracticable. We have therefore provided a sum adequate to procure insurance which will give your wife, Helene Weyl, and your children a comfortable sum in the event of your death. In my opinion, this is a distinct improvement, since it protects your children as well as your wife, Helene Weyl.

4. You will be provided with a personal assistant of your own choosing.

In my opinion, you will find that the salary and other additions offered are far in excess of those paid in other institutions in the United States of, as far

I know, elsewhere. The sum of \$1,500 to be paid annually to you in addition to your salary and the 5% thereof will more than make up for the other items which have been omitted in this present contract. The omission is due to the fact that in addition to the reasons above mentioned bearing upon Mrs. Weyl's pension we have found that professors require such different allowances that it imposes upon the Institute too great a responsibility to attempt to make so many specific provisions. As I have said above, in your case I feel sure that the total amount offered, namely, \$17,250, will ultimately prove to be actually in excess of the various special sums mentioned in our previous correspondence.

I can assure you that you will be welcomed with the utmost cordiality by those who will be associated with you as colleagues and trustees. I am certain also that you will understand that we are endeavoring to make the Institute a paradise for scholars and that salaries and other allowances have been made on a liberal basis in order that members of the faculty may be absolutely freed from the necessity of endeavoring to earn money in any other way. I think I need not say that, while you and your associates are free to write or give scientific lectures, we are endeavoring wholly to eliminate the profit motive, multiple professorships, summer school engagements, etc., all of which are more or less common in America, in the hope that the long vacations may be utilized for rest, recreation, and such work as you choose to carry on. This policy has been pursued by the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research and in a few other instances with such success that they are beyond doubt the happiest possible places for scholars and scientists. You will thus enjoy absolute academic freedom, and I feel certain that you can be counted on to promote heartily and unreservedly the high spirit and purpose, for which this institution has been founded.

Should you accept, I hope that your wife and children will regard Princeton as your home, but of course you are perfectly free to go elsewhere, should a finer opportunity present itself. In the event that you should resign to accept a post elsewhere, your accumulations up to that date in the Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association of America remain your property. The other obligations enumerated in

this letter on the part of the Institute, however, would cease.

I realize that in leaving Germany you are leaving much that is irreplaceable, but I can assure you that in coming to America you and your wife and children will enjoy opportunities such as are under existing circumstances not to be found elsewhere.

I have communicated to Veblen that you have been invited to come to the Institute and to him alone, and with the strictest injunction not to mention the fact to anyone, for I realize that you might be seriously embarrassed if the acceptance of this invitation were known in Germany before you and your family reached America. I shall therefore make no announcement of your acceptance, in case you do accept, until you yourself ask me to do so. Let me add in conclusion that, if you need any sum of money in order to make the change in moving to America, I shall be happy myself to advance it.

I am, with very high regard and very best wishes for you and your family,

Sincerely yours,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

P.S.

I have underscored the cable address on page 1, in case you wish to cable.

A.P.

Herrn Prof. Dr. H. Weyl
c/o Prof. Dr. P. Scherrer
Rislingstrasse 8
Zürich, Switzerland

AF:ESB

P.S. #2 September 8

Since dictating the above, I have received your cable, and I am happy to express my own gratification and to feel that you and your family are relieved of all future anxiety.

I shall let Veblen alone know that I have heard from you - no one else, until you ask me to make an announcement.

Fast Cablegram
(September 8, 1933)

Weyl
Hotel Post
Selva
Val Gardena
Province Bolzano (Italy)

Cabled you yesterday care Scherrer Zurich

Dresden telephoned today your present address

care Scherrer
Mailing you invitation/to
Confidential

become professor in Institute permanently after Swarthmore / Can advance

any money you require Warmest greetings My cable address Vanstitute

Princeton New Jersey

Flemer

Weyl
Care Scherrer
Rislingstrasse 8
Zurich (Switzerland)

Am writing you today care Scherrer new invitation to
permanently
join Institute/after Swarthmore Very confidential

Flexner

(Charge A. Flexner
160 E. 72nd Street
New York City)
September 6, 1933

Te ra, Val Gardena, Prov. Bolzano,
Hotel Post, d. 27. Aug. 33.

Verehrter Herr Flexner,

Kundlich bin ich in der Lage Ihnen antwor-
ten und danken zu können für alles, was Sie
in der verflochtenen Zeit für mich haben und
nun zu dem im Begriffe sind. Ihr letztes Tele-
gramm war für mich eine große Freude und
Beruhigung. Aber natürlich bleibt es mir klar,
dass nach dem, was ich angebracht habe, die Ent-
scheidung der Trustees mit einem Faktor der
Unsicherheit behaftet bleibt. Ich habe ~~zu~~ nichts
und übernehme keine bei anderer Verpflichtung,
sei es auch nur auf Zeit, bevor diese Entschei-
dung nicht gefallen ist. Sollten Sie es für
günstiger halten, mit einem Antrag an die
Trustees erst heranzutreten und einer persönli-
chen Rücksprache im Oktober, so will ich mit
gerne in diesem Aufschub finden. Meine Abreise
ist für den 5. Oktober geplant. Die Kinder lassen
ich, während wir in Amerika sind, unter
keinen Umständen in Deutschland.

Hier in Salvo besuche ich meinen Freund
Born, der schon seit Mei Göttingen verlesen
hat und nun, ohne weitere Maßnahmen

der Regierung abzuwarten, seine Stelle endgültig
niedergelegt hat. Er übernimmt eine Lectureship
in Cambridge, England. Es wird Sie
interessieren zu erfahren, daß auch Courant
in diesen Tagen ein gleiches Angebot erhalten
hat und es annehmen wird. Er und Frau
waren vor einer Woche in Konstantinopel, um
sich über den Aufruf der türkischen Universität
dort ein Urteil zu bilden, an die 43 benannten
deutschen Gelehrten beruflich werden sollen. Obwohl
Frauch als Courant sehen die Verhältnisse dort
nicht als so günstig an, daß sie eine permanente
Stellung in Istanbul annehmen möchten, wohl
aber eine sich jährlich wiederholende Gast-
einladung auf kürzere Zeit. - Im Frühjahr
schrieb ich Ihnen, daß ich anders empfände
als Frauch. Freigewillig ist es ganz zu meiner
Meinung übergeben und findet es auch völlig
unmöglich, in dem verücht gewordenen Deutsch-
land zu bleiben. Ungewöhnlich schmerzhaft ist es
dennoch für uns, das eigene Land und
Volk, das doch im Kerne das gleiche geliebt
ist, von byzantinischen Raubrittern auf solche
Froppade gelockt zu sehen. Aber was können
nicht helfen. Ich weiß, daß in der nächsten
Zeit auch Physiker ersten Ranges, die weder

durch Rasse noch politisch exponiert sind, ihre Stellung in Deutschland niedriger werden, weil sie die Situation für die Wissenschaft für unmöglich halten.

Dies Semester kämpfte im ungewöhnlichen Maß von Arbeit und Verantwortung auf mich. Auf der einen Seite musste ich versuchen, im Kampf mit der besten Voraussetzung der Mathematische Fakultät arbeitsfähig zu erhalten, auf der anderen Seite musste ich meinen von der Entwicklung am härtesten betroffenen Göttinger Freunden bestehen. Grewent hat zunächst mit großer Fähigkeit für eine Stellung in Göttingen gekämpft, ist aber jetzt auch entschlossen, sich unabhängig von dem Entscheid der Regierung (der wahrscheinlich günstig für ihn ausstellen würde) niederzuliegen. Er kann (so wenig wie ich) von seiner Kinder willen in Deutschland bleiben. Ich habe die Kämpfe und Arbeiten dieses Semesters gut überstanden, und die Dinge sind jetzt ein Wärgen für meine Erholung. Gesundheit und Lebensfreude können in solchem Maße wieder in mich ein, dass ich das Gefühl habe, als würde ich zum zweiten Male jung. Die Krise ist gründlich überwunden, und es ist nicht zu befürchten, dass etwas dergleichen wiederkehrt.

Ich hoffe, daß Ihre kanadische Wild-
nis auf die Wiederherstellung Ihrer Gesund-
heit, welcher Herr Fleener, einen äußerst
wohlthuenden Einfluss hat!

Während des anstrengenden Semesters habe
ich meine Gedanken wenig auf das Justitiale
richten können. Ich wünsche nichts Schöneres,
als daß ich so bald zum so angiebiger sein
kann!

Die Post für mich geht am besten nach wie
vor durch Herrn Schwers Hände, da meine
Adresse wechselnd sein wird. Doch möchte
ich, wenn irgend möglich, nicht nach Göttingen
zurückkehren, bevor ich von Ihnen neue Nach-
richt habe.

In ~~der~~ Zeiten wie diesen bewährt sich Fremd-
schaft. Ich bin dankbar dafür, daß wir mehr
Männer wie Jaeger und Keller als Freunde
zur Seite stehen. Und ich bin glücklich, daß
ich nach wie vor auch auf Ihre Freundschaft
zählen darf!

Mit den besten Wünschen für die Fortschritt
Ihrer Genesung, in Dankbarkeit und Verehrung

Ihr Albert

Verbanlich.

Bitte
antworten Sie
A. Flexner.

Herrn Dr. Abraham Flexner,
Director of the Institute for Advanced Study,
100 East 42nd St. ^{2. Stock}
New York. 4/24/33

Reschtes Herr Dr. Flexner,

Den mir in Ihrem freundlichen Telegramm in Aussicht gestellten Brief werde ich wohl erst in Göttingen erhalten. Ich möchte Ihnen aber vorher noch einmal von hier aus schreiben.

Was sich in Deutschland ereignet hat, ist für meine Familie, insbesondere meine Kinder so verhängnisvoll und für mich selbst so bedrohlich*, daß ich vor meiner Rückkehr festzustellen wünsche, ob ich trotz allem Vorgegangenem noch die Möglichkeit hatte, sofort nach Princeton ans Institute überzusiedeln. Ich hoffe, Sie haben dies in Anbetracht der außerordentlichen Umstände begriffen. Da ich seit September vorigen Jahres fest mit meinem Weggang von Göttingen gerechnet und über meine Tätigkeit dort entsprechend disponiert hatte, wäre dies von mir an ohne Verletzung meiner Pflichten gegen das Mathematische Institut Göttingen, gegen Schüler und Kollegen möglich gewesen.

Nun muss ich zurück. Aber es steht für mich

* Für die Neutralität der jetzt in Deutschland allein herrschenden Partei ist es kennzeichnend, daß sie 1930 im Reichstagsbeamtenfrage, eine Ehe wie die meine, als Reservenhandels mit Zuchtthaus nicht unter 15 Jahren zu bestrafen!

fest, daß ich Alles versuchen muss, mir außer-
halb Deutschlands eine Existenz, meinen Kindern
eine neue Heimat zu schaffen. Ich empfinde
da anders als Prof. Franck, so sehr ich seine Hand-
lungswaise bewundere; vielleicht grad weil ich
„deutschblütig“ bin, empört sich mein Gefühl
dagegen, unter Volksgenossen zu leben, die meinen
nächsten Angehörigen solches antun.

Bietet sich nicht grade Fleurer, verstorben
Her Fleurer, die Möglichkeit, deutsche Akade-
miker, die jetzt ihre Stelle verlieren, durch ein
Zusammenwirken der Universitäten mit Finanz-
leuten in Amerika unterzubringen? Natürlich haben
Sie auch die furchtbare Wirtschaftskrise im Land.
Aber hier liegt wohl doch eine nie wiederkehrende
Gelegenheit vor, einzelne ausgezeichnete Kräfte,
namentlich unter den am schwersten betroffenen
jungen Leuten, Amerika zu verpflichten. Und in
Deutschland sind freilich die Hände so gebunden,
daß wir dabei gar nicht mitwirken können. Und
ich muss Sie sogar bitten, auf diese Anregung in
einer ev. brieflichen Antwort nicht einzugehen.

Voller Versicherung

Ihr ergebener
H. Weyl

DEFERRED CABLEGRAM (JULY 26, 1933)

Weyl
care Zangger
Zurichbergstrasse 8
Zurich (Switzerland)

Have conferred with Aydelotte who as Chairman of
Executive Committee of Institute will call meeting middle September
Will communicate with you by cable immediately thereafter

Flexner

Deferred Cablegram (July 21, 1933)

Weyl
care Zangger
Zurichbergstrasse 8
Zurich (Switzerland)

Cable received President Aydelotte visits me here
next week Will communicate with you after conferring with him Warmest
greetings

Flexner

Cable

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Send the following message, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

To *A. Flemer* *Magnetawan* *July 17 1933*

Urlaub fuer Swarthmore Bewilligt
Richte mich in allen nach Ihrem
rat und plan brief an verblen
unterwegi *Weyl.*

April 27, 1933

Dear Professor Weyl:

I cabled you on April 13 that I would write you, but unfortunately immediately thereafter I was called out of town and on returning had to prepare for the final Board meeting of the year, so that not until this morning have I been in position to make good my promise to write.

Immediately on receiving your letter I telephoned President Aydelotte and urged him to renew the invitation to you to come to America this coming autumn or winter. He has informed me that he has renewed the invitation and that you have accepted it. Meanwhile, Veblen and I have exchanged letters and discussed the situation of the Institute. When you come to America in the autumn, we shall have an excellent chance to talk over the future possibilities. I am sure you will understand why I do not now go into any details. Be assured of my continued confidence, admiration, and respect, and believe me, with all good wishes for you and your family,

Very sincerely yours,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

P.S.

Since dictating the above I have had a letter from Professor Zangger, which makes practically the suggestion which President Aydelotte has made, namely, that you should be enabled to come to America in the autumn so that we may talk things over in a quiet and leisurely way. I am very happy that we have really anticipated Professor Zangger's suggestion.

A.F.

Herrn Prof. Dr. H. Weyl
Merkelstrasse 3
Göttingen, Germany

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19

To Weyl
Merkelstrasse 3
Göttingen

Letter Lugano received Donot worry Delighted

you are better Writing

Flexner

(Institute for Advanced Study - charge to
April 13, 1933)

2.13

1. 30. März 1933.
(Adress: Göttingen, Merkelstr. 4.)

Lieber verehrter Herr Flemer,

5/30/33

Sie können kaum ermaßen, welche großen
Dienst Sie mir durch Ihr Kabel vom 10. 3. und
Ihren nachfolgenden bezüglichen Brief vom 11.
geleistet haben. Ich danke Ihnen vielmals dafür!

Die Ereignisse in Deutschland haben, wie Sie
sich denken können, meine Heilung nicht gerade
beschleunigt. Trotzdem ist die Depression jetzt über-
wunden, und ich bin zur weiteren Erholung und
Wiederherstellung des natürlichen Schlafes für kurze
Zeit in das sonnige Tessin und die friedliche Schweiz
gezoigt. Etwa am 20. April muss ich meine Tätig-
keit in Göttingen wieder aufnehmen - obwohl an
sich noch eine längere Erholung erwünscht wäre.

Vorgestern habe ich einen langen Brief an Kable,
den getreuen Freund, geschrieben über das Vergangene
und meine jetzige Einstellung; von hier kommt
ich das offener bin als von Deutschland aus. - Ich
habe durchaus zu Ihnen aus Instabilität gewollt.
Aber es überstieg meine Willenskraft in dem ge-
schwächten Zustande, in dem ich mich befand,
und ich erlag dann dem depressiven Gefühls-
druck, nicht viel anders wie einer, der die Strafe
kreuzen will, vom Automobil überfahren wird.
Nur so kann ich mich damit abfinden. Mein

Gewissen hat nachher gelitten unter dem, was ich
an Ihnen und Kehlen getan hatte; aber was ich
angerechnet habe, ist vor allem mein eigenes Unheil.
Davor bin ich jetzt mehr denn je überzeugt. Denn
in diesem Deutschland wird es für meine Frau und
mich schwer sein, zu atmen und zu arbeiten,
und dunkel sehe ich für die Zukunft meines Kin-
der. Ich beabsichtige nicht zu klagen; denn ich weiß,
dass ich solchen Schicksal mit Ungeduldeten meines Volks-
genossen teile. Aber Sie sollten doch wissen, wie ich
denke. Konviden Sie aber bitte, in strengsten Mit-
teilungen an mich jede Bezugnahme auf die poli-
tischen Dinge!

Windelband ist natürlich gegangen und wird
wieder eine Professur übernehmen. An seiner Stelle
ist als Personalreferent im preussischen Kultusmini-
sterium ein Mann gezogen, dem es als ~~seiner~~ wichtig-
ste Aufgabe erscheint, "der durch Windelbands Schuld
eingetretene Verjüngung der preussischen Hochschulen
zu steuern"!!

Welcher Reue für Ihr Institut, dass es gerade
jetzt einem wissenschaftlichen Genies wie Sie sein,
dem sein eigenes Vaterland bedroht, Zuflucht bie-
tet! Aus Kehlens Mitteilungen entnehmen ich, dass
das mathematische Department wohl nun nahezu
komplett ist. Der Einbruch von Alexander scheint mir
besonders glücklich. Ich bin froh, dass meine Ver-
bindung mit dem Institut nicht ganz unterbrochen
sein soll, - und hoffe auf eine nicht allzu fern
erwarte persönliche Begegnung mit Ihnen, hier in
this madhouse of Europe oder darüber. Bis dahin
haben Sie nochmals Danke für die gute Hand, die
Sie mir gereicht haben: Im Verehrung Ihre ergebener
Kehlen

March 11, 1933

Dear Professor Weyl:

On receipt of your kind and very thoughtful letter yesterday I cabled you at once in the hope of reassuring your mind. Please banish entirely all thought that I think unwisely of you, for such is not the case. In truth, when one considers the troubled conditions in which Germans have lived for years past, the wonder is that anyone has preserved his self-possession.

I appreciate very highly the kind words in which you speak of me, but my main concern is that you should recover your confidence in yourself and should resume your work under the most favorable conditions. Any highly organized human being might find himself caught in the maze of circumstances in which you found yourself and with precisely the same results, so please dismiss the whole matter from your mind, and believe me when I say that I count upon your friendship and cooperation and that I retain the utmost confidence in your character and learning. I am certain that in saying this I speak equally for Professor Veblen, whose attitude throughout has been kind, sympathetic, and understanding. I do hope that you will make a quick and complete recovery not only of your health but of your self-confidence for your own sake and for the sake of your family and friends and for the sake of the learned world, in which you occupy so distinguished a position.

There is really nothing for me to pardon or forgive, though if you feel

that there is, you may be sure that I have from the very beginning pardoned and understood wholly and sympathetically.

I beg you to give my greetings to your wife and children, and believe me

Sincerely your friend,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Herrn Prof. Dr. H. Weyl

Büchenstr. 4

Berlin W., Germany

AF:ESB

Princeton, N.J., Princeton St. 4,
d. 24. Februar 1933.

Persönlich!

2/24/33

Respektvoller Herr Dr. Fleener!

Sie waren der gütigste Mensch, der je in
meinem Leben eingetreten ist. Und an Ihnen
musste ich so handeln! Ich versichere Sie, daß
es nicht geschehen wäre, wenn ich gesund
gewesen wäre.

Gewiss hatten Sie mich durch Ihr groß-
herziges Angebot vor einem inneren Konflikt
und einer schweren Entscheidung gestellt.
Näherkam, daß ich selbst mich in einer
Lebenskrise befand. Was ich aber nicht er-
kannt habe, war, daß ich ernstlich an ner-
vöser Erschöpfung erkrankt war, die des
Arztes bedurfte. Das letzte verhängnisvolle
Telegramm an Sie war nur eine Phase des
vollen Zusammenbruchs, der mit seinen De-
pressionen und Angstzuständen jedes Vertrauen
in mich selbst zerstörte, jede ^{ti}fruitive Lähmung
und - indem ich mich so gänzlich außerstande
fühlte, das zu tun, wozu ich mich verpflichtet
habe - auch alle Vernunft und Flehen gegen-

über eingegangene Bindungen mit sich fort-
riss. Seither bin ich unfähig, meine Tätig-
keit in Göttingen auszuüben, und befinde
mich in Behandlung von Prof. Borchoeffler,
Berlin.

Da ich noch mitten in der Krankheit
stehe, kann ich jetzt noch nicht beurtei-
len, was mit mir geschehen ist. Ich fürchte
aber, daß diese Krankheit, die meine Ver-
bindung mit Ihnen und Ihr Vertrauen zu
mir erschüttert hat, für meine Familie
und mich zur Katastrophe wird.

Ihren Werke, hoffe ich bestimmt, hat
mein Verhalten nicht geschadet. Bitte meck
das, was geschehen ist, nicht ungeschehen.
Dennoch wäre es mir eine Linderung, wenn
ich wüßte, daß Sie persönlich mir verzeihen.

In großer Verehrung

Ihr
H. Weyl

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To Weyl
Buchenstrasse 4
Berlin W

Be assured that I entertain nothing but the kindest and most sympathetic feelings for you in your illness and that I understand thoroughly everything stop You have lost nothing in my regard or in the regard of your American colleagues Do not worry Hope you may regain your health and strength promptly Heartiest greetings

Flexner

(Charge Institute for Advanced Study
March 10, 1933)

ABRAHAM FLEXNER
\$ 3.76

3/10/33

January 13, 1933

Dear Professor Weyl:

I confess that I was amazed by your cablegram of yesterday following the cablegram in which you had committed yourself "irrevocably". On the other hand, I have not the slightest desire to hold you against your will and wish. Our negotiations are therefore terminated and cancelled, and I have so cabled you.

Inasmuch as the Board ratified your appointment, we shall have to go through the formality of accepting your resignation, which is a mere matter of record, but permits no subsequent change of mind on your part. This can be done when the Executive Committee meets in the near future.

Sincerely yours,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Herrn Prof. Dr. H. Weyl
Merkelstrasse 3
Göttingen, Germany

AF:ESB

INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY (Jan. 13, 1933)

X

Weyl
Merkelstrasse 3
Göttingen

1/13/33

Resignation accepted Please regard matter as
confidential until you receive my letter written today Am returning your
letter of third unopened

Flemer

\$ 3.38
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VERZWEIFLE IMMER WIEDER AN MEINER EIGNUNG KUER INSTITUT MEIN
WIRKEN AN MUTTERSPRACHE GEBUNDEN OEFFNEN SIE BRIEF VOM
DRITTEN GEBEN SIE MICH FREI WENN NOCH MOEGLICH,

WEYL.

1/12

INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY (J. 5, 1933)

x

1/5

Weyl
Merkelstrasse 3
Göttingen

Doctor Flexner absent from city Will return Saturday

morning

Bailey Secretary

93.75¹⁰ tax

INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY (Jan 10, 1933)

X

Weyl
Merkelstrasse 3
Göttingen

Cable received Very happy that you accept Will make
public announcement this coming week Will return letter unopened as requested

Warmest regards

Flexner

6.7⁵
,10 d 6

INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY (Jan. 3, 1933)

Weyl
Merkelstrasse 3
Göttingen

Both cables received Please consider my letters annulled
Thoroughly understand your feelings Best wishes for happiness of yourself
and family

Flexner

9 6 25
.10
LH

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SCHREIBE,

WEYL.

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DASS DIE PENSION AUCH BEZAHLT WIRD IM FALLE EINES VORZEITIG
DURCH KRANKHEIT ERZWUNGENEN RUECKTRITTS

WEYL

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NLT VANSTITUTE NEWYORK, INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY, 100 EAST 42ND ST.

ZWEIFEL BESIEGT STOP WENN SIE MIR NOCH VERTRAUEN UND MICH HABEN WOLLEN NEHME ICH AN DIESMAL UNWIDERRUFLICH STOP ERBITTE BRIEF VOM DRITTEN UNEROEFFNET ZURUECK,

WEYL.

INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY (Dec. 30, 1932)

X

12/30

Weyl

Merkelstrasse 3

Göttingen

Answered yours of December first on December

fourteenth Happy New Year to you and yours Writing

Flexner

\$ 1.50

+ 30¢ tax

December 30, 1932

Dear Professor Weyl:

I received this morning your cable and have replied as follows:

"Answered yours of December first on December fourteenth.
Happy New Year to you and yours. Writing."

I am not quite clear as to the meaning of your cable. In answer to your letter of December 1 I wrote you on December 14 a letter, a copy of which I enclose. I had, however, previously written you on December 7 the letter containing the contract, receipt of which your cable acknowledges. Subsequently on December 21 I wrote to you regarding my inquiries at the State Department.

Will you please let me know when you would like me to send you the remittance of 3,000 R.M., which you are to repay the Prussian Ministry?

With all good wishes for the New Year for you and your family,

Very sincerely yours,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Herrn Prof. Dr. H. Weyl
Merkelstr. 3
Göttingen, Germany

AF:BSB

750 / 3000 -
3000

3000

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call HANOVER 2920 EXTENSIONS 28 AND 29

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1932 DEC 29 PM 11 10

DW162B GOETTINGEN 20 29

NLT VANSTITUTE NEWYORK,

INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY
100 E 42ND ST

VERTRAG ERHALTEN IST ANTWORT AUF BRIEF VOM ERSTEN DEZEMBER
UNTERWEGS ? BESTE WUENSCHUE FUERS NEUE JAHR.

Contract received

WEYL.

12/29

December 21, 1932

Dear Professor Weyl:

I went to Washington Monday to make inquiry of the State Department respecting immigration and was there informed that the German quota was far from full. It would be therefore extremely simple for you to obtain entrance into America for yourself and your family on the basis of an immigrant, which will mean that no subsequent legislation can possibly disturb your status. This of course does not require you to become an American citizen. The use of the word, "immigrant", has no significance. It means the same as alien. The State Department is going to send me a letter of introduction which you can present when you apply to the American Consulate in Berlin, and I shall forward this to you within the next few days.

The Institute will be very glad to bear any expenses connected with the trip from Göttingen to Berlin for this purpose. Please let me know the amount that you expend.

You will be interested perhaps to learn that Professor James W. Alexander of Princeton has also accepted a professorship of mathematics in the Institute. We therefore have our initial nucleus in you, Professor Einstein, Professor Veblen and Professor Alexander - an eminent group with a range in point of age.

With all good wishes and very high regard,

Sincerely yours,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Herrn Prof. Dr. H. Weyl

December 14, 1932

*Not Sent
See yellow copy
Sec 13*

Dear Professor Weyl:

I received this morning your letter of December 1 as well as a letter which Professor Courant kindly wrote me of his own accord. I can understand the distinction which you draw between a purely theoretical science and an experimental science such as physics or one of the medical branches. The contact with Princeton University is so intimate that I anticipate no difficulty whatsoever in so far as your desire to deliver a regular course of lectures is concerned. On the contrary, I feel very sure that the entire Princeton group will be delighted to avail themselves of such opportunities as you may offer them in the form of a systematic course of lectures. You will be under no obligation to discharge this function so that you can vary the form of your activity from time to time to suit your own purposes and convenience. For the present and for a longer period you will work in Fine Hall, which will admirably answer your purpose.

We shall hope to issue about the first of January a brief pamphlet describing the opportunities to be offered in mathematics next year. Professor Veblen has drafted a brief paragraph covering his own work, which I enclose. I should be happy if you would do the same in order that the pamphlet may contain an announcement of this kind regarding your proposed activities. You will notice

Professor Weyl

December 14, 1932

2

that it is specifically stated that instruction may be rendered either by individual contact with students or by seminars or by courses of lectures or other methods. Thus every individual will be free to pursue the path that is adapted to his own habits of work and of thought. In addition, no member of the faculty or staff will be committed in advance to any particular method of instruction. In an institution of this character elasticity should and will prevail, and the individual himself must be the final judge as to the way in which he can make himself most useful to his science and to his students. With this point of view Professor Veblen and Dean Eisenhart are in entire agreement.

In reference to the immigration laws I have already spoken with Professor Ladenburg who tells me he encountered no difficulty whatsoever. I shall now make further inquiries from official sources so as to be certain that you will experience neither difficulty nor inconvenience.

The Institute feels itself very distinctly honored that the Faculty of Göttingen and the Prussian Ministry desire to bestow upon you the title of Honorary Professor, and I shall write Professor Courant to the same effect.

There will, I think, be no difficulty in procuring for you a comfortable house in Princeton. It has seemed better to the Trustees not to put themselves in the position of landlord to members of the faculty, but Professor and Mrs. Ladenburg assure me that they have had no difficulty in finding satisfactory quarters on satisfactory terms, and Professor Veblen is confident that you can do the same.

In the matter of an assistant my formal letter states that you are free to solve the problem for yourself. I should suggest that you look over the ground and be prepared to make a recommendation when you come to America in the spring.

You need have no feeling whatsoever that I regret in the slightest

Professor Weyl

December 14, 1932

3

degree the deliberation with which you have considered the invitation to join the Institute. On the contrary, I am very certain that in your position I should have been equally careful not to feel myself compelled to make a decision until I had thoroughly satisfied myself of the wisdom of the step contemplated. I realize from what you have told me and from what I have learned from Professor Courant and others that you are making a great sacrifice. We can compensate that sacrifice only by making every effort that is possible that you shall gain by the step you are taking. You will be permanently freed from financial concern and from the burden of excessive teaching and examination. You will be in the closest contact with Veblen and other American friends, and you will, I hope, be enabled to keep alive your associations with your German and foreign colleagues.

*Very sincere
✓ compensated
opposite*

The letter which I wrote you under date of December 7, 1932, constitutes under American law a formal contract as soon as it has been accepted by the person to whom it is addressed.

I am, with warm regard and very best wishes,

Very sincerely yours,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Herrn Prof. Dr. H. Weyl
Merkelstrasse 3
Göttingen, Germany

AF:ESB

December 14, 1932

Dear Professor Weyl:

I received this morning your letter of December 1 as well as a letter which Professor Courant kindly wrote me of his own accord. I can understand the distinction which you draw between a purely theoretical science and an experimental science such as physics or one of the medical branches. The contact with Princeton University is so intimate that I anticipate no difficulty whatsoever in so far as your desire to deliver a regular course of lectures is concerned. On the contrary, I feel very sure that the entire Princeton group will be delighted to avail themselves of such opportunities as you may offer them in the form of a systematic course of lectures. You will be under no obligation to discharge this function so that you can vary the form of your activity from time to time to suit your own purposes and convenience. For the present and for a longer period you will work in Fine Hall, which will admirably answer your purpose.

We shall hope to issue about the first of January a brief pamphlet describing the opportunities to be offered in mathematics next year. Professor Veblen has drafted a brief paragraph covering his own work, which I enclose. I should be happy if you would do the same in order that the pamphlet may contain an announcement of this kind regarding your proposed activities. You will notice

Professor Weyl

December 14, 1932

2

that it is specifically stated that instruction may be rendered either by individual contact with students or by seminars or by courses of lectures or other methods. Thus every individual will be free to pursue the path that is adapted to his own habits of work and of thought. In addition, no member of the faculty or staff will be committed in advance to any particular method of instruction. In an institution of this character elasticity should and will prevail, and the individual himself must be the final judge as to the way in which he can make himself most useful to his science and to his students. With this point of view Professor Veblen and Dean Eisenhart are in entire agreement.

In reference to the immigration laws I have already spoken with Professor Ladenburg who tells me he encountered no difficulty whatsoever. I shall now make further inquiries from official sources so as to be certain that you will experience neither difficulty nor inconvenience.

The Institute feels itself very distinctly honored that the Faculty of Göttingen and the Prussian Ministry desire to bestow upon you the title of Honorary Professor, and I shall write Professor Courant to the same effect.

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Merkelstrasse 3
Göttingen, Germany

AF:RSB

(Enclosure in letter to Professor Weyl, dated December 14, 1932)

Instruction will be given either by individual contact with students, by seminars, by courses of lectures or by other methods. Each professor will be free to follow the method which he prefers and to vary it from year to year. A mathematical club already in existence will be conducted by members of the Institute and of Princeton University.

In 1932-1933 the principal subject taken up in Professor Veblen's seminar was Modern Differential Geometry. Among the topics discussed were: the relation of generalized projective geometry to classical projective geometry; projective relativity; the theory of spinors; conformal geometry and its relation to unitary field theory. In 1933-1934 it is intended to cover a wider range of subjects. The principal subject will probably again be Differential Geometry in its relation on one side to Topology and on another to Theoretical Physics. The program cannot be fixed definitely in advance because it must conform to the direction actually taken by the studies of those who are actively participating in it.

The staff of the Institute and the staff of Princeton University will cooperate so that the opportunities of each institution will be open to students in the other without payment of additional fees. As long as the School of Mathematics occupies quarters in Fine Hall, the mathematical library in Fine Hall will be open to its use.

December 7, 1932

Dear Professor Weyl;

On behalf of the Executive Committee of the Institute for Advanced Study, which has complete power of action, I submit to you the following offer which, when I receive your acceptance, constitutes a binding contract:

1. You are invited to become a professor in the School of Mathematics in the Institute for Advanced Study beginning April 1, 1933.
2. Your salary beginning April 1, 1933, will be \$15,000 a year, of which you will pay to the Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association of America 5%, the Institute for Advanced Study contributing an equal sum monthly. The accumulations of these two sums will be used towards paying you a retiring allowance of \$8,000 a year, retirement to begin at the age of 65, unless your term of appointment is prolonged by mutual consent, and a pension of \$5,000 a year will be paid to your wife, Helene Weyl, during her widowhood, should she survive you.
3. Your appointment holds to the date of your retirement, in so far as the Institute is concerned, but you will be free at any time to accept any other offer that may be made to you from any other institution of learning, provided only that you conclude your services with the Institute for Advanced Study during the current year. In the event of your accepting a post in any other institution, the sum which has been accumulated in the Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association of America belongs to you and not to the Institute.
4. You will be provided with a personal assistant precisely as Professor Einstein and Professor Veblen have been so provided.
5. The Institute will pay annually the sum of \$300 for your younger son as long as he studies at a high school or a Gymnasium and a sum of \$1,000 a year towards the university education of either son

Professor Weyl

December 7, 1933

2

or both sons, should they attend a university, for a period of five years. In case of the death of both parents the children will each receive yearly a pension of \$1,000 up to their twenty-fifth year.

6. The Institute will pay your moving expenses to the United States, and it will reimburse the Prussian Government to the extent of 3,000 R.M.
7. The Institute will undertake to assist you in every possible way in making arrangements for your immigration to the United States.
8. In case you are liable to double income taxation, the Institute will pay the American tax.
9. I am now preparing a second bulletin which will shortly be issued. In this bulletin it will be stated that the professors shall carry on their work in their own way through personal contact with students, seminars, or lectures (Vorlesungen), as they may see fit.

I may say to you in behalf of myself, the members of the Board of Trustees, and Professor Veblen, whom I have consulted, that we are all delighted that you have decided to accept our invitation and that we shall do everything in our power to make you and your family happy.

Very sincerely yours,

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AF:ESB

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Professor Weyl

December 7, 1932

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Very sincerely yours,

Herrn Prof. Dr. H. Weyl
Merkelstrasse 3
Göttingen, Germany

AF:ESB

INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY (December 5, 1932)

X

Weyl
Merkelstrasse 3
Göttingen

We are all delighted with your acceptance

Will mail agreement this week Feel sure that we can meet your wishes

Warmest greetings

Flexner

3.50

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ERBITTE ZUSENDUNG DES VERTRAGS DA AUF GRUND MITGETEILTER
 BEDINGUNGEN GRUNDSAETZLICH ZUR ANNAHME FUER APRIL
 ENTSCLOSSEN STOP VORBEHALTEN IMMIGRATION UND KLAUSEL DASS
 VERTRAG OHNE MEINE ZUSTIMMUNG UNABAENDERLICH STOP AUSSERDEM
 MUSS INSTITUT ODER VERBINDUNG MIT UNIVERSITAET VORLESUNGEN
 ERMOEGLICHEN BRIEF FOLGT,

WEYL.

Weyl

GÖTTINGEN , d. 1. Dez. 1932.
MERKELSTR.3

PROF. DR. H. WEYL

Dr. Abraham Flexner,
Director des Institute for Advanced Study,
100 East, 42 nd Street,
New York, N.Y., U.S.A.

Verehrter Herr Flexner,

Gleichzeitig mit diesem Brief sandte ich Ihnen das folgende Kabel:

[für April]
"Erbitte Zusendung des Vertrages, da auf Grund mitgeteilter Bedingungen grundsätzlich zur Annahme/entschlossen. Vorbehalten: Immigration und Klausel, dass Vertrag ohne meine Zustimmung unabänderlich. Ausserdem muss Institute oder Verbindung mit Universität Vorlesungen ermöglichen. *Brief folgt.*"

Ich muss Ihnen insbesondere den letzten Passus erläutern. Eine theoretische Wissenschaft wie vor allem die Mathematik unterscheidet sich dadurch von einer experimentellen oder der Medizin, dass für den Einzelnen in den seltensten Fällen ein kontinuierliches Arbeiten in der Forschung möglich ist. Die weiterführenden Ideen sind Glücksfunde, deren jeder in der Regel in einer oder ganz wenigen Arbeiten sich ausschöpft. Zwischen diesen schöpferischen Perioden liegen lange Zeiten der Dürre - um so längere, je älter man wird.

Das Problem ist, sie mit einer fruchtbaren und der Forschung förderlichen Tätigkeit auszufüllen. Die deutsche Universität hatte dafür in ihrer Art der Verbindung von Forschung und Lehre eine gute Lösung gefunden (sie ist gegenwärtig bedroht, weil die Lehrtätigkeit samt dem Prüfungswesen für den Forscher zu erdrückend und weniger anziehend zu werden beginnt). Wenn ich Hilbert als Beispiel nehme, so sehe ich, dass die Theorie der Integralgleichungen, die zwischen dem 42. und 46. Lebensjahr entstanden ist, eigentlich seine letzte grosse zusammenhängende Leistung ist, dass später nur noch drei vereinzelt geniale Einfälle und Ansätze folgen (in dieser Zeit hat er dann auch nur noch wenige Schüler besessen).

Ich selber gehöre durchaus zu den Naturen, welche die schöpferische Leistung nicht erzwingen können, sondern geduldig auf die glückliche Eingebung warten müssen (es gibt natürlich auch in der Mathematik den anderen Typus). Und ich habe - wie mir scheint, darin von Veblen abweichend - Freude daran, ein ganzes Gebiet in einer geformten Vorlesung darzulegen; die Einwirkung auf persönliche, mit mir zusammenarbeitende Schüler liegt mir weniger.

Darum wünschte ich gerne, von Ihnen und Veblen eine Versicherung zu erhalten, dass am Institut, ev. durch seine Verbindung mit Princeton University, eine gewisse Vorlesungstätigkeit möglich ist, weil ich sonst gewiss nicht dauernd in einem glücklichen Gleichgewicht sein werde. Entweder könnte man die Tore des Instituts etwas weiter öffnen,

dass auch graduierte Studierende zugelassen werden, die nicht mit einem der Professoren persönlich zusammenarbeiten; oder es könnten Vorlesungen am Institut abgehalten werden, zu denen die Graduierten von Princeton University (in einzelnen Fällen sogar undergraduates) zugelassen sind; oder es müsste die Möglichkeit solcher Vorlesungen an Princeton University für die Professoren des Instituts gesichert sein.

Meine Meinung ist nicht, dass eine Bestimmung darüber in den Vertrag aufgenommen wird, sondern nur, dass ich von Ihnen im Einverständnis mit Veblen eine Zusicherung in diesem Sinne über die Organisation des Instituts erhalte (am besten, wenn der Vertrag schon abgeschickt ist, per Kabel, um die Prozedur zu beschleunigen). Es ist mir erst allmählich klar geworden, wie wesentlich dieser Punkt für mich ist. Auch in Gesprächen mit Herrn Courant und andern Kollegen trat immer wieder die Meinung hervor, dass ein reines Forschungsinstitut in der Mathematik nicht möglich ist (wenn man überhaupt eine gewisse regelmässige Tätigkeit von seinen Mitgliedern erwartet).

Die andern im Telegramm erwähnten Punkte sind wohl ohne weiteres klar. Die Bedingungen, auf welche ich Bezug nehme, sind in ihren beiden Briefen vom 23. August und 7. Oktober formuliert. Der Vertrag bedarf, wie ich annehme, und wird gültig durch meine Unterschrift. Ich wünsche, dass aus dem Vertrag rechtsgültig hervorgeht, dass er nur mit meiner Zustimmung abgeändert oder gelöst werden kann. Für die Immigration, hoffe ich, macht es keine Schwierigkeiten, dass meine Söhne oder wenigstens der ältere ev. erst später als meine Frau und ich nach Amerika übersiedeln. Ich wäre Ihnen dankbar, wenn Sie von sich aus Schritte ergreifen könnten zur Regelung der Immigration und mir mitteilten, an wen ich mich hier wenden soll (an das für Göttingen zuständige Konsulat in Bremen oder an die Botschaft in Berlin).

Es besteht in Göttingen und im preussischen Ministerium der Wunsch, mich bei meinem Fortgehen zum Honorarprofessor in Göttingen ohne Lehrauftrag zu ernennen. Dies hat weder irgend eine Besoldung noch irgend eine Verpflichtung zur Folge. Ich werde aber sicher öfter einen Teil meiner Ferien an einer deutschen Universität verbringen, um den Kontakt mit den deutschen Mathematikern aufrecht zu erhalten, insbesondere in Göttingen. Und dann besteht für mich als Honorarprofessor die Möglichkeit, gelegentlich einen Zyklus von Vorlesungen in deutscher Sprache zu halten. Ich hoffe, Sie werden darin keine Beeinträchtigung meiner Tätigkeit am Institut erblicken.

Besteht nach wie vor Aussicht, dass Sie in der Lage sind, uns die Uebersiedlung durch Ankauf eines geeigneten Hauses in Princeton zu erleichtern, das wir vom Institut mieten?

Um einen tüchtigen Algebraiker zug gewinnen, scheint mir ein guter Weg, wenn es mir gelänge, einen in dieser Richtung ausgezeichneten jüngeren deutschen Mathematiker als meinen Assistenten zu gewinnen (wessen ich freilich nicht sicher bin). Dann hätte ich aber ausserdem noch eine Hilfskraft nötig, die mir im Englischen hilft! Aber

das zu bereden, hat Zeit, bis ich drüben bin.

Es wäre mir sehr erwünscht, dass das letzte Bedenken und alle Formalitäten bis Ende des Jahres erledigt werden können. Mein Telegramm betrachte ich in dem Sinne als definitiv, dass ich mich verpflichte anzunehmen, wenn die Vorbehalte erfüllt sind und Sie mich über den Punkt Lehrtätigkeit beruhigen können.

Entschuldigen Sie bitte meine Langsamkeit in der Entschliessung. Die Aktion der Fakultät im Ministerium hat erst in den letzten Tagen zu einem für mich übersehbaren Ergebnis geführt. Ich konnte diesen Versuch meinen hiesigen Freunden nicht gut verweigern. Und für mich ist die Situation eine ganz andere als für Einstein, der durch seine Akademiestellung mit einem Fuss in Deutschland bleibt.

Die Gründe, die mich hauptsächlich zur Annahme Ihres Rufes bewegen, sind: die Befreiung von äusseren Sorgen; die zu grosse Belastung durch Unterricht, Prüfungen und Studenten, der ich in Göttingen ausgesetzt bin und die ein Hindernis für meine wissenschaftliche Tätigkeit ist; schliesslich die Freundschaft und die Freude an einem Zusammenwirken mit Veblen.

In Vertrauen und Hochachtung

Ihr sehr ergebener

H. Weyl

November 25, 1932

Dear Professor Weyl:

Professor Veblen has discussed with me fully your letter and has been kind enough to show me his reply of November 23. Everything that he says seems to me perfectly sound. There is only one additional comment that I should make, namely - it occurs to me that, in thinking of the Institute and particularly of the School of Mathematics, you may have had in mind something like a university faculty in mathematics. This seems to me a misconception, for it is precisely the advantage of the Institute that, unlike a university faculty, there is nothing that it must do unless really first-rate persons can be obtained. We are more nearly analagous to the different Institutes maintained by the Kaiser Wilhelm Gesellschaft than to an institution of higher learning in the university sense of the term. We can begin, as the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research began, with a very few people provided they are first-rate. We can help each of them to surround himself with a few really promising individuals of his own selection. We can grow gradually in any direction in which first-rate talent is available.

Let me assure you once more, as I have done previously and as Professor Veblen has done, that I appreciate very fully the difficulties of transplanting yourself and your family. No situation in life, as far as my experience goes, is perfect. I hope to do everything that is reasonable to make the members of

the Institute happy and productive, but there are undoubtedly other factors to be considered over which I can exercise no control.

Please accept my warmest greetings and believe me

Always sincerely,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Herrn Prof. Dr. H. Weyl
Merkelstr. 3
Göttingen, Germany

AF:ESB

October 18, 1932

Dear Professor Weyl:

The first announcement regarding the staff of the Institute was made a week ago after a meeting of the Board. I am sending you a clipping from the New York Times which will give you some idea of the enthusiasm with which the announcement was received. The entire country has shown such pride and satisfaction in the establishment of a paradise for scholars that we are all profoundly gratified. I think you will be interested in the statement from The Times regardless of the decision at which you finally arrive.

With all good wishes and very high regard,

Sincerely yours,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Herrn Prof. Dr. H. Weyl
Merkelstr. 3
Göttingen, Germany

AF:RSB

Extract from letter of Dr. Flexner to Professor Weyl, dated October 7, 1932.

"I received your letter of September 21 on October 1 and immediately cabled you in order that you might feel relieved of all pressure and anxiety. The next day I learned that Professor Veblen would arrive in New York within a few days, and I therefore postponed answering your letter until I had a talk with him, which took place yesterday. I thoroughly understand and sympathize with you in your desire to come to a decision only after you have had a thorough rest. If you should be able to reach a conclusion by the end of October, that will be entirely convenient, as far as I am concerned.

In reference to the points you raise, I am happy to add to my previous letters the following additional conditions:

1. Should you accept the invitation, your position will, as far as the Institute is concerned, be a life post, that is, until the date of retirement. On the other hand, you will on your side be perfectly free at any time to resign or withdraw in order to accept a post elsewhere, and in case of withdrawal or resignation the sums which have been accumulated to your credit in the Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association of America belong to you, not to the Institute. As a matter of convenience, it would probably be best if it were understood that you would give any such notice any time during the year, your resignation or withdrawal to be effective at the end of the year.

2. I am anxious to shorten the period of formal academic work so as to give the professors as much free time as possible and to make this time as continuous as possible. The academic year will not begin before the first of October and may be arranged to begin a week or ten days later. It will not continue beyond the first of May and may be brought to a close even a week earlier.

3. The question of the allowance for the education of your sons was probably settled in a letter which you had not received at the time you wrote me, but I can repeat that the arrangement suggested regarding allowance for the education of your sons applies equally to both sons. I am willing to go further than I went in my previous letter, in which complying with your suggestion I stated that in the event of the death of both parents the Institute should pay each of your sons an allowance of \$1,000 up to their twenty-first year. On reflection I can see that this does not cover the period of their attendance at the University. I am therefore willing to ask the Board to extend this allowance until their twenty-fifth year in the event of their attendance at a university during the period.

4. In so far as the moving costs are concerned, we shall abide by any arrangement that you make whether it affects the whole of your household furniture or only part thereof.

Professor Weyl

-2-

October 7, 1932

I discussed with Professor Veblen the question of additional appointments, but we came to no decision, inasmuch as we should wish to obtain your judgment in case you accept our invitation. I may say to you that we shall do nothing in any other field until we have brought together a strong mathematical group and that it is our hope that the members of this group may devote their entire time and attention to their own scientific work and to the training of a small group who in ability and seriousness are worthy of the exceptional opportunities which will be offered to them.

I have since reaching New York had further conferences with Dean Eisenhart, Professor Lefschetz, and Professor Alexander, and other members of the Princeton group, and I can assure you that, while the Institute for Advanced Study will maintain entire independence, the Princeton mathematical group and our own will have the closest personal and scientific contacts, so that taken together Princeton should become one of the most important mathematical centres in the world.

I am thoroughly convinced of the sincerity with which in the event of your acceptance you will devote yourself to the purposes of the Institute, and on my side I may assure you that I will leave nothing undone in so far as my abilities go to insure the happiness and comfort of you, your wife, and your boys.

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With all good wishes and high regard,

Very sincerely yours,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Herrn Prof. Dr. H. Weyl
Merkelstr. 3
Göttingen, Germany

AF:MSB

Institute for Advanced Study (Sept. ^{Oct 1,} 29, 1932)

Weyl
Mathematische Institut
Göttingen

Letter received Take whatever time you need to
reach decision satisfactory to yourself Am writing

Flexner

\$ 1.25

Extract from letter of Dr. Flexner to Professor Weyl, dated September 26, 1932.

"In reading over the letter which I wrote you under date of August 23, it occurs to me that there are two points regarding which I did not make myself clear:

1. Whenever your younger son becomes ready to enter the University, he would of course receive the increased allowance now already specific in the case of your elder son.

2. The accumulations in the Teachers Annuity Fund which will go forward at the rate of \$1,500 a year belong to you and not to the Institute, so that, in case you should accept a call from some other institution or disconnect yourself from the Institute for Advanced Study, the disposition of this sum would be a matter to be arranged between you and the authorities of the Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association of America. The Institute would have no voice whatsoever in this matter.

I have spent the weekend at Princeton and, though I did not mention your name, I was assured by Mrs. Eisenhart that the question of a home is much easier now than it was some years ago, largely by reason of the fact that in America, as elsewhere, persons who have hitherto had their own homes are giving them up. Dean Eisenhart also told me that rents had very largely decreased.

With all good wishes and very high regard,"

September 26, 1932

Dear Professor Weyl:

In reading over the letter which I wrote you under date of August 23, it occurs to me that there are two points regarding which I did not make myself clear:

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Professor Weyl

September 26, 1932

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With all good wishes and very high regard,

Sincerely yours,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Herrn Prof. Dr. Hermann Weyl
Merkelstrasse 3
Göttingen, Germany

AF:RSD

September 26, 1932

GÖTT. GEN
MERKELSTR.3 , d. 21. Sept. 32.

PROF. DR. H. WEYL

9/21

Verehrter Herr Flexner,

Meine Antwort auf Ihren freundlichen Brief vom 23. August erfolgt so spät, dass ich sie lieber wieder nach New York statt in die kanadische Wildnis richte. Haben Sie Dank für Ihre herzlichen Worte, denen ich mit dem vollsten Vertrauen begegne!

Seit Eintritt unserer Ferien habe ich aus verschiedenen Gründen die Frage meiner Uebersiedlung an das Institute for Advanced Study, innerlich und küsserlich, ruhen lassen. Ich bedurfte einer kurzen ungestörten Erholung, hernach stellte eine dringende Arbeit ihre Forderungen, und nun im September hatte ich als Vorsitzender der Deutschen Mathematikervereinigung dem internationalen Kongress in Zürich und der deutschen Naturforscherversammlung beizuwohnen. So, fürchte ich, wird es mir kaum möglich sein, die Entscheidung schon vor dem 10. Oktober herbeizuführen. Ihr Brief meint wohl auch nicht, dass Sie das von mir erwarten? Ich hoffe aber bestimmt, dass ich Ihnen bis Ende Oktober eine definitive Antwort geben kann.

Heute möchte ich mir nur erlauben, zu den von Ihnen vorgeschlagenen Bedingungen ein paar Bemerkungen zu machen.

Mir ist sehr daran gelegen, dass ein Passus in den Vertrag aufgenommen wird, nach welchem der Vertrag seitens des Board unkündbar ist und ohne meine Zustimmung nicht abgeändert werden kann (während ich mir das Recht vorbehalten muss, unter Einhaltung einer angemessenen Kündigungsfrist gegebenenfalls den Ruf an ein anderes Institut anzunehmen).

Ferner wäre es mir lieb, wenn die Zeit fixiert würde (1. Okt. bis 1. Mai?), während deren residence is required.

ad (1). Ich danke Ihnen, dass Sie an die Möglichkeit der Doppelbesteuerung gedacht haben und für diesen Fall das Institute die amerikanische Einkommensteuer tragen will!

ad (2). Wird die allowance of \$ 1000 during the period of attendance at the University (or College) nur meinem jüngeren Sohn zugesichert? Doch wohl nicht; ich hatte bisher verstanden, dass sie beiden Söhnen zustehe.

ad (4). Es kann sich als zweckmässig herausstellen, wegen der wesentlich verschiedenen Einrichtung deutscher und amerikanischer Häuser, dass wir nur einen Teil des Hausrats mit herüberbringen, einen

Teil drüben neu anschaffen. Ich nehme an, dass dann die moving costs so gerechnet werden dürfen, wie sie nach Schätzung eines zuverlässigen Spediteurs unserm gesamten gegenwärtigen Hausrat entsprechen.

Ich erwarte auf diese Bemerkungen keine Antwort vor dem 10. Oktober und überlasse Ihnen, auf Grund der Ihnen vom Board gegebenen Vollmachten den Vertrag zwischen uns aufzusetzen.

Gerne nehme ich zur Notiz, dass der Ausbau des Instituts durch jüngere mathematische Kräfte in naher Zukunft vorgesehen ist. Ich nehme an, dass den Hauptstellen auch ein paar Stellen vom Range eines assistant professor hinzugefügt werden.

comment
Ich verspreche Ihnen, dass ich nur annehmen werde, wenn ich innerlich überzeugt bin, dadurch mit meiner Familie ein glücklicheres und der wissenschaftlichen Arbeit zuträglicheres Los zu gewinnen; und wenn ich annehme, dass ich - in engstem Verein namentlich mit meinem Freunde Veblen, für den ich immer tiefere Achtung und Zuneigung empfinde - tun werde, was ich tun kann, um durch Forschung, Lehre und Rat das Institut zu fördern.

Herrn Courant werde ich erst nächsten Montag ausführlicher sprechen. Er hat mir bisher nur flüchtig von seinem Besuch in Magnetawan erzählt. Für all Ihre Hilfsbereitschaft nochmals herzlichen Dank!

Voll Hochachtung Ihr ergebener

H Weyl

CABLEGRAM
(August 23, 1932)

Weyl
Merkelstrasse 3
Göttingen

Will reply this week definitely to your kind letter July thirtieth

Heartiest greetings

Flexner

8/23

Records of the Office of the Director / Faculty Files / Box 37 / Weyl, Hermann 1932-1933

From the Shelby White and Leon Levy Archives Center, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ, USA



Deutscher Kurier

Einzelpreis 10 Pf.

Deutschland

zeigt haben, die auch in weiteren Unterhaltungen nicht mehr ausgeglichen werden konnten. Bei dem Ausgang, den sie nun gefunden haben, hat sich der Reichspräsident als der Ueberlegene, von wahrer staatsmännischer Einsicht erfüllter Sachwalter der deutschen Geschichte erwiesen, während Brüning sich bis zur letzten Stunde gegen die Forderungen gestäubt hat, die sich auch für ihn aus der politischen Gesamtlage hätten ergeben müssen. Nun hat der Reichspräsident den Gegnern seiner Wahl den Beweis geliefert, daß seine abermalige Präsidentschaft mit dem Fortbestand des Brüning-Kabinetts verträglich war. Er hat damit

Die Landtagswahlen in Oldenburg

NSDAP. absolviert

Auch Stimmgewinne der Deutschnationalen

In Oldenburg wurden Sonntag die
nach amtlicher Mitteilung folgendes Ergebnis

Extract from letter of Dr. Flexner to Professor Weyl, dated August 23, 1932.

"I have your extremely kind letter of July 30, and I thoroughly sympathize with the desire of your colleagues and yourself to consult Professor Courant in person before giving a final reply to the invitation which has been extended to you by the Institute for Advanced Study. I may say both for the founders of the Institute and for my colleagues that, should you decide affirmatively, we shall wish to do everything in our power to make you and your family happy and to provide whatever is reasonable and necessary for the success of your work and the Institute.

During the first year Princeton University has, through the courtesy of the Acting President and Dean Eisenhart, offered us space in the new Fine Hall. We are investigating the question of a suitable site in the immediate vicinity of Princeton University, on which in course of time proper buildings may be erected. Whether a building can be built within the next year or even the next two years I do not know, but, if not, we shall find comfortable and sufficiently spacious quarters for our temporary use. We shall have access to the Princeton Library, but of course we shall not rely upon this. Professor Courant has told me that he and Professor Neugebauer will assist us in making a list of the books which we will need for general use, and an annual appropriation will be made so that the members of the Institute will have at hand books and periodicals of which they have immediate and constant need. The Institute will be absolutely independent of Princeton University, but we are hoping that we shall be friendly and cooperative neighbors so that each institution may receive stimulus from the other and that the persons connected with the Institute may not be isolated from the general academic and social life of the community.

In respect to your specific needs, I am prepared to recommend to the Board at its meeting on October 10 your appointment as a professor in the School of Mathematics on the following terms:

- (1) A salary of \$15,000 a year. In the event that you are compelled to pay income taxes on this sum in both Germany and the United States, the Institute will pay the American income tax.

You will pay yearly 5% of your salary (\$750) and the Institute will pay \$750 to the Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association of America. The accumulations thus assembled will be the basis of a retiring allowance at 65 years of age - or later by mutual consent - of \$8,000 a year, the Institute guaranteeing that sum. In the event of your total incapacity through illness before 65, the pension above mentioned will begin at the date of such permanent incapacity. Should your wife, Helene Weyl, survive you, she will receive a pension of \$5,000 annually.

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- (3) You will receive a personal assistant, as has been arranged in the case of both Professor Einstein and Professor Veblen.
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- (5) You are free to assume your professorship on April 1, 1933, or October 1, 1933. In the event that you accept as of date April 1, the Institute will reimburse the Prussian Government to the extent of \$750 (3,000 Marks).

If you accept our invitation on the above terms, I shall take the necessary steps required by the immigration laws of the United States.

In due time after conference with those constituting the mathematical group the Institute will make every effort to add to the group a younger but promising mathematician, whose main interests lie in a different part of the general field of mathematics.

I can thoroughly sympathize with your feeling and that of your wife that during the long summer vacations you do not wish to lead a "gypsy" life. Princeton has an excellent climate during autumn, winter, and spring, but the place is practically deserted during the summer. You are therefore in my judgment quite right in wishing to obtain for yourself and your family

Professor Weyl

-3-

August 23, 1932

a simple and permanent summer home where you can recruit your strength and carry on your work, precisely as I myself do in Canada and Professor Einstein does near Potsdam. On the other hand, it must be remembered that the Institute will gradually grow in numbers, and it would therefore probably prove embarrassing if the Institute itself undertook to become either lender or landlord to the members of its staff. On the financial basis which I have described above you can, I am very sure, during the next few years make substantial savings which will cover the larger part of the expenditure requisite to obtaining a summer home either in America or in Europe. Should you require an additional loan, I feel certain that with the advice of the business men on our Board, on whose friendship you can count, such loan can be obtained on favorable terms from any one of several companies which exist for that purpose.

Let me conclude by repeating what I have said to you personally and in previous letters as well as in the present letter. We are extremely anxious that you should associate yourself with our mathematical group at the outset, and we realize fully that your effectiveness will depend upon your happiness and that of your family. I regard it as one of my important functions to do all that is reasonable towards creating for you and for your associates the conditions that make for tranquillity and happiness, your own and that of your family.

I beg you to accept my warm thanks for your good wishes. We have had a lovely summer here in the Canadian woods.

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Magnetawan, via Burke Falls
Ontario, Canada
August 23, 1932

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*during
her
widowhood*

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Herrn Prof. Dr. Hermann Weyl
Berkelestrasse 3
Göttingen, Germany

(signed) ABRAHAM FLEXNER

7/16.

Weyl says Weidmann asked the
how to consider American permanent post.
He had understood it would only be for
2 years for you -

Talk w/ Gindler & my wife led me
to ask if your Bd understands that
we ~~are~~ ^{would be} committed for only 2 years -
It seems to me nothing would be changed,
since I could return - to G. on call anyway,
Went to understand can ret. after 2 yrs if called

Then I must understand more clearly what
you intend to do exactly - Weidmann ^{had} said
~~that~~ in Berlin that your earlier plans have
likely been reduced - curtailed -

Going on vacation 29 July till Nov. Intend
to ask Joe. before that for opinion & you leave
Weyl's AF please help to make Penn handle
Weyl's offer in writing - understood you want
my leaving up to 2 yrs stay - etc -
Chydelova coming to Gort ^{reference} or V. returning
at end of month for a brief time.

Wanted to hear from you very promptly
if you would meet me for just 20 mins
Wouldn't have brought it up if
Wieland hadn't said you suggested it
Thanks if you can for v gas it will be
Oct 1 1933 in GNS before -

[Faint, mostly illegible handwritten text follows]

August 27 1932

Memorandum regarding Professor Weyl

8/20/32

After reaching a conclusion that the Institute should begin with mathematics as the simplest and most fundamental of all the subjects that we could attack, I concerned myself with an inquiry as to the persons whose services we should seek to obtain. I found singular unanimity. Both in America and in Europe it was agreed that the ablest American mathematicians are Birkhoff and Veblen. I selected Birkhoff on the theory that Veblen was already at Princeton and that therefore we would gain by bringing Birkhoff. When Birkhoff withdrew, I made new inquiries in this country and in Europe and came to the conclusion that, if the Princeton authorities agreed willingly and unreservedly, we could not do better than to select Veblen. As you know, the Princeton authorities were most cooperative, and Veblen has been secured, subject of course to ratification by the Board.

The choice of Professor Einstein needs no explanation. There is no question anywhere in the world that in the realm of mathematical physics he is one of the greatest figures that have emerged in the last 400 or 500 years. There is indeed no one else alive who can be compared with him in the field which he represents.

Veblen is a geometer, but no single geometer can cover the field of geometry. I realized from the outset that, whether we obtained Birkhoff or Veblen, we should have to have another man of equal or greater ability and eminence in this field. Searching only for the best, I have been told wherever I went that there were two men in Europe, one of whom we must obtain, namely, Hardy at Cambridge or Weyl at Göttingen. When I was abroad last spring, I talked with Hardy. I made him no offer, because it was obvious to me from the start that he would not leave England. He is a bachelor, a fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge, living under absolutely ideal conditions at Trinity College with his entire future financially and otherwise safeguarded. I asked him his advice, however, as I asked others. His American choice was Veblen, but he added, "The greatest man in the field of geometry in Europe is Weyl."

Subsequently, I discussed the same question with Professor Einstein. He was equally explicit, saying, "You must get Hermann Weyl. If you do not get him, then it is very difficult, for, though there are a number of very able men, Weyl is preëminent."

When I went to Göttingen, I had a long interview with Professor Weyl, first, as to the nature of the Institute, second, as to the possibility of his associating himself with it. He was fascinated with the idea of an institution of this character, the like of which he said existed nowhere in the world. He made, however, the same point that Professor Veblen and others had made, viz., that, in addition to geometry and theoretical or mathematical physics, the original group must contain an algebraist of great strength. I told him that this had often been suggested to me, and that I felt sure that, when the time came, there would be no difficulty in getting the funds for an additional chair, but that, inasmuch as it was hard to get unanimity of opinion regarding the proper and best equipped person, I had decided to defer that matter until the original group of three was assembled and could investigate the available personnel. When it came to the question of his association with it, Professor Weyl was absolutely candid, and every statement that he made to me in Göttingen has been made to me in the last week by Professor Courant during his visit here in the woods - a point to which I will recur later. Professor Weyl told me that he had been invited to accept professorships both at Harvard and at Princeton and practically on his own terms, but that he had declined both, because his position at Göttingen was in most respects an ideal one. He was interested in the new Institute, because he saw possibilities for research which could hardly be duplicated in a large university either in America or in Europe. "There is, however", he said, "another consideration." He had possessed a comfortable fortune, not great, but large enough to insure his wife and his children all the opportunities that they require. Though he is happy in Göttingen (for it is the greatest of German universities in mathematics and science), his savings had been all destroyed by the inflation. He had therefore now and in prospect only his income as university professor. When he was called to Göttingen, the Prussian Education Ministry offered him a higher salary and more favorable terms than had been offered to any other member of the Göttingen faculty. "It is, nevertheless", he said, "difficult now to feel at ease in Germany, for no one knows what is likely to happen politically or financially." He would not exchange his post at Göttingen for a post at Princeton or Harvard or any other university, but he saw in the new Institute larger opportunities in his field, and perhaps also freedom from care. It reduces itself therefore to this: can we offer Professor Weyl such financial

conditions as would lead him to feel justified in throwing in his lot with us? I must emphasize the fact that neither in our conversations nor in our subsequent correspondence has he shown anything but the finest spirit. He has not endeavored to make an advantageous bargain, but he does feel - as Professor Einstein plainly felt - that financial security is necessary if he is to put all his strength into his work. This is a point which I have previously dwelt on in my reports to the Board: one of the great services that we can render is to make the economic and social situation of the American professor safer and happier than it now is.

What then are the terms upon which we can secure Professor Weyl? He has to provide for himself, his wife, two boys, one now in the Gymnasium and one just entering the University, and to look after his mother, his father having recently died. The German Government gives him, as it gives other full professors, a salary, an additional allowance for the education of his two children, and a pension as well as certain additional fees which are guaranteed.

In England and Germany there is no uniform standard for the remuneration of professors. There is a basic salary which is supplemented by the institution or by the government according to the situation of the individual and his eminence. American salaries are standardized, so that an eminent person with children is no better off than a less distinguished person without children. I am hopeful that in this matter we can introduce an innovation which follows the European rather than current American practice.

When I spoke with Professor Birkhoff, I took pains to ascertain his situation. I found that he had a wife, three children, one of them a defective, and that he was, as he said, "money-conscious". With the consent of those with whom I discussed the matter, I offered Professor Birkhoff a salary of \$20,000 which he was himself very eager to accept. Subsequent reflection has led me to believe that precisely the same end can be attained somewhat differently and in the long run more economically. Professor Veblen, for example, has no children and no dependents. His needs, present and future, are therefore fully met by a salary of \$15,000 with a retiring allowance at 65 years of age of \$8,000 and an annual pension for wife, if she survives him, of \$5,000. These are the terms which were made to Professor Veblen and which he has accepted.

Professor Weyl's responsibilities are, as is obvious from what I have said above, different and more complicated. Salary, retiring allowance for himself, and

pension for his wife, if she survives him, can be ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ the same as Professor
Veblen's, but he writes me that he feels keenly the need of acquiring for himself what
Professor Einstein possesses at Potsdam as a gift from the City of Berlin, viz., a modest
summer home, equipped with books, where during the long vacation he can keep on with his
work, as well as obtain a rest. It is important for him, as it is for Professor Einstein,
not to lose contact with his German colleagues, and what is important for him and for
Professor Einstein is obviously of equal importance to the Institute. Inasmuch as the
summer vacation will be a lengthy one, as it is at the Rockefeller Institute, Professor
Weyl and his wife both dread what in one of his letters he calls a "gypsy" life. He cannot
be satisfied with hotel life in one resort or another - a feeling with which I fully sym-
patize. He therefore raises the question as to whether after two or three years he cannot
be aided in obtaining a loan at low interest to the extent of perhaps \$10,000, sufficient
to provide him a summer home of this kind either in America or in Europe. I do not believe
that the Institute should itself undertake to finance its professors to carry out plans of
this sort. It is much better for us to leave these matters to the discretion and inclina-
tion of the different individuals - paying them, however, sufficient to enable them through
their savings to carry out modest wishes of this kind upon which their effectiveness
depends, precisely as, for example, I feel that my effectiveness during the last twenty
years has been very favorably influenced by our owning this camp in Canada where we have
books and quiet and where I can think and write as well as build up my strength.

Bearing in mind that we were willing to pay Professor Birkhoff \$20,000 and that
Professor Veblen with no complications in family responsibilities is to receive \$15,000,
I suggest that we invite Professor Weyl on the following terms:

Salary \$15,000, ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~
(This sum should be paid clear of American income tax, as long as
he pays a German income tax on it, an arrangement which we have
made with Professor Einstein. Should he not have to pay a German
income tax or should he become an American citizen, this item would
disappear from our obligations.)

Retiring allowance and pension for his wife, if she survives him,
same as Professor Veblen's.

An allowance of \$300 a year for the younger son as long as he is
in the secondary school, and an allowance of \$1,000 a year ~~for~~ for university
education
~~for five or six years~~ ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ which will ease the burden of educating his
sons in the years just ahead.

Transportation to America of himself and his family and of their
household goods.

The understanding that when the right person has been found, an algebraist of high promise and capacity will be appointed.

An assistant, precisely as we have provided an assistant for Professor Veblen and for Professor Einstein.

If Professor Weyl accepts, he can accept as of date, April 1, 1933, or October 1, 1933. I should myself prefer that his term begin April 1 in order that he may get everything in readiness and be installed by the beginning of the next fall. In this event, however, he is under obligation to return to the Prussian Ministry the sum of \$750, which was advanced to him when he accepted the call at Göttingen on the condition that he ~~retain~~ retain the professorship a definite number of years. The Institute should reimburse the Prussian Government to this extent. Even on the terms which I have now stated, Professor Weyl's services during the first year will be obtained for something less than was offered to Professor Birkhoff, and Professor Weyl is much the more eminent man of the two. Inasmuch as the older boy is already 17, one of the allowances will have only a few years to run. The other boy is 14, so that the allowance for him will have a longer period. Two items, namely, the sum paid for moving expenses and the sum paid to the Prussian Government amounting to \$1,500, will disappear after the first year, so that the difference between what we offer Professor Weyl and what we did offer Professor Birkhoff will be considerable and in our favor after the first year.

In the event of the death of both parents, the Institute should agree to make some provision for the two boys up to their twenty-first year, so that their education can be completed.

In the early part of this memorandum I mentioned Professor Courant, who is Chairman of the Mathematical Faculty at Göttingen and who has spent the last six months lecturing at Princeton. Before I went abroad in April, I gave a luncheon to Professor Courant and invited him to visit us in Canada on his way back to Göttingen this summer. Last week Professor Courant was with us for two days. He showed me a letter which he had received from all his mathematical colleagues in Göttingen asking him to use his influence to persuade Professor Weyl to remain in Göttingen on the ground that his loss would be a very serious one. Professor Courant told me that he had cabled Weyl not to make a final decision until he (Courant) reached Göttingen about August 25. We discussed

the Institute very fully. He gave me all the details which Professor Weyl had previously given me regarding his situation at Göttingen, and I explained to him in return the general plan of the Institute. I told him in a general way the sort of arrangement I had hoped to make, namely, a salary and a retiring allowance with pension, an extra provision during the limited period needed for the education of his sons, a provision of an assistant, etc., and I also told Professor Courant that we would probably locate the institution in the vicinity of Princeton University. He asked me to give him time to weigh the two opportunities before expressing an opinion, which of course I did. Next day he reopened the subject himself, saying, "I have been thinking over our conversation of yesterday very carefully. I would rather lose any man in the faculty than Weyl. There is no one in Europe except perhaps Professor Bohr at Copenhagen who could fill his place, but notwithstanding my keen desire to retain him, I cannot but feel that for him, for his own work, and for the science of mathematics it is his duty to accept if you make him such a proposition as you outlined to me, and I shall advise him to do so." Nothing could have exceeded Professor Courant's generosity and courtesy.

I ought to add also that Professor Millikan wrote me some time ago asking me to divide Einstein's time with him, inasmuch as he had heard from Einstein regarding our invitation to him. I wrote to Professor Millikan declining to make any such arrangement both for our sake and for Professor Einstein's sake. This morning I received a reply from Millikan expressing the hope that the matter might be reopened later. I mention this because I know that Weyl's acceptance will weigh heavily with Einstein and make him all the more satisfied with his having accepted the appointment at the Institute.

On the basis of the various considerations which I have set forth in this memorandum, I have prepared the enclosed letter to Professor Weyl. If this ~~ready~~ meets with the approbation of Mr. Bamberger, Mrs. Fuld, Mr. Maass, and Mr. Leidesdorf, it can be mailed to Professor Weyl from New York. If material modification is needed, I suggest that the letter be returned to me here with suggestions and comments so that I can rewrite and mail it from Magnetawan. Professor Weyl is anxious to come to a decision early in September, and I am equally anxious to have his answer so that, if possible, his name can be reported to the Board at the October meeting.

Records of the Office of the Director / Faculty Files / Box 37 / Weyl, Hermann 1932-1933
From the Shelby White and Leon Levy Archives Center, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton

The job is against my reason of absence

There can be only a question of permanent

position. My decision is a favor of the job

because even more likely.

GÖTTINGEN
MERKELSTR.3 , d. 30. Juli 1932.

PROF. DR. H. WEYL

Herrn Dr. Abraham Flexner,
Director of the Institute of Advanced Study,
100 East 42 nd Street,
New York City, N.Y., U.S.A.

7/30

Sehr geehrter Herr Flexner,

Wie ich Ihnen schon durch Kabel mitteilte, sind meine mathematischen Kollegen hier dagegen, dass in Göttingen durch meine Beurlaubung auf 2 Jahre (nach dem Vorschlage von Hrn. Windelband) ein Provisorium geschaffen wird. Sie sind dagegen aus Interesse an der Kontinuität des Unterrichts, weil sie die Wahrscheinlichkeit meiner Rückkehr gering einschätzen, vor allem aber weil sie fürchten, dass unter den gegenwärtigen schwierigen Umständen, wenn ich nach 2 Jahren nicht zurückkehre, die Professur ev. gestrichen wird und ganz verloren geht. Die Fakultät ist nicht ganz derselben Meinung, aber ich möchte nichts unternehmen, was in Widerspruch zu den Wünschen meiner nächsten Kollegen steht. Von meiner Mitteilung über den erhaltenen Ruf ist Hr. Courant, der gegenwärtig in Berkeley, Calif., weilt, telegraphisch in Kenntnis gesetzt und sein Rat eingeholt worden. Er bittet mich in einem heute eingetroffenen Brief, ich möchte jede Entscheidung vertagen bis zu seiner Rückkehr im August. Ich hoffe, dass Hr. Courant die Mitteilung als "Fakultätsgeheimnis" betrachtet, aber ich bin nicht absolut sicher, dass nicht durch ihn etwas von meiner Berufung in Amerika bekannt werden wird.

Infolge des Urteils meiner Kollegen stelle ich nicht jetzt innerlich ganz darauf ein, dauernd zu Ihnen zu kommen. Gestern hatte ich noch einmal eine lange Unterredung mit Veblen, der auf der Durchreise Göttingen von neuem besuchte. Seine Mitteilung, dass Sie zunächst, während der Krise, nur etwa $\frac{1}{3}$ der zur Verfügung stehenden Einnahmen verwenden wollen, erregte etwas Bedenken bei mir. Ich hoffe, dass die Kosten für das Institutsgebäude und die Bibliothek darin nicht einbezogen sind.

Es scheint mir nämlich unbedingt erforderlich, dass neben Einstein, Veblen und mir mindestens noch ein junger starker Mathematiker dabei ist, mit ausgesprochener Begabung, Schüler zu eigenen Untersuchungen anzuregen und anzufeuern, in voller Stellung, mit einem Gehalt von mindestens 10.000 \$, also nicht als blosser assistant professor. Ich kann mich nicht entscheiden, bevor nicht in dieser Hinsicht eine gewisse Sicherheit besteht.

Der Grund liegt mit in der Art der in Aussicht genommenen Besetzung der drei Hauptstellen. Veblen ist zufolge seiner menschlichen Qualitäten sicher der geeignetste Amerikaner, den man sich als führenden Geist in einer solchen Institution wie der von Ihnen gegründeten wünschen kann. Aber er ist doch nicht ein Mathematiker von ähnlicher Tiefe und Stärke wie etwa Hardy. Einsteins Mitwirkung ist natürlich unbezahlbar. Aber er verfolgt spekulative Ideen auf lange Sicht, deren Erfolg niemand verbürgen kann. Als Führer junger Leute zu eigenen, notwendig auf näher gesteckte Ziele gerichteten Problemen kommt er weniger in Betracht. Ich bin von ähnlicher Natur, jedenfalls auch Einer, der lieber einsam als mit einer Gruppe gemeinsam denkt und mitteilsam nur in bezug auf die allgemeinen Ideen oder in der fertigen gerundeten Darstellung. Mit darum lege ich so viel Wert auf einen Mann vom Typus Artin oder v. Neumann.

Meine Frau beunruhigt der Gedanke, dass wir ein wenig sesshaftes Leben, ein Zigeuner-Leben führen werden, wenn wir die Sommermonate ausserhalb Princetons verbringen. Sie hält es für unerlässlich und ich glaube auch, dass es für meine Arbeitsruhe erforderlich ist, dass wir, wenigstens nach 2 bis 3 Jahren, ausser unserer Wohnung in Princeton, noch ein kleines zum Arbeiten geeignetes Sommerhaus in Amerika oder wahrscheinlicher in Europa besitzen. Könnten wir wohl darauf rechnen, dass das Institute uns nicht nur, wie Sie in Aussicht stellten, bei Lösung der Wohnungsfrage in Princeton helfen, sondern (nach ein paar Jahren) auch hierbei finanziell unterstützen wird, etwa durch Gewährung eines Vorschusses von ca. 10.000 \$ zu niedrigem Zins? - Ich brauchte Sie nicht mit solchen Dingen zu behelligen, wenn wir nicht augenblicklich ganz vermögenslos wären.

Das weitere Vorgehen denke ich mir so, dass ich jetzt zunächst auf Antwort von Ihnen warte, wie Sie sich zu den verschiedenen von mir geäusserten Wünschen ~~stellen~~ stellen. Dann werde ich Ihnen, nachdem ich hier noch mit Herrn Courant und dem Ministerium gesprochen habe, voraussichtlich ~~in~~ in bindender Weise mitteilen: Unter den und den bestimmten Bedingungen nehme ich an. Wenn der Board zustimmt, sollte das ^{agreement} Abkommen in einem Vertrag festgelegt werden. Wenn ich dau^{ernd} ernd komme und diese Verhandlungen nicht zu lange sich hinausziehen - was ~~ich~~ ich nicht erwarte - wäre mir der 1. April 33 als Termin des Amtsantritts ^{contract} recht.

Für Ihren Sommeraufenthalt die besten Wünsche! In Verehrung

Ihr sehr ergebener

H. Weyl

Magnetawan, via Burks Falls
Ontario, Canada
July 29, 1932

Dear Professor Weyl:

I have your interesting letter of July 16 including your suggestions regarding the details of the arrangements that may be made between yourself and the Institute for Advanced Study. Inasmuch as you have cabled me that you have written me another letter, I shall not answer your present letter in detail until I have received the second which will probably arrive within the next week. I shall comment on only two points.

I believe I said nothing to Professor Windelband beyond the fact that I had spoken to you in general terms about some connection with the Institute. As you will remember, in the one conversation we had at Göttingen we discussed two possibilities: (1) a permanent appointment; (2) an appointment for three years. At that time you had not discussed the matter with your wife. I had the feeling therefore that I ought merely to inform Professor Windelband that I had opened the matter with you, and leave to you and to him all consideration of alternative possibilities as to tenure, etc. I shall, after receiving your next letter, write to Professor Windelband and explain to him why I did so.

My original plans have not been in any way reduced. I went abroad in the hope of being able to make three nominations to the School of Mathematics when the Board meets in October; should you accept, I shall be able to do that. In a conversation at Göttingen Professor Veblen outlined to me orally a scheme for a completed institute of mathematics, and I asked him to present it to me in writing.

Professor Weyl

July 29, 1932

2

which he was good enough to do. I have given careful thought to Professor Veblen's plan and come to several tentative conclusions: (1) it would be impossible and probably inadvisable to attempt to do at once everything that Professor Veblen sketched - and indeed I do not believe that Professor Veblen contemplated immediate action on so extensive a scale. (2) There are certain items which seem to me of doubtful soundness. (3) Being no mathematician myself, I felt that we should not engage upon any considerable scheme of expansion until the original three appointees could meet with me and agree upon a policy to be pursued during the next few years. In writing Professor Veblen regarding this I told him that I was convinced of the wisdom of proceeding with caution because of the financial depression, for I wished to keep a wide margin between expenditure and income in order that those, who cast their lot with us, might be absolutely secure. Many American universities, like universities abroad, are finding themselves seriously embarrassed. They have not hitherto taken into consideration the fact that unforeseen causes might lead to a reduction of income. By leaving a considerable margin we shall protect ourselves against any embarrassment as far as human foresight can provide.

Let me say in conclusion that I am deeply touched by the assurance of loyalty which your letter contains. I have no fear on this score. On the other hand, as I have already said, I should be the last person to wish you to do anything that would imperil the happiness of yourself, your wife, and your children. These are difficult decisions to make. Eager as I am to enlist you in our group, I am still more eager that you and your family should be happy and that you should enjoy the fullest opportunities for the continuation of your splendid career.

With all good wishes and very high regard, I am

Sincerely yours,

Herrn Prof. Dr. H. Weyl
Merkelstr. 3
Göttingen, Germany

Professor Weyl

July 29, 1932

2

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Sincerely yours,

Herrn Prof. Dr. H. Weyl
Merkelstr. 3
Göttingen, Germany

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

AF:ESB

Form 6101, replacing Form 2A

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Send the following message, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

Via New York
July 23 19 32

To Dr. A. Flemer Magnetawan

Da fakultaet gegen meine beurlaubung kommt nur dauernde anstellung in frage meine entscheidung fuer ihr institut wird immer wahrscheinlicher
brief folgt.

Weyl.

Fac of mine my love of absence
It comes to a

Magnetawan, via Burks Falls
Ontario, Canada
July 21, 1932

Dear Professor Weyl:

On July 15 I received the following cablegram from President

Aydelotte:

"Professor Weyl consulted Ministry Monday without clear results. He cannot go further without formal offer. Apparently he needs offer by cable immediately if he is to settle matters this summer."

Thereupon I cabled you to Göttingen as follows:

"Am authorized to make offer on basis discussed with you: salary 15,000, retiring allowance 8,000, retiring allowance for wife if she survives 5,000, additional allowance for education of children, amount to be settled in conference. Cable me your attitude. Salary begins whenever you are ready, we to pay moving expenses."

Yesterday I received your letter of July 4. I am deeply appreciative of your approbation, and I thank you most heartily for your congratulations.

I note what you say of the importance of securing an algebraist, and in this matter I shall be guided by the advice and judgment of those who constitute the mathematical group. At the moment it is not necessary to select a person. I should like to put before you and Professor Veblen a method of procedure which has been followed with very great success at the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, for I think that we can profit if we will use the experience of the Rockefeller Institute, the Kaiser Wilhelm Institutes, and perhaps other institutions which are deeply concerned with research and with the training of gifted and promising young men. I may say that in all these matters I am most anxious to avoid anything like the standardization which is now altogether too strong in

Professor Weyl

July 21, 1932

2

universities. Doubtless with the progress of time we shall form certain habits adapted to our individual needs and problems, but, as we begin with a clean slate, we can feel our way along, carefully guarding the individual so that he may have the utmost possible leeway in the development of his own powers and the powers of his students.

I venture to reassure you on the subject of the gold clause. There is no danger that in our lifetime America will depart from the gold standard, but if such should be the case, you may be very sure that the Institute will compensate its staff accordingly. I am proceeding with the utmost caution in order to build up a substantial reserve fund against any possible emergency of this or any other kind.

I should perhaps add one explanation in the matter of pensions. There exists in America The Teachers Association Annuity Fund, into which the professor pays monthly 5% of his salary, and the Institute pays an additional 5%, which is thus a salary increase. This sum is compounded and at the retirement of the professor is utilized to provide a retiring allowance. In the case of the Institute the retiring allowance thus provided will not reach the figures which I have offered you, Professor Veblen, and Professor Einstein. The balance will be made up by the Institute.

The actual work of the Institute will not begin until the autumn of 1933. Dean Eisenhart of Princeton has offered us accommodations in the new mathematical building at Princeton, so that we shall be under no immediate necessity of building.

I should be extremely happy now that Professor Einstein and Professor Veblen have joined the Institute if you would act favorably on this invitation, but I shall not unduly urge you, for I know that you will do what is best for yourself, for your family, and for the subject to which you have devoted yourself.

I have also now received your cable via New York. I shall await your letter with great interest and shall write you as promptly as I can after its receipt.

Professor Weyl

July 21, 1932

3

With all good wishes and very high regard, I am

Sincerely yours,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

P.S.

I hope it may be possible to keep this entire negotiation confidential or nearly so. I realize the difficulties since you must confer with your colleagues and the Ministry, but no public announcement will be made in this country until the beginning of next October. I may add that anything you write me regarding persons or other subjects will be most confidentially protected.

A.F.

Herrn Prof. Dr. H. Weyl
Merkelstr. 3
Göttingen, Germany

AF:ESB

Dekanat der Math.-Naturwiss.Fakultät

Göttingen, den 20. Juli 32

Göttingen.

Lieber Herr Weyl,

7/20

Ich bin beauftragt worden, Ihnen über die Frage Ihrer Beurlaubung an das Flexnersche Institut auf 2 Jahre die Meinung der vier anwesenden mathematischen Kollegen (Herglotz, Hilbert, Landau, Neugebauer) sowie des telegraphisch um seine Meinung gefragten Kollegen Courant mitzuteilen. Es war die einhellige und mit den wärmsten Worten ausgesprochene Ansicht, dass Ihr Fortgehen ein schwerster Verlust sei und dass alles geschehen müsste, um Sie hier zu halten.

Zu unserm grössten Bedauern geht aus Ihrem Schreiben hervor, dass die Aussichten Ihrer Rückkehr recht gering sind. Daher betrachten es die mathematischen Kollegen als ihre Pflicht, die Nachteile Ihrer Beurlaubung gegen die relativ geringe Aussicht Ihrer Rückkehr abzuwägen; sie sind dabei völlig einstimmig zu der Auffassung gelangt, dass Ihre Beurlaubung für die Fakultät untragbar sei. Die Möglichkeit einer vollwertigen Vertretung unter Wahrung der inneren Einheit des Instituts und der Interessen des Unterrichts wurde entschieden verneint. Man war einstimmig der Ansicht, dass gerade Ihre Stelle nicht auf längere Zeit unbesetzt

Dekanat der Math.-Naturwiss.Fakultät

Göttingen, den 20.Juli 32

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oder unzulänglich besetzt werden kann.

Ich bitte Sie, von dieser Meinung der mathematischen Kollegen dem Ministerium Mitteilung zu machen, wenn Sie, wie ich annehme, unter diesen Umständen von der Einreichung eines Urlaubsgesuches absehen. Ich möchte zum Schluss nochmals der Hoffnung aller Kollegen Ausdruck geben, dass Sie den Verlockungen des amerikanischen Rufes widerstehen und unsern Kreise erhalten bleiben.

Mit bestem Gruss

gez. Born .

Form 6123, replacing Form 1-TW

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Night Message	N M
Night Letter	N L

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will call

Dr Abraham Flexner,
Magnetawan Ont.
Via Burksfalls

Bin prinzipiell bereit anzunehmen zunaechst fuer-zwei jahre
wie sie windelband vorschlugen bemuehe mich um zustimmung
hiesiger fakultaet brief unterwegs.

Weyl.

1017Am July 18--1932

USE OUR DIRECT ALL-CANADA SERVICE TO VANCOUVER, VICTORIA AND BRITISH COLUMBIA POINTS

GÖTTINGEN
MERKELSTR.3 , d. 16. Juli 1932.

PROF. DR. H. WEYL

7/14
Dr. Abraham Flexner,
Director of the Institute for Advanced Study,
100 East 42 nd Street,
New York City, N.Y., U.S.A.

Verehrter Herr Flexner,

Als ich letzten Montag mit Herrn Windelband im Ministerium sprach, war er aufs höchste erstaunt, von mir zu hören, dass ich ev. für immer an Ihr Institute übersiedeln wollte, und erklärte keine Vollmachten zu besitzen, um mit mir darüber zu verhandeln. Er hätte von Ihnen nur gehört, dass sie Europäer zunächst für zwei Jahre berufen wollten, und das Ministerium sei, wie er Ihnen zugesichert habe, gerne bereit, einen Urlaub von 2 Jahren in meinem Falle zu bewilligen - vorausgesetzt, dass die Fakultät zustimme, deren Gutachten ich zunächst einholen müsse. Ueber die Frist von 2 Jahren könne er schwerlich hinausgehen.

Diese Mitteilung von Herrn Windelband, eine Besprechung mit Herrn Einstein und der Wunsch meiner Frau haben dazu geführt, dass ich mit der Frage an Sie herantreten muss, ob der Board einverstanden ist, dass wir uns gegenseitig zunächst nur für 2 Jahre binden. Mir scheint, dass dadurch nicht viel verändert wird, da ich ja immer einem Ruf nach Deutschland zurück hätte Folge leisten können. Ich will Ihnen als Gegenleistung gerne versprechen, während der 2 "Probejahre" unter keinen Umständen einen Ruf nach auswärts anzunehmen.

Wenn Sie auf einer Entscheidung "für immer" bestehen, müsste ich diese noch etwas hinausschieben, bis die Personen- und andere Fragen am Institute etwas mehr geklärt sind. Veblen deutete mir in Berlin an, dass Sie Ihre ursprünglichen Pläne neuerdings etwas reduziert haben.

Da am 29. Juli unsere bis Anfang November dauernden Ferien beginnen, halte iches für opportun, jetzt gleich an die Fakultät mit dem Gesuch heranzutreten, in den 2jährigen Urlaub zu willigen, und hoffe, dass ich noch vor den Ferien einen dahin gehenden Beschluss herbeiführen kann.

Als Datum meines Amtsantritts ziehe ich den 1. April dem 1. Oktober vor; ich würde es aber durchaus verstehen, wenn Sie Wert darauf legen, dass ich, bei meiner vielleicht nur auf 2 Jahre begrenzten Wirkungsdauer, erst im Herbst 33 eintrete, wenn das Institute voll in Betrieb gesetzt werden wird.

Ich verspreche Ihnen, dass ich alles tun werde, um meine Frau und mich in Princeton und am Institute heimisch zu machen und

meine Stellung durchaus nicht als eine vorläufige betrachten werde. Ja es ist gern möglich, dass ich noch vor meiner Uebersiedlung ans Institute mich entschliesse, die befristete in eine dauernde Anstellung umzuwandeln.

Zur Beschleunigung unserer Verhandlungen lege ich einen Vertrags-Entwurf bei, der nur als ein erster Entwurf gelten soll und in den ich meine Wünsche eingetragen habe. Wo Sie nicht beistimmen können, bitte ich um Abänderung. Es wäre mir aber lieb, dass wir einen von beiden Teilen unterzeichneten Vertrag aufsetzen. Insbesondere mögen Sie einen Passus einfügen, der meine Verpflichtungen gegenüber dem Institute umschreibt.

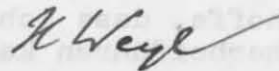
Ich bin darauf gefasst, dass Sie nicht willens sind, die moving expenses zu tragen, solange ich nur für 2 Jahre angenommen habe. Wir erwägen aber, unsern Hausrat von Anfang an mit herüberzubringen, um uns wirklich in Princeton heimisch zu machen. Ich wäre dankbar dafür, wenn das Institute uns die Miete eines geeigneten Hauses erleichtern könnte. Die Rückzahlung der 3000 RM an die Preussische Regierung kommt selbstverständlich nur in Frage, wenn ich dauernd am Institute bleibe. Ich schulde sie der Regierung, falls ich Göttingen innerhalb der ersten 3 Jahre nach meinem Amtsantritt hier wieder verlasse; meiner Meinung nach also nicht, wenn ich mein hiesiges Amt am 1. Oktober 33 niederlege, wohl aber, wenn dies schon zum 1. April geschieht.

In den nächsten Tagen wird President Aydelotte in Göttingen sein und auch Veblen wird Ende des Monats noch auf wenige Tage nach Göttingen zurückkehren. Mit ihnen werde ich die Lage weiter besprechen. Es wäre mir aber sehr damit gedient, recht bald von Ihnen zu erfahren, ob Sie überhaupt willens sind, mich zunächst nur auf 2 Jahre anzustellen. Ich hätte diesen Vorschlag nicht gemacht, wenn Windelband mir nicht gesagt hätte, dass das überhaupt Ihrer ursprünglichen Absicht entspräche.

Ein paar kurze Personal-Angaben lege ich bei.

Ich begrüße Sie in aufrichtiger Verehrung

Ihr sehr ergebener



Vertrags-Entwurf.

=====

1. Dr. Hermann Weyl übernimmt am Institute for Advanced Study eine Professur für Mathematik vom 1. ^{April} ~~Oktober~~ } 1933 an.

2. Sein Gehalt beträgt 15 tausend \$ jährlich. Die retiring allowance wird auf 8, die Witwenpension auf 5 tausend jährlich festgesetzt. An Erziehungskosten werden jährlich (?) 250 \$ gezahlt für jedes Kind, solange es die High School (oder Gymnasium etc.) besucht, 1000 \$ jährlich vom Uebergang des Kindes an die Universität (oder College) auf die Dauer von (5 oder 6) Jahren. Im Falle des Todes beider Eltern beziehen die Kinder ausserdem bis zum vollendeten 21. Lebensjahre eine Pension von je 1000 \$ jährlich. - Retirement nach vollendetem 65. Lebensjahre. Die retiring allowance wird auch gezahlt, falls Prof. Weyl vor Erreichung dieses Alters durch Krankheit verhindert wäre, seine Tätigkeit am Institute weiter auszuüben.

3. \$ ist hier verstanden als Golddollar = gramm Feingold.

4. Herrn Prof. Weyl wird ein persönlicher Assistent zugesichert, der mit einem Gehalt von \$ jährlich auf Grund seines Vorschlages vom Board angestellt wird.

5. Beide Vertragsteile ~~binden~~ binden sich zunächst gegenseitig für 2 Jahre. Dr. Weyl verpflichtet sich, während dieser Zeit keine Berufung an ein anderes Institut anzunehmen. Erklärt er bis spätestens 3 Monate vor dem Ablauf der 2 Jahre, dass er dauernd am Institute zu bleiben wünscht, so wandelt sich die Anstellung zu den hier festgesetzten Bedingungen von selbst in eine lebenslängliche, seitens des Board unkündbare um. Doch steht es von da ab Herrn Prof. Weyl frei, gegebenen-

Vertrags-Entwurf

falls unter Einhaltung einer angemessenen Kündigungsfrist einen Ruf an ein anderes Institut anzunehmen.

6. Die Kosten für den Umzug von Deutschland nach Amerika

und für die Anpassung des vorhandenen Hausrats an die neue Wohnung am Ort des Instituts trägt das Institute, gleichgiltig ob dieser Umzug vor oder nach der in Absatz 5. vorgesehenen Umwandlung der Anstellung in eine lebenslängliche erfolgt. Einbegriffen ist der für gebräuchten Hausrat etwa erhobene Zoll. Ferner zahlt das Institut die Summe von ca. 3000 RM. an die Preussische Regierung, falls diese die von ihr getragenen Kosten des Umzuges Zürich-Göttingen zurückfordert.

7. Voraussetzung für das Inkrafttreten des Vertrages ist,

dass die amerikanischen Behörden der Einwanderung und dauernden Niederlassung von Dr. Weyl, seiner Ehefrau und seiner Kinder in den U.S.A. keine Hindernisse in den Weg legen.

Personalien.

a) Hermann Weyl, Dr. phil., Dr. phil. h.c., Dr. ing. e.h., * 9. Nov. 1885, habilitiert 1910 in Göttingen, o. Professor der Mathematik an der Eidgenössischen Technischen Hochschule Zürich 1913 - 30, an der Universität Göttingen seit 1. Oktober 1930.

b) Helene Weyl, geb. Joseph, * 30. März 1892.

c) Kinder: 1) Fritz Joachim, * 19. Febr. 1915.

2) Michael, * 15. Sept. 1917.

Day Message	
Day Letter	
Night Message	
Night Letter	
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Send the following message, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

To Weyl19

Am authorized to make offer on basis discussed
with you salary 15000, retiring allowance 5000,
retiring allowance for wife if she survives 5000
additional allowance for education of children amount
to be settled in conference cable me your attitude
salary begins whenever you are ready we to pay
moving expenses

G. J.

7/4 W & F:

I heard from V. with great joy that he is going into the Inst.
Einstein wrote me, and if I didn't misunderstand him - that he will
henceforth spend his winters in Inst. I hope to begin speaking about
my new work. This a good keeping - I congratulate you -

I have meanwhile spoken with the Kurator; the meeting had to be
postponed because he had other pressing business. He had no specific
objection (?) otherwise it is to be noted that I must see the Minister
in Berlin. On Monday July 11 Herr Videll said he will see me. I will
consult him then (?)

I would like to be promoted with a change into gold standard
but not in a

I have ~~discussed~~ ^{not} discussed with V. further about people. I have my heart
set on a strong young algebraist. I don't value either Wiener or Lipschitz
as highly as V. does. I would favor Lipschitz succeeding V. at Plo -

GÖTTINGEN , d. 4. Juli 32.
MERKELSTR.3

PROF. DR. H. WEYL

Sehr verehrter Herr Flexner,

Von Veblen hörte ich zu meiner grossen Freude, dass er definitiv am Institute angestellt ist. Einstein schrieb mir - wenn ich seine Mitteilung nicht missverstehe - , dass er immer während des Winters am Institute sein wird. Ich hoffe ihn zu Beginn der nächsten Woche persönlich zu sprechen. - Dies ist, was man sicherlich einen guten Anfang nennen kann, und ich beglückwünsche Sie zu diesem Erfolg!

Ich habe inzwischen hier mit dem Kurator gesprochen; die Unterhaltung musste immer wieder aufgeschoben werden, weil der Kurator anderweitig sehr in Anspruch genommen war; sie hat kein bestimmtes Ergebnis gehabt, sondern es ist nötig, dass ich nach Berlin ins Ministerium fahre. Am Montag, d. 11., wird mich Herr Windelband empfangen. Ich werde Ihnen unmittelbar nachher Bericht erstatten oder Sie, vielleicht durch Kabel, um die offizielle Fixierung Ihres Angebots bitten.

Betreffs der Festsetzung des Gehalts wäre mir - bei der gegenwärtigen Unsicherheit aller Valuten - eine Goldklausel angenehm. Aber ich bin nicht misstrauisch genug, um darauf sehr grossen Wert zu legen.

Die Frage der geeignetsten Personen habe ich noch weiter mit Veblen diskutiert. Der "junge starke Algebraiker" liegt mir nach wie vor sehr am Herzen, und die Aussichten in dieser Richtung könnten für meine Entscheidung ins Gewicht fallen. Von Wiener wäre ich, im Vertrauen gesagt, nicht sehr begeistert, auch Lefschetz halte ich nicht für so gut, wie Veblen es tut. Ich würde es für die glücklichere Lösung

GUARANTY TRUST COMPANY
4 PLACE DE LA CONCORDE
PARIS. JUNE 15TH. 1932

Herrn Professor Hermann Weyl
Mathematische Institut
GOTTINGEN
Germany

Dear Professor Weyl,

I regret deeply that the fatal illness of a member of my wife's family compels me to return to America without seeing you again, but alas it cannot be helped.

I am sailing to-morrow on the Bremen. My address in America is
100 EAST 42ND STREET NEW YORK CITY

✓ I am prepared at any moment when you have come to a conclusion to make to you in writing the proposition which we discussed together covering salary, retiring allowance, pension for your wife, salary of an assistant and allowance for each of your boys during their education.

I have written Professor Veblen on other matters which he has brought up and you and he are perfectly free to discuss the entire problem with one another.

✓ Will you send me a line to New York telling me now when you desire me to make you a formal proposition. I am hopeful that you and your wife will see in the Institute an opportunity which will appeal to you both - permanently if possible.

I cannot tell you how greatly I regret my inability to return to Gottingen.

I beg you to convey my greetings to your wife, and to believe me, with all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

AF/AH

GÖTTINGEN, d. 8. Juni 1932
MERKELSTR.3

PROF. DR. H. WEYL

Herrn Abraham Flexner,
c/o Guaranty Trust Co.,
4, Place de la Concorde,
P a r i s.

Verehrter Herr Flexner,

Weil Ihr Brief vom 4. an das Mathematische Institut adressiert war, habe ich ihn erst gestern erhalten. Es tut mir leid, dass Ihre Familie von Unglück betroffen ist und dass Sie infolgedessen Ihre ursprünglichen Reisedispositionen ändern müssen.

Durch vertrauliche Gespräche mit Veblen hat der ganze Plan Ihres Forschungsinstituts für mich inzwischen wesentlich positivere und konkretere Form angenommen. Die Beteiligung von Veblen, mit dem ich herzlich befreundet bin, bedeutet viel für mich. Mit meiner Frau habe ich bisher nur kurz sprechen können, da sie gleich weiter gereist ist, um meiner Mutter für einige Tage Gesellschaft zu leisten. Aber ~~heute~~ ^{heute} soviel kann ich ~~heute~~ ^{heute} schon jetzt sagen, dass ich heute noch wesentlich mehr geneigt bin, mich dem Institute zu verbinden als vor einer Woche.

Natürlich verstehe ich vollkommen, dass Sie nicht anders konnten, als Herrn Prof. Windelband erzählen, dass Sie mit mir gesprochen haben. Sobald ich etwas eingehender mit meiner Frau die ganze Lebensänderung durchgesprochen habe, werde ich dem Kultusministerium offiziell Mitteilung machen und meinerseits mit den Herren Richter oder Windelband Rücksprache nehmen. Vorher werde ich aber auch noch meinen Göttinger Freunden gegenüber Stillschweigen beobachten.

Der Gedanke, mich zunächst nur für eine begrenzte Zeit, etwa 3 Jahre, dem Institute zu verpflichten, ohne währenddessen die Verbindung mit Göttingen zu lösen, ist bei mir jetzt mehr in den Hintergrund getreten. Im Gegenteil bin ich mit dem Gedanken von Veblen einverstanden, die Entscheidung rasch herbeizuführen und meine Tätigkeit ev. bereits zum 1. April 33 drüben aufzunehmen. Wenn es dringend erwünscht sein sollte, dass meine Frau mich bereits im Februar zur Vorbereitung der Uebersiedlung nach Amerika begleitet, werde ich Ihr freundliches Angebot, ihre Reisekosten betreffend, für das ich Ihnen dankbar bin, gerne annehmen.

Ueber das, was etwa an Anregungen betreffs der sachlichen und Personal-Fragen des Instituts aus den Besprechungen mit Veblen hervorgeht, hat oder wird Ihnen Veblen berichten. Mir liegt sehr viel daran, dass von Anfang an ein sehr starker Mathematiker dabei ist, der wesentlich jünger ist als Veblen und ich; weiter scheint es mir auch

wichtig, dass die "abstrakte Algebra", die gegenwärtig in der Mathematik eine grosse Rolle spielt, vertreten ist. Die tüchtigsten Vertreter dieses Gebietes in Deutschland sind: Artin (ca. 34 Jahre alt), Hasse (34), Frl. Noether (50) und unter den Jüngsten R. Brauer (31), von denen Artin bei weitem der stärkste ist. (Mir liegt aber durchaus nichts daran, gerade Deutsche vorzuschlagen; ich kann meine Landsleute nur am besten beurteilen.) Bin ich frei, mit Einstein über das Institut vertraulich zu korrespondieren? Es könnte mir erwünscht sein, ihn zu fragen, wie er zu der Angelegenheit steht, oder auch, ihm mitzuteilen, dass er auf meine Mitbeteiligung rechnen kann, wenn er annimmt.

Der Brief, in welchem Sie zu gegebener Zeit die Bedingungen, die wir mündlich besprochen, schriftlich fixieren möchten, sollte, wenn es nach meinem Wunsche geht, ausser der Festsetzung der von mir zu übernehmenden Verpflichtungen und der Gehalts- und Pensions-Bedingungen noch enthalten: 1) die Zusicherung der Unkündbarkeit der Stellung seitens des Instituts, 2) die Zusicherung eines persönlichen Assistenten (der jeweils entsprechend meinem Vorschlage befristet anzustellen wäre) mit Angabe seines Gehalts, 3) die Zusicherung der Erstattung der Umzugskosten (Reisekosten der Familie, Transportkosten der Wohnungseinrichtung, Kosten für die Herrichtung der neuen Wohnung, soweit es sich nicht um Neu-Anschaffungen handelt). Wenn ich vor dem 1. Oktober 1933 meine Stellung hier niederlege, muss ich ausserdem die mir vom Preussischen Kultusministerium gezahlten Kosten des Umzugs Zürich - Göttingen in Höhe von etwa RM. 3100 zurückerstatten. Wie ich Ihnen schon sagte, wäre ich froh, in Princeton ein Haus mieten zu können, welches das Institut kauft oder baut (am liebsten das letztere!), oder wenn mir das Institut auf andere Weise, etwa durch Vorschüsse zu normalem oder niedrigem Zins, beim Bau eines eigenen Hauses finanziell behilflich wäre.

Es war für mich ein grosses Vergnügen, Ihre persönliche Bekanntschaft zu machen, die nun vielleicht zu einer dauernden Zusammenarbeit führen wird!

In grosser Hochachtung
Ihr sehr ergebener



4th June 1932.

Herrn Professor Hermann Weyl,
Mathematisches Institut,
Göttingen.

Dear Professor Weyl:

6/4

On reaching Hamburg, I received a cable containing very distressing news about a member of my wife's family . As my wife is in Vienna, I therefore came here immediately so as to be in easy reach of her if matters became more serious. I cannot at the moment therefore say what my future course will be.

This morning I called on my old friend Professor Windelband at the Kultusministerium, and he quite naturally asked me what I was doing in respect to the Institute. Our relations have been so intimate and confidential that it seemed necessary for me to say that among other places I had visited Göttingen and that I had talked with you, for Prof. Windelband already knew that I am interested in a school of mathematics. I told him, however, that we had come to no conclusion and that you would take no steps without conference with him and the other proper authorities in the Kultusministerium. I hope that you will understand that I had to be candid with Prof. Windelband on the basis of our long and intimate friendship. However, you are in no way involved for I told him that you had said you would do nothing and come to no conclusion until you

- 2 -

had consulted freely with the Kultusministerium.

Even if you should decide with the approval of the authorities here to come to America, work would not be possible before the ultimate 1933. If you should decide in the affirmative, and if your wife should wish to come with you to America during the coming winter, while you are at Swarthmore College, in order to have time and opportunity to decide on questions of living arrangements, I am sure that the Trustees of the Institute for Advanced Study would be happy to pay your wife's travelling expenses.

After you have spoken with Prof. Windelband and others, I will if you so desire write you a letter setting forth the terms and conditions which we discussed the other day. Meanwhile I have spoken very freely with Prof. Weblen, who has been in my confidence from the beginning, and you can speak with him as freely as you choose; in order that he may thoroughly understand I am sending him a copy of this letter.

Whatever happens, I am delighted to have made your acquaintance and I am most hopeful that some arrangement can be made.

With warm regards and all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

March 22, 1932

Dear Professor Weyl:

I have received your very kind letter of March 5, and I beg to express my warm thanks for the candor with which you have written me. I understand quite readily that before you can decide the question which I have raised you will wish to assure yourself as to the character and quality of your collaborators, the site of the Institute, and the general academic conditions which will be provided. I am inclined to think that I can satisfy you on all these points.

You need give yourself no concern as to organization, for our main purpose is to bring together in one subject after another a few productive men in the prime of life, to allow them to select the small number of students with whom they as individuals wish to work, and to give them the largest degree of freedom that is possible.

You are quite right when you say that the general academic situation in this country has very grave drawbacks, but this will be of no direct concern to us, for we shall set out to do our own task precisely as the scientists at Dahlem do theirs. It will not be our business to undertake to reform American universities, though of course we shall be happy if anything we do may enable them to improve.

I have it in mind to go to Europe on other business connected with the Institute, probably towards the end of April. If I do this, as I now expect, I shall be able to see you in person probably in the early part of May, and we can then discuss the whole problem much more freely and satisfactorily. I shall let you know in good time as to the date of my sailing.

With great appreciation and high regard, I am

Very sincerely yours,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Herrn Prof. Dr. H. Weyl
Göttingen
Merkelstr. 13
Germany

AF:ESB

I have enclosed herewith a copy of the letter which I have just received from you regarding the matter of the Institute's financial position. I am sure that you will find it of interest.

Very truly yours,

April 14, 1932

Dear Professor Weyl:

I am sending you this line to inform you that I am sailing on the S.S. Augustus on April 22, disembarking at Villefranche. I shall probably spend a week or two in France, and I shall communicate with you on reaching Paris where my address will be Guaranty Trust Company, 4 Place de la Concorde, Paris. I look forward with pleasure to meeting you in the near future and remain

Always sincerely,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Herrn Prof. Dr. H. Weyl
Göttingen
Merkelstr. 3
Germany

AF:ESB

Weyl

GÖTTINGEN, d. 5. März 1932.
MERRILLSTR. 3

PROF. DR. H. WEYL

3/5

Sehr geehrter Herr Flexner,

Haben Sie besten Dank für die Uebersendung Ihres Buches über die Universitäten, das erste Bulletin des von Ihnen gegründeten Institute for Advanced Study und Ihren Brief vom 15. Febr., in dem Sie mich fragen, ob ich unter Umständen gewillt sei, an diesem Institut eine Professur für Mathematik zu übernehmen. Ich schätze das grosse Vertrauen, das Sie in mich setzen, wenn Sie mich zur Teilnahme an diesem grossartigen Experiment aufrufen. Und ich möchte Ihnen darauf in voller Offenheit antworten.

Participation

Seit ich im Herbst 29 aus Amerika zurückgekehrt bin, habe ich mir gewünscht, dass mir noch einmal Gelegenheit geboten würde, die Entscheidung Deutschland - Amerika zu revidieren. Der Grund liegt hauptsächlich in den heillosen politischen Zuständen, in die wir hier hineingeraten sind und die mich zu sehr mit Sorge belasten, als dass ich frei arbeiten könnte. Finde ich drüben mehr Musse und Sicherheit zu einem ungestörten, fruchtbaren Arbeiten, so bin ich geneigt zu kommen.

Hier nicht nur
Fälle 1929 zu revidieren
Revidieren die Entscheidung
kann die ganze
Politik und diese

Natürlich wäre es für mich wichtig, zu wissen, wer die übrigen Mitarbeiter wahrscheinlich sein werden (jüngere Kräfte? ev. noch ein weiterer Deutscher?), wo das Institut errichtet werden soll (Newark, das ich freilich nur vom Zuge aus kenne, schreckt mich einigermassen) und wie es mit Bibliothek und Assistenten bestellt sein wird. Zum Organisieren bin ich schlecht zu gebrauchen. Damit Sie einen Anhalt über meine finanzielle Lage hier haben, teile ich Ihnen mit, dass mein Göttinger Gehalt (incl. Kollegelder usw.) 32000 RM beträgt (vor den Notverordnungen!)

Newark?
Newark?
Salang?
Wie nun zu machen

Trotz meines einjährigen Aufenthalts in Princeton kenne ich Amerika (und vor allem das Amerika nach Oktober 29) nicht genügend, als dass ich glaube, die Entscheidung schon hier treffen zu können. Die Lektüre Ihres Buches hat mir das besonders deutlich gemacht, aus dem ich realisiere, gegen was für eine Macht Ihr Institut sich durchsetzen muss! So müssten Sie mir wohl zunächst Gelegenheit geben, etwa ein Jahr lang, am Institut zu wirken, ohne dass ich meine Verbindung mit Göttingen löse. Auf welchen Zeitpunkt denken Sie an die Eröffnung des Instituts, ich meine der wissenschaftlichen Tätigkeit am Institut?

Worte in opposition
to K. GAS
nicht so schwierig
göttingen

Es wäre mir lieb, Sie schrieben mir zunächst noch einmal, bevor Sie selbst zu Unterhandlungen die Reise nach Europa machen.

Wäre kein Comis

February 15, 1932

Dear Professor Weyl;

I am sending you herewith a brief pamphlet which announces in general terms the foundation in the eastern part of the United States of an institution which is to be devoted to research and to higher learning. The institution has received an initial endowment of upwards of five millions of dollars and will be much more liberally endowed later. It will aim to be small and of the very highest possible quality, the members of the faculty selecting their own students - few, but, as far as one can judge, advanced and able.

In reference to remuneration, may I call your attention to pages 13 and 14 of the enclosed pamphlet? The Trustees have resolved that professors shall be adequately remunerated and that a proper retiring allowance shall be provided for the professor and for his wife, in case of her survival.

We have decided after very mature reflection to begin in the field of mathematics and for that purpose to bring together a few men in the prime of life and of outstanding significance. Your name has been suggested to me repeatedly in this connection both in Europe and in America. If the matter interests you, I should be very happy to make a trip to Europe for the purpose of conference with you.

I am, with very great respect,
Herrn Prof. Dr. Hermann Weyl

Yours very sincerely,
ABRAHAM FLEXNER