

1932

12/6

✓FOREIGN PERSONNEL

Government Relations

EINSTEIN, A.

Biography

FOSDICK, R. B.

Fosdick (Curtis, Fosdick & Belknap, Attorneys at Law, NYC) to Flexner (NYC)

"Dear Flexner:

"Well, I see that Einstein got his visa after all. As you said last night, it was one of those damn fool things that could only happen in the United States. Last evening I sent Stimson the following telegram:

'Action by American Consul in Berlin in regard to Dr. Einstein's visa is a deep humiliation to America. Strongly urge that steps be taken at once to remedy situation so that we may not become ridiculous before the whole world. If as a result of blundering stupidity of our representative in Berlin Einstein's visit is made impossible, history will never forgive us.'

Harry also sent an indignant telegram to Hoover and we called up Nicholas Murray Butler and got him started on the war path. He was mad as the devil about the whole proceeding and promised to raise hell. I also got Shotwell started and he sent telegrams to

Washington. I got in touch with Finley of the New York Times and we were just planning out a campaign when the flash came over the wires that the visa had been ~~grate~~ granted.

"That the State Department should have dignified that absurd petition from the Woman Patriot Corporation is nothing short of a national humiliation."

1933

1/9

TUITION

Academic Procedures

✓ FOREIGN PERSONNEL

Government Relations

Dr. Flexner reported in part:

"The Graduate School of Princeton University has been built up upon the basis of a low tuition fee, namely, \$100 per annum. It seems to me that <sup>at</sup> the outset it is expedient to adopt the same scale.

"I have conferred with the authorities of the State Department in respect to the visas of foreigners who may be appointed to the Institute or who may desire to study in it, and I have been assured that no difficulties of any kind are to be anticipated."

Vol. I, No. 10, Minutes, p. 6.

1940

June - August

SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICS

Academic Organization

WORLD WAR II

Government Relations

✓ FOREIGN PERSONNEL

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

Relations WOAI

ROCKEFELLER

Foundations

AYDELOTTE, F.

Biographical

RIEFLER, WINFIELD W.

Correspondence regarding the League of Nations.

Filed in Chronological File under 1940, June - August.

A File, League of Nations, (Invitation to Economics Section)

1940

6/7

FOREIGN PERSONNEL

Government Relations

WORLD WAR II

AYDELOTTE, F.

Biographical

A memorandum by Frank Aydelotte.

At the suggestion of Winfield Riefler, a luncheon meeting was held June 7, 1940, with following present: Mr. Brakeley, Mr. Stewart, Mr. Riefler, Mr. Aydelotte, Mr. Arthur Sweetser of the Secretariat of the League of Nations just over from Geneva. Riefler and Sweetser had recently held a conversation in Washington which Riefler wished to bring to the attention of the authorities of Princeton University, the I. A. S., and the Princeton branch of the Rockefeller Institute, and the Rockefeller Foundation.

Sweetser informed the group that because of possible contingencies in Switzerland that there was likelihood "that the League may be required to consider the desirability of seeking quarters in another country, which, in his opinion, should be a neutral country."

He disclaimed any official authority to bring the suggestion forward, but he was wondering whether the technical work of the League and statements made about it by both President Roosevelt and Secretary Hull might not come to this country during the emergency of the war.

Princeton was agreed upon as ideal. Sweetser asked whether the institutions represented and present would consider issuing a joint invitation. "It was understood that such an invitation, if issued, would involve no financial responsibility, the technical sections paying their own cost of transportation and their running expenses in Princeton, as they do in Geneva." No responsibility should be fraught?? felt by any one of the participating institutions for the future of the personnel in these sections which were the sections on economics, finance, the opium section, and the health section. The group should be kept together if possible. The total personnel would amount to probably about 80 who were predominantly neutral rather than belligerent, with a large representation of Scandinavians.

It was agreed: (1) That an informal approach should be made to the Boards of Trustees to ascertain whether they would consider it wise. If the three Boards of Trustees agree, it would perhaps be best

to designate members of a joint committee which would consider the steps to be taken; (2) The United States Government should be approached if the agreement among the Boards was unanimous; (3) Formal invitations should be extended.

A. File League of Nations (Invitation of Economics Group)

1940

August

✓ FOREIGN PERSONNEL

Government Relations

WORLD WAR II

AYDELOTTE, F.

Biographical

Excerpts from a memorandum by Frank Aydelotte.

Mr. Sweetser landed America on the 28th of May, and during the next few days the English, "were executing their glorious retreat from Dunkirk." He had a series of conferences with Riefler and Stewart and kept Loveday and Lester informed, though the reaction was not very enthusiastic from them. At the conference of June 7, Brakeley, Vice-President of Princeton University, represented that institution, Dr. Ten Broeck represented the Rockefeller Institute.

June 12 Secretary of State Hull "gave us permission to go ahead." Although the State Department was not to be associated with ~~him~~ those issuing the invitation in any way.



Sweetser had intimations from Geneva that Avenol (Secretary General of the League) was opposed to any such transfer and Sweetser was advised to be careful. On June 15 the air was full of rumors of the impending French surrender. On that date Avenol sent a declination of the invitation on the ground that the activities of the League were placed by statute in Geneva. No change could be made except for the members of the League.

Then the British Ambassador, Lord Lothian, stepped in and was able to bring pressure upon Avenol through the British Foreign Office. Also, Mr. Carl J. Hambro, President of the Storting, and President of the Assembly of the League and of the Supervisory Commission was active in influencing a change of opinion.

July 23 Avenol proposed to send Loveday and Skylstad to Princeton to investigate conditions and consider the advisability of the transfer. He also said he was considering the immediate transfer of the Economics Section.

July 26 Avenol sent a cordial acceptance of our invitation as regards the Economics and Financial Section and said at the same time that the work of other sections raised special problems to which he was giving his careful consideration.

The next day the newspapers announced Avenol's resignation as Secretary General of the League.

The personnel arrived on the conditions described by Alexander Loveday (See file). "It was a thrilling end to a month of anxious negotiation and patient unraveling of every possible kind of difficulty. The events seemed to us to have their part in a larger drama in that one section of the League of Nations, urged upon Europe by Woodrow Wilson at the end of the last war and supported by an immense body of the best public opinion in the United States, was coming back, as we all hope, to make a new start in the seat of Woodrow Wilson's university. Our luncheon at the Princeton Inn on Thursday, August 22nd, was a joyful one, and the reunion seemed to all of us to have a significance which no one quite dared put into words...We had rescued one of the most important of the technical sections of the League from the rapidly advancing Nazi destruction. We had out-maneuvred the puppet government at Vichy. In the darkest hour of the history of the League <sup>of</sup> the United States, whose defection in 1919 had been partly responsible for the League's weakness, was offering to important League activities not merely sanctuary but a chance to continue work. (Our School of Economics at the Institute, so largely specialized in questions of international finance, had secured an interesting and

important addition to its strength.)"

A. File League of Nations (Invitation of Economics Group)

1951

10/5

PARTICIPATION IN ADMINISTRATION

Academic Personnel

✓ FOREIGN PERSONNEL

Government Relations

EMIGRES

Academic Personnel

The Director announced negotiations under the new Internal Security Act resulted in the exclusion of three prospective members and the admission of others on uncertain status, and had created not a little ill-feeling among foreign scholars against the United States. "Pending legislative changes, the Director raised the possibility of asking the State Department to carry out security investigations of foreign scholars who are under consideration for membership in the Institute before they are formally invited. The Director admitted that such procedure would be unfortunate, and the consensus of opinion of the meeting was also opposed."

Faculty Minutes, 10/5/51