

March 11, 1974

Memorandum to the Trustee Members of the Governance Committee

The latest developments on the situation of the Governance Committee are as follows. On February 25, 1974, at a Mathematics School meeting, Selberg's resignation from the Committee was accepted and the School approved the attitude and the course of action adopted by him under the circumstances. A motion of thanks for, and approval of, his work on the Committee was passed unanimously. On March 8, 1974, the School of Historical Studies addressed itself to the same question in a long and apparently agonizing discussion. I do not yet have the text of the motion they passed, but I understand that it contains three substantial points: they regret Selberg's departure from the meeting; they value the continuance of discussion which they think has been helpful; they did not wish to send a History representative unless the School of Mathematics continued to be represented.

I am not sure that I have a clear picture of all the tactical maneuvers involved in this discussion. It is clear that the History group is divided between those who really wish to join the mathematicians and those who think they are finding an effective way of bringing the mathematicians back to the discussion. My own judgment is that those who hold the latter aim pursued it in a mistaken way, but that is now neither here nor there.

I believe that there is nothing we can do immediately, although in a week or ten days I think it would be helpful if Howard wrote to each member of the Committee (and to Harish-Chandra, the Executive Officer of the School of Mathematics for this year, instead of to Selberg), reminding them of the meeting date, discussing the agenda, and perhaps enclosing some proposals or points for discussion on the subject of the appointment of the Director, his term, his function, etc., representing the views of the Board members of the Committee.

Carl Kaysen

Mr. Howard C. Petersen
Mrs. Hanna H. Gray
Mr. Robert M. Solow
Mr. Donald B. Straus

cc. Mr. J. Richardson Dilworth

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

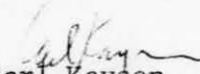
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