

French Math

June 14, 1941

Dear Dr. Rapkine:

I am delighted to hear of the arrangement about Jean Perrin. I have appealed to Ambassador Henry-Haye on behalf of Langevin and hope that something will come of it. I shall be glad to keep you informed of all developments.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Louis Rapkine
c/o The Rockefeller Foundation
49 West 49th Street
New York, N. Y.

FA:MR

c/o The Rockefeller Foundation
49 West 49th Street
New York City

May 30, 1941

Dr. Frank Aydelotte
Institute of Advanced Study
Princeton, N.J.

Dear Dr. Aydelotte:

I am very happy to announce to you that a solution was arrived at, for Professor Jean Perrin. May I give you a resumé of what seems to be like a detective story.

I took up your clue and wrote to Professor Harlow Shapley. Professor Harlow Shapley answered immediately giving me the clue to get in touch with Dr. Seelye of the Emergency Committee for Displaced Scholars. By a bit of good fortune Dr. Seelye had in his possession a letter from Wilson College, Pa., asking for a suggestion concerning a teacher in science. We put two and two together and we immediately wrote to the President of the Wilson College about Jean Perrin. He answered promptly and favorably. I cabled to Dr. Perrin and Dr. Perrin has accepted. We will send him the contract in a few days. It now depends on Vichy that this story should have a happy ending. I do not doubt but that Dr. Perrin will get his exit-and transit-visae. At any rate everything worked successfully on this side. Let us hope that it should work out as quickly and successfully on the other side.

Thanking you, Dr. Aydelotte for your sympathy and for your suggestions which started the ball rolling, I am,

Most faithfully yours,

Louis Rapkine

Dr. Louis Rapkine

French Math

May 8, 1941

Dear Professor Rapkine:

I am deeply moved by your letter about Jean Perrin. It would be quite impossible for us to extend him a fictitious invitation, but I will take steps to see whether anything can be done to make a real invitation possible. If we could get a fund which would insure him of a stipend for two years and his traveling expenses, I should be most happy to invite him, and if then it seemed best for him to go elsewhere we could send him and the fund along together.

With kindest regards, I am

Yours sincerely,

FRANK AYDELOTTE

Prof. Louis Rapkine
c/o The Rockefeller Foundation
49 West 49th Street
New York, N. Y.

FA:MR

V. H. H.
c/o The Rockefeller Foundation
49 West 49th Street
New York, N. Y.

May 2, 1941

Dr. Frank Aydelotte
The Institute for Advanced Study
Princeton, N. J.

Dear Dr. Aydelotte:-

Thank you for your letter of the 21st of April, to which I thought there was no necessity to answer. However, I received on the 29th of April a cable from Prof. Jean Perrin which moved me very much. This is the way it goes:

"Aurai visa Americain le vingt mai stop pas reçu
invitation facilitant autres visas stop message
transmis Francis stop merci amities. Perrin."

This cable was in answer to my cable that an emergency visa was granted to him by the State Department. I never mentioned to him even the slightest hope of an invitation to this country. But in my heart of hearts I always felt uneasy that there was no invitation for so great a Physicist, one of the great pioneers of atomic physics of this century. Although he is seventy years old, he is so alert and so alive to everything which represents a progress in Physics that I think he would be a real inspiration to many a young scientist. I even felt that it would not be out of place to invite Jean Perrin even only as a gesture of human dignity towards a man who has done so much personally in research, as well as for the development of scientific research.

Dear Dr. Aydelotte, I am speaking to you in this vein because I know that you feel about all this even as I do. I am aware of all you have done for Prof. Langevin and all the trouble that it must have put you to. Yet I cannot prevent myself from writing again to you with the feeling that if anything could be done for Jean Perrin it could be done by you.

Things are tightening in France, I am afraid, and Jean Perrin is in great danger because he was Under Secretary of State for Scientific Research during the Popular Front Government. This has stamped him as a "Red", although I can vouch for the fact that there has never been a more staunch anti-communist than Jean Perrin. I know, through correspondence, and through people who have lately seen him, that Perrin is extremely anxious to get over here away from the reach of the Nazis whether they be German or French.

I wonder whether you cannot, because of this emergency, even send a fictitious invitation. I am sure that if Prof. Perrin could come here we would have no difficulty in finding the stipend necessary to pay him some salary that would permit him to carry on useful and inspiring work. His cable seems to indicate that what he mainly wants an invitation for, is to be able to get his other visae, such as an exit visa and possibly a visa to go through Martinique. Could you please do something about such an invitation? If I could not persuade the Rockefeller Foundation to pay the travel expenses, I think that I can myself find the necessary funds for travel. May I beg you, dear Dr. Aydelotte, to act quickly, if any action could be taken at all. Thanking you in advance, I am,

Very faithfully yours,

Louis Rapkine

April 16, 1941

Dear Professor Rapkine:

Please pardon my delay in answering your letter of April 4th. As you may have heard, the Emergency Committee could not help Dr. Langevin but a special committee has been trying to raise money for him for two years. I am optimistic as to their success but we have no definite assurances as yet. As soon as I have the money assured I shall be glad to write all the formal letters you suggest.

I have Perrin very much on my mind. The case of Langevin seemed more pressing, but as soon as that is taken care of I shall begin work on Perrin.

With kindest regards, I am

Yours sincerely,

FRANK AYDELOTTE

Prof. Louis Rapkine
The Rockefeller Foundation
49 West 49th Street
New York, N. Y.

FA:MR

c/o The Rockefeller Foundation
49 West 49th Street
New York, N.Y.

April 4, 1941

Dr. Frank Aydelotte
The Institute for Advanced Study
Princeton, N.J.

Dear Dr. Aydelotte:

Thank you for the short and hopeful note that your secretary sent me on the 26th of March, concerning Prof. P. Langevin.

May I exchange compliments in the way of good news: Both Prof. Langevin and Prof. Jean Perrin have now been notified by the State Department in Washington that they will be granted emergency visae by the consulates in Paris and Lyon. If you recall, I had prepared dossiers for both these scientists and very quickly had them approved by Mr. George L. Warren, of the President's Advisory Committee. Once approved, they were sent to the Departments of State and Justice. And, just recently, I was informed by Mr. Warren of the good news.

There are two things that I should like to ask you, dear sir:

1. If the subsidy from the Emergency Committee has been granted to Dr. Langevin, would it be possible for you to write to Mr. George L. Warren, informing him of that? He would have this information cabled to the Paris American Consulate. As you know, the consulates are often jealous of their prerogatives and such information could go a long way to have things move quickly. I think that even the German authorities, if Prof. Langevin will have to consult them, may be more impressed by an official invitation from your Institute. They may be more lenient in granting him an exit permit.

2. This is a bit of wishful thinking: I wonder whether any hope could be held out to have a similar subsidy for Prof. Jean Perrin? It is so difficult in the minds of most French scientists, to separate the names of these two men. They have been life-long friends and they have both done together so much for the advancement of physics in France, both spiritually and materially, that it would be a great pity that they should be separated at this critical moment. However, if it isn't possible, it can't be helped. Maybe we will find a means of placing Prof. Perrin when he comes over here.

-2-

Thanking you, Dear Dr. Aydelotte, for all you have
done and for your kind interest in our distinguished French
scientists and scholars,

Believe me to be

Very faithfully yours,

Louis Rapkine

Louis Rapkine

CALEDONIA 5-6638

FRED M STEIN
270 MADISON AVENUE
NEW YORK

April 1, 1941

Dear President Aydelotte:

Thank you for your letter and for the memorandum you enclosed about Langevin.

I have got Mr. Liebman busy. I have asked Professor Shapley to do some writing, and I shall make a few attempts myself, and I hope we may be successful in raising the necessary \$5000.

Just as soon as I have any good news, I shall inform you.

Sincerely yours,

Fred M Stein

Pres. Frank Aydelotte
The Institute for Advanced Study
Princeton, New Jersey

FMS:KH

French Math.

Memorandum for Mr. Stein:

Paul Langevin, born 1872, is Professor of General and Experimental Physics at the Collège de France, Director of the Ecole de Physique et Chimie, and member of the French Académie des Sciences. Among other honorary degrees he holds one from Cambridge, England. His international reputation is indicated by the fact that he was elected President of the triennial Solvay Congress after H. A. Lorentz's death.

Langevin is an eminent theoretical physicist. The thermic theory of magnetism is due to him; he did outstanding theoretical and experimental work in the theory of ions in gases; a particular kind of ions in the atmosphere bears his name. Other fields of his activities are secondary rays of X-rays, relativity theory, and during the last war he developed the technique of ultra-sound waves.

He is a man of stupendous knowledge, of great imagination and penetrating understanding. These gifts enabled him to become the leading teacher of theoretical physics in France; everybody in France who has won significance in this field during the last thirty years went through Langevin's school. He is one of the most intelligent and independent men France has produced during the last decades. He has done very much for the cause of freedom, and with unfailing courage has stood up for everything that is just and good. He is a great man.

Langevin has always taken an interest in public affairs, has been active in caring for German refugees who fled to France after the beginning of the Nazi regime, and has acted as president for some years of the French Association for the Rights of Man. These activities have already brought him into conflict with the Nazi authorities, and we understand that he was arrested and confined for a short period but has now been released.

As far as we know, Langevin is married, but it seems possible that in case a temporary arrangement for two years or for the duration of the war is made, he would decide to come over alone.

March 29, 1941.

FRANK AYDELOTTE

March 29, 1941

Dear Mr. Stein:

I enclose the memorandum about Langevin which I promised. It was very difficult to convey in such a mere recital of facts any adequate impression of his wonderful character and enthusiasm which makes him outstanding both as a man and as a scholar.

The case of Langevin has been very much on the minds of the members of the School of Mathematics at the Institute. At a meeting sometime since, I was authorized to invite him to membership at the School provided funds could be secured with which to provide him with a stipend. I should be most happy to have him here if you can succeed in your efforts to find funds for him.

With warmest regards, I am

Yours sincerely,

FRANK AYDELOTTE

Fred M. Stein, Esquire
270 Madison Avenue
New York, N. Y.

FA:MR
Enc.

The Emergency Committee in Aid of Displaced Foreign Scholars

2 WEST 45TH STREET · NEW YORK CITY

Telephone: VAnDerbilt 6-1471

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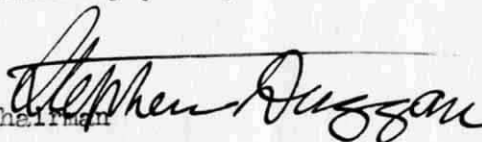
March 26, 1941

Dr. Frank Aydelotte
Director
The Institute for Advanced Study
Princeton, New Jersey

Dear Aydelotte:

You know that I shall be very glad to place your application formally before members of our Subcommittee on Applications at their next meeting. There is not a chance, however, that they would grant as much as \$4,000 a year for Dr. Langevin--even though he is Dr. Langevin. It has been years since they have given as much as \$2,000. This is just by-the-by, however, and I shall be delighted to take the matter up with my Committee.

Sincerely yours,


Chairman

SD:ES

March 26, 1941

My dear Dr. Rapkine:

Dr. Aydelotte asks me to thank you for
your letter of March 14th and to say that he now
hopeful of being able to get a subsidy for
Professor Langevin from the Emergency Committee.

Very truly yours,

Secretary to Dr. Frank Aydelotte

Dr. Louis Rapkine
c/o Rockefeller Foundation
49 West 49th Street
New York City

FA/MCE

D. H. Lehmer
French Mathematicians
Levy

March 22, 1941

Dear Doctor Johnson:

Andre Weil told me that he had spoken to you about the "Bourbaki" enterprise. Under this collective pseudonym a set of young French mathematicians has started to publish a number of volumes concerning the basic disciplines of mathematics.

The accent in classical mathematics lay on calculus, and for everything related to calculus the great French "Cours d'Analyse" by Camille Jordan, Goursat and others, have in the past played a very vital part in mathematical training all over the world. But in the last twenty-five years the emphasis has shifted to other fields like topology and algebra and it has become necessary to lay the foundations deeper. Whereas in calculus, general agreement about fundamental ideas, notations, and terminology was reached a long time ago, conditions have remained more fluid (not to say confused) in the newer disciplines. But the time seems to have come when integration and a certain degree of standardization should and could be attempted with a fair hope of success. Sometimes such integration has been brought about by an individual work of genius of such paramount importance that nobody working in the field could evade its influence. Systematic efforts undertaken by a group expressly for this purpose are less sure of success; their achievement will perhaps do no more than solidify one school adhering to a special brand of abstract ideas without finding acceptance among other schools, or the foundations laid might soon prove too narrow, etc. I see these dangers and am therefore less enthusiastic about the enterprise than the entrepreneurs themselves. But there is an urgent need, and as far as I can see ~~the~~ "Bourbaki" is trying very earnestly and intelligently to find the best and simplest way to arrange the fundamental ideas and to fix the nomenclature. Plan and execution of each volume are discussed in full detail by the whole group, and before the manuscript is finished it will have been rewritten by three to four authors. It seems certain that no single member of the group could have accomplished what they have done by pooling their mathematical intelligence.

Dr. Alvin Johnson - 2

March 22, 1941

So far two small volumes, on abstract sets and general topology, have appeared in French in the *Actualités Scientifiques et Industrielles*; preparation of the material for three more volumes is far advanced. But now the group has been broken up by the war; three of its leading members -- André Weil, Chevalley, and Henri Cartan -- are, or will soon be, in this country. A condition sine qua non for the continuation of the work would be the bringing over of at least two more members, and this is the reason why I write to you about it.

In October last year I sent Dr. Warren Weaver a list of French mathematicians, mostly younger men, whom one could consider as candidates for the rescue action undertaken jointly by you and the Rockefeller Foundation. I enclose a copy brought up to date by information obtained from André Weil. It so happens that all the Bourbaki collaborators are on it. The two men whom Weil considers indispensable for continuation of the work are (5) Jean Delsarte and (9) Jean Dieudonné. Delsarte speaks no English and distrusts his linguistic abilities. It would be much better to place him in the French Catholic university in Montreal than anywhere in the United States. Things are different with Dieudonné, who was a Proctor Fellow in Princeton University from 1927 to 1929.

In my opinion an invitation to this country to any democratic-minded foreign scholar who is threatened by the (let us hope short-lived) Nazification of the European continent should depend first of all on his scholastic standing, and then on his adaptability. The fact of his being indispensable for work like that of the Bourbaki group, however meritorious, should hardly play a decisive role in the selection. However, all the young French mathematicians (2)-(9), except (2) Henri Cartan and (3) Jean Leray, are of nearly equal rank. (2) is placed, (3) out of reach. Hence, if there is a possibility of bringing over to America one more young French mathematician, I should find it justifiable to concentrate on Dieudonné, and to try to establish Delsarte in Canada.

Very sincerely yours,

Dr. Alvin Johnson
New School for Social Research
66 West 12th Street
New York City

Hermann Weyl

~~HW:GB~~
Copies sent to Messrs. Appleget and Aydelotte

October 14, 1940

Corrected March 21, 1941

A list of French mathematicians

who may be helped by an invitation to this country

GENERAL OBSERVATION: Probably the cases are most urgent of those mathematicians who have been dismissed (+) or who were teaching at Strasbourg or Nancy (*) or were born in Alsace (*); the latter are perhaps in danger of being made German citizens against their will. [Any particular anxiety about the classes (*) and (*) seems to be unfounded. 3/21/41]

- (1) Denjoy, Arnaud, born 1884, January 5

Married

Education: Ecole Normale Supérieure (ENS) 02-05

Positions: Maître de conférences, Montpellier 09-17

Professor, Utrecht (Holland) 17-22

Since then in Paris; full professor since 1931

Field: Theory of integration and derivation, series of complex rational functions

Rating: Outstanding.

Address: 116 Boul. Raspail, Paris

- * (2) Cartan, Henri, born 1904, July 8, at Nancy

Married, one child

Education: ENS 23-26

Positions: Charge de cours, Lille 29-31

Since then, full professor at Strasbourg

Field: Functions of several complex variables, general topology

Rating: First-rate mathematician; his work has created entirely new methods in the theory of functions of complex variables

Address: ~~Université de Strasbourg~~ Care J. Dieudonné, Faculté des Sciences, Clermont-Ferrand

- * (3) Leray, Jean, born between 1905 and 1908

Married

Education: ENS 26-29

Positions: Full professor at Nancy since 1937

Prix Francoeur, prix Malaxa (with Schauder)

Field: Partial differential equations, application of general topology to analysis and to concrete problems in hydrodynamics

Rating: First-rate mathematician; his work shows mastery of both the modern and the classical methods

Address: ~~2, rue de la Croix, Nancy~~ Prisoner of war. Address: Care Prof. R. Thiry, Faculté des Sciences, Marseilles

Bourbaki

(4) de Possel, René, born 2/7/05

Married, 2 children

Education: ENS 23-26. Fellow (French funds) 26-33

Positions: Maitre de conferences in Marseille, Clermont-Ferrand, Besancon 33-38

Full professor at Clermont-Ferrand since 1938

Field: Analytic functions, theory of integration

Rating: A very good mathematician, thorough in his work (a large part of which is still unpublished). Outstanding teacher, apt to foster research among his students

Address: Clermont-Ferrand (Puy-de-Dome)

Bourbaki

* (5) Delsarte, Jean, born 10/19/03

Married, at least 3 children

Education: ENS 22-25

Positions: Since 1927 in Nancy, now as full professor

Prix Madame Noury in 1935

Field: Operational calculus, Bessel functions

Rating: A very good mathematician, whose work, directed along the lines of classical analysis, is highly original (has not yet gained its due recognition)

Address: ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ Faculté des Sciences, Grenoble

Bourbaki

(6) Chabauty, Claude, Born May 4, 1910

Married

Education: ENS during 3 years between /30 and /36, Proctor Fellow at Princeton Univ. 35-37

Position: Fellow in France (French funds)

Field: Algebraic numbers and Diophantine approximations

Rating: A very promising mathematician

Address: ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~
Care Prof. J. Dieudonné, Faculté des Sciences, Clermont-Ferrand

Bourbaki

** (7) Ehresmann, Charles, born in Alsace, April 19, 1905

Married

Education: ENS 24-27, Proctor Fellow at Princeton Univ. 32-34

Positions: Fellow in France (French funds) 34-38; Maitre de conferences, Strasbourg, since 1938

Field: Differential geometry in the large, topology

Rating: A good mathematician

Address: ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ Faculte des Sciences, Clermont-Ferrand

Bourbaki

* (8) Pisot, Charles, born in Alsace about 1910-13

Married

Education: ENS during 3 years between 1930 and 1936

Position: Fellow in France (French funds) since then

Field: Theory of numbers

Rating: Probably the most promising young French mathematician

Address: ? Care Prof. Claude Chevalley, Fine Hall, Princeton, N.J.

Bourbaki

Bourbaki

Address: ~~28 rue des Frères, Rennes (ille-et-Vilaine) but now probably:~~
~~Université de~~ Faculté des Sciences, Clermont-Ferrand

Address: Care Professor Jacques A. Shohat, University of Pennsylvania,
Philadelphia

c/o The Rockefeller Foundation
49 West 49th St.

New York, March 14th 1941

Dear Dr. Aydelotte,

Thank you ever so much for your letter of March 11th,
as well as for the copy of your letter to Mr. J.L. Warren of
the President's Advisory Committee. I'm sure this latter
letter will be most helpful.

On my side I will get in touch with Mr. Appleget
& Dr. Duggan and see whether anything else is being done
in behalf of Professors Langevin and Perrin so as to unite
our efforts.

Thank you again for your sympathy and encourage-
ment; I am, believe me,

very faithfully yours
Louis Rapkine

Louis RAPKINE

Dr. FRANK AYDELOTTE, Director
The Institute for Advanced Study
Princeton, New Jersey

French Math.

March 20, 1941

Dear Duggan:

I was delighted to see Alvin Johnson's letter to Einstein, saying that you and he had been in conference on the subject of Langevin and he were willing to make an attempt to get a grant for the Institute so that it could invite Langevin over. It gives me the greatest satisfaction to make formal application for such a grant and to say that we should be most happy to have him here.

In accordance with Dr. Johnson's advice, I should like to suggest that the grant be for \$4000 a year. I am afraid we would have to make it for two years in the first instance in order to get a visa for him. I very much hope that the matter can be arranged.

Yours sincerely,

FRANK AYDELOTTE

Dr. Stephen Duggan
Emergency Committee in Aid of
Displaced Foreign Scholars
2 West 45th Street
New York City

FA/MCE

THE NEW SCHOOL

FOR SOCIAL RESEARCH

66 W. Twelfth Street
New York City

March 18, 1941

Dear Dr. Einstein:

I have been in touch with Dr. Stephen Duggan, Chairman of the Emergency Committee in Aid of Displaced Foreign Scholars, on the subject of Langevin. The action of the Committee can never be predicted in advance, but Dr. Duggan and I both feel that an attempt should be made to get a grant for the Institute so that it may invite Langevin. If the Institute will send a formal application to the Committee, Dr. Duggan and I will try to get a favorable decision as soon as possible.

I would advise that you request a grant of \$4,000 for one year. This is too little, but we shall have to supplement it from other sources.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Alvin Johnson
Director

Dr. Albert Einstein
The Institute for Advanced Study
School of Mathematics
Princeton, New Jersey

French Math.

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122 EAST TWENTY-SECOND STREET, NEW YORK

George L. Warren
Executive Secretary

GRAMERCY 5-1093

March 13, 1941.

Dr. Frank Aydelotte
Director, The Institute for Advanced Study,
Princeton, New Jersey.

Dear Dr. Aydelotte:

Thank you for your letter of March 11th concerning Professors Langevin and Perrin. I am pleased to be able to advise you that recommendations for visas with respect to each were made by this Committee to the Departments of State and Justice, Washington, on March 5, 1941. As soon as further word from the Departments concerning the actions taken on our recommendations is received I shall be very glad to advise you.

With kindest personal regards, I am,

Yours very truly,

George L. Warren

George L. Warren.

GLW:J

March 11, 1941

Dear Professor Rapkine:

I have your letter of March 9th and enclose copy of the letter which I am writing to Mr. Warren today. I don't know of any specific arrangements which are being made for either Langevin or Perrin but think it very unlikely that anything would be done without the knowledge of Dr. Duggan and Mr. Appleget. I am sure these two men can keep you informed. You will note what I say to Warren about the possibility of the two men coming to the Institute for Advanced Study. Our budget for next year is already made and we have no free funds which could be used for their support, but if money could be found from any source, we should be delighted to have them.

With warmest good wishes, I am

Yours sincerely,

FRANK AYDELOTTE, Director

Professor Louis Rapkine
The Rockefeller Foundation
49 West 49th Street
New York, N. Y.

FA:MR

March 11, 1941

Dear Mr. Warren:

I am delighted to hear that you have interested yourself in the cases of Professors Langevin and Perrin. They are two great French scholars and they probably are in some personal danger if they remain in France. In any case, they would find it practically impossible to do any scientific work. They have contributed so much, not merely to French science, but to work in their fields everywhere, as to richly deserve any help that can be extended to them in the present emergency.

In many ways this Institute would be an admirable place for both men and we should be delighted to take them in here if funds can be found from any source to pay the modest stipends which would be needed for their support. If that is not possible here, I am sure they would be welcome almost anywhere in this country.

Yours sincerely,

FRANK AYDELOTTE, Director

George L. Warren, Esquire
122 East 22nd Street
New York, N. Y.

FA:MR

c/o The Rockefeller Foundation
49 West 49th Street
New York, N.Y.
March 9th, 1941

Dear Dr. Aydelotte:

Your letter of February 17th reached me in Canada, where I was visiting various institutions and laboratories. I returned to New York a few days ago and as there were no new developments concerning Professors Langevin and Perrin, I did not write to you until now. However within the last few days I made new arrangements, about which I had already intimated to you when I last visited you in Princeton.

I had, to an extent, suspected that the Rockefeller Foundation's policy would prevent it from providing funds for the above men because of their age. I have therefore arranged with an intimate friend of Professors Langevin and Perrin to provide the necessary affidavits of support. On my return from Canada, I found these affidavits waiting for me. Having prepared previously the affidavits of sponsorship (given by Professors F. Boas and H.C. Urey of Columbia University) as well as the prerequisite biographies, I handed all these documents to Mr. George L. Warren, secretary of The President's Advisory Committee. Mr. Warren, really "un homme de bonne volonté" and who is keenly aware of the time element, has immediately approved both dossiers and sent them to the Dept. of Justice, in Washington. This side of the problem is, therefore, well taken care of. I am quite confident that once these men will be here, the money question will be easily solved. But I do consider it very important that both Langevin and Perrin should be gotten out of France as quickly as possible. You have here the most important details of the arrangements made so far.

In your letter of February 17th you ask me to keep you informed about new developments and you kindly propose to me "to point the way to further efforts on your part." I truly believe that it would help greatly, if you could write to Mr. George L. Warren of The President's Advisory Committee (122 East 22nd St., N.Y.C.) telling him about the enthusiasm voiced by the members of your Institute, concerning Langevin and Perrin. The case of Professor Lebesgue will have to remain in abeyance, since I have, so far, been unable to obtain for him affidavits of support. If you find it possible to write such a letter, may I take the liberty of asking you to send me a copy of it. I will permit myself to keep you informed as to further developments.

Thanking you for your interest and sympathy and hoping to hear from you at your earliest convenience, I am, believe me

Very fathfully yours
Louis Rapkine
Louis Rapkine

P.S. May I ask you to inform me of any other specific arrangements, that you may be acquainted with, concerning the rescue of Professors Langevin and Perrin. For best results I think it is advisable to "run wires parallel rather than cross ~~them~~ them."

L.R,

Dr. Frank Aydelotte, Director
The Institute for Advanced Study
Princeton, New Jersey

Dr. Fra

February 19, 1941

Dear Hill:

I am glad to say that Rapkine and Laugier came to see me the other day with your letter of introduction. We had a long talk about French scientists and I have undertaken to do anything that we can here at the Institute to find a place for men who would fit into our work.

It was delightful to hear from you again and I am more pleased than I can tell you that the projects of cooperation which we discussed when you were in this country a year ago are now moving along, even though at a slower pace than one could wish.

I think the English resistance since last August perhaps the most glorious episode in English history, and it has, in my opinion, effectively turned the corner of the war and put the dictators on the defensive. Doubtless there is still a hard struggle ahead, but I am myself thoroughly confident of Hitler's ultimate defeat, and I know that the contribution which this country will make toward it will constantly and rapidly increase.

With warmest regards, I am

Yours sincerely,

FRANK AYDELOTTE

Professor A. V. Hill
The Royal Society
Burlington House
London, W. 1, England

FA/MCE

February 17, 1941

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FACULTY OF THE SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS:

I had a talk with Dr. Hanson and Mr. Miller in Dr. Warren's office of the Rockefeller Foundation about the proposals of Professors Laugier and Rapkine that we request funds to bring Langevin, Lebesgue, and Jean Perrin to the Institute. Mr. Miller tells me that they feel obliged to refuse help to both Langevin and Perrin on the score of age, and since there is no evidence that Lebesgue is in any particular danger at this moment they are not prepared to appropriate any funds for him.

Mr. Miller understands that Ambassador Bullitt is arranging to bring Langevin to the United States. What will happen to him here Mr. Miller does not know, but he promises to send me any information he may receive. I told him that we should always be interested in making a place for Langevin at the Institute if funds could be found for his support.

FRANK AYDELOTTE

French Mathematicians

February 17, 1941

Dear Professor Rapkin:

I called a meeting of the members of our School of Mathematics and, as I expected, I found them most enthusiastic about bringing over Langevin, Jean Perrin, and Lebesgue. I then took up with the Rockefeller Foundation the possibility of finding funds for this purpose, but Dr. Miller in Dr. Weaver's office tells me that it would be contrary to the policy of the Foundation to support Langevin or Jean Perrin on the score of age and that since Lebesgue is not in immediate danger they would think it better to reserve their funds for more pressing cases and not undertake to support him. It looks, therefore, at the moment as if there were nothing more that we could do.

I have heard from another source that arrangements would probably be made to enable Professor Langevin to come to the United States and I have intimated that we should be most happy to receive him here at the Institute if he wishes to come here and if we can find from some source the needed financial support.

I hope you will let me know of any development which may point the way to further efforts on our part.

Yours sincerely,

FRANK AYDELOTTE, Director

Professor Louis Rapkin
c/o The Rockefeller Foundation
49 West 49th Street
New York City

FA/MCE

January 31, 1941

Dear Dr. Rapkine:

I have just returned from a holiday in the South and find your letter of January 15th, together with A. V. Hill's introduction. I am writing immediately to say that I look forward with the greatest pleasure to seeing you and Dr. Langier. Would it be possible for the two of you to come down to Princeton to lunch some day next week? We could lunch at my house, have a talk about the purpose of your mission, and then have tea at the Institute, where I should like to have you meet some of the members of our scientific staff. Any day next week from Wednesday to Saturday would, so far as I can now see, be convenient for me. If no one of these days suits you we shall try to find another.

Yours sincerely,

FRANK AYDELOTTE, Director

Dr. Louis Rapkine
c/o The Rockefeller Foundation
49 West 49th Street
New York City

FA/MCE

January 17, 1941

Dr. Louis Rapkine
c/o The Rockefeller Foundation
49 West 49th Street
New York City

My dear Dr. Rapkine:

Your letter of January 15, enclosing
letter of introduction from Professor A. V. Hill,
has come while Dr. Aydelotte is away on a holiday.
I am holding it for his return next week.

Very truly yours,

Secretary to Dr. Frank Aydelotte

Wednesday Jan. 15, 1941

Dr. Frank Aydelotte
Institute of Advanced Studies
Princeton, N. J.

Dear Sir,

Enclosed you will find a letter of introduction from Professor A.V. Hill, explaining the nature of our mission, both Dr. Laugier's and mine.

We should appreciate it very much, if you could find a moment, at your own convenience, to receive Dr. Laugier and myself. We are very anxious to take council with you, regarding some ^{of} our distinguished men of science who are already undergoing great hardships in France

Thanking you in advance, and hoping to hear from you at your earliest convenience

I am, believe me

Very respectfully yours
Louis Rapkine

Dr. Henri Laugier & Louis RAPKINE
% The Rockefeller Foundation
49 West 49th St.,
New York City

Re February 12 meeting, 10 a.m.

Seen by

Prof. Alexander ✓

Einstein ✓

Morse ✓

v. Neumann ✓

Veblen ✓

Weyl ✓

7 copies
93

MATHEMATICS

Number ones

1. Brelot - 36 yrs.- Fr. Cath.- harmonic functions - Univ. of Bordeaux

[2. Cartan, Henri - 35 yrs.- Fr. Cath.- theory of functions, theory of groups -
Strasbourg - considered as one of best young mathematicians in
France - Fac. of Sc., Clermont-Ferrand, France

3. Chabauty, Claude - 28 yrs.- Fr. Cath.- theory of numbers - Ecole Normale Sup. -
speaks Eng.; was on two occasions RF at Princeton at School of
Advanced Studies

+ [4. Chevalley - 30 yrs.- Fr. Cath.- Univ. of Paris - refer to School of Advanced Studies
for curriculum vitae - Princeton Schl. of Adv. Str., New York P. N. S.

5. Coulomb, Jean - 39 yrs.- Fr. Cath.- equation of Lamé - Univ. of Algiers, France

6. Delsarte - 37 yrs.- Fr. Cath.- Univ. of Nancy - linear operators, Taylor series

(2) 7. Lebesgue - 55 yrs.- Fr. Cath.- analysis - College de France - member of French
Inst.; very renowned mathematician

8. Levi, Paul - 55 yrs.- Fr. Jew - theory of functions, Fourier transformations -
Ecole Polytechnique, Paris

[9. Mandelbrojt, S. - 40 yrs.- (Russian) Fr. Jew - theory of functions - College de
France - left Paris legally having obtained exit permit from
Vichy after being invited as vis. prof. by Rice Inst. where he
had lectured before; one of most remarkable mathematicians in
France - Rice Inst., Houston, Texas

10. Milloux, Henri - Fr. Cath.- theory of functions - Univ. of Bordeaux

11. Pisot - 28 yrs.- Fr. Cath.- theory of numbers - Ecole Normale Super.

12. de Possel - 30 yrs.- Fr. Pr.- mathematics - Ecole Normale Super.

[13. Weill, Andre - 34 yrs.- Fr. Jew - functions of many complex variables, theory of
numbers, and groups - Strasbourg - one of greatest mathematicians
in Europe - in London now on his way to U.S.A.

Hadamard

PHYSICISTS

Number 0000

1. Auger, Pierre - 42 yrs.- Fr. Cath.- analysis of cosmic rays - Sorbonne - speaks English freely; lectured over U.S.- very good teacher, refer Arthur Compton of Chicago, Milliken of Calif. Inst. of Tech.- 12 Rue Emile-Faguet, Paris 14
2. Bauer, Edmond - 54 yrs.- Fr. Jew - quantum mechanics, Raman and infra-red spectral analysis - College de France - extraordinary teacher; speaks English freely; is a wealthy man; has written to Darrow expressing desire to come - Clermont-Ferrand, France
3. Brillouin, Leon - 52 yrs.- Fr. Cath.- conductability in metals, wave mechanics - College de France - speaks English freely having often been visiting professor in U.S.; has Jewish wife; remarkable teacher ~~4-c/o~~ Directeur de l'Enseignement Superieur (M. Rosset)
4. ~~de Broglie, Louis - 40 yrs.- Fr. Cath.- father of wave mechanics - Inst. Henri Poincare - Nobel prize; speaks English - 11 Rue Pierre Curie, Paris~~
5. Hollweck - 45 yrs.- Fr. Cath.- spectral analysis, measurement of gravity - Radium Inst., Paris - visited America; has done extremely important work in nat. def.
6. Joliot-Curie, Frederick - 40 yrs.- Fr. Cath.- radio activity - College de France, Paris - Nobel prize winner for artificial radio-act. discovery; home and lab. occupied by Germans; both he and wife were members of popular front so in danger; speaks English
7. Joliot-Curie, Irene - 42 yrs.- Fr. Cath.- radioactivity - Sorbonne - Nobel prize winner; was under-sec. of state in popular front govt.; both she and husband were on comm. for ref. ^{see} scientists and scholars - Radium Inst., Paris
8. Langevin, Paul - 63 yrs.- Fr. Cath.- magnetism, quantum mechanics - College de France, Paris - member of Inst. of France; foreign member of Royal Soc.; recently awarded Copely Medal; is dismissed and very likely imprisoned because was past pres. of League of Rights of Man and Comm. of Anti-Fascist movements
9. Longchambon, Henri - 44 yrs.- Fr. Cath.- chrystalography, minerology - Univ. of Lyon - was Dir. of depts. of app. ^{see} research of Nat. Center for Sc. Research; knows more than anyone in Fr. the problems that could be solved by sc. research relative to nat. def.
10. Lucas - 40 yrs.- Fr. Cath.- piezo electricity, ultra sonics - Ecole de Phys. et Ch., ^{see} Rue Vauquelin, Paris 5th - speaks Eng.; considered as one of ablest phys. ^{see}
11. Lyot - 45 yrs.- Fr. Cath.- photography of sun corona - Toulouse Univ.- recently honored by Royal Astronomical Soc. of G.B. for brilliant work on phot. of sun, Shapley of Harvard recommends him very strongly and uses Lyot's methods in his work
12. Mineur, Henri - 40 yrs.- Fr. Cath.- astro-physics - The Observatory, Paris - highly recommended by Shapley of Harvard who considers him one of ablest
13. Neel - 48 yrs.- Fr.- magnetism - Strasbourg - responsible for de-magnetizing vessels against mag. ^{see} mines; introduced new meth. and it was made use of by Brit. and Fr. admiralities - Clermont-Ferrand, France
14. Perrin, Francis - 38 yrs.- Fr. Cath.- nuclear physics - Inst. H. Poincare, Paris - speaks Eng. freely; very good teacher; has special talent to work with younger men
15. Rosenblum, Solomon - 44 yrs.- (Russian) Fr. Jew - spectroscopy and magnetism - Radium Inst., Paris - works on alpha particles in mag. ^{see} fields have attracted att. of Mme. Curie and Lord Rutherford; had been mem. of Solvay Congress; speaks English freely
16. Challenge - 40 yrs.- Fr. Cath.- spectral analysis - Observatory, Paris - refer Shapley
17. Thibaud - 43 yrs.- Fr. Cath.- X-ray analysis of metals, nuclear physics - Univ. of Lyon

③

Jean Perrin 20 - was
 comes with 4 French Physicists

Chr. Medioni

43 rue Waldeck-Rousseau, Lyon

October 14, 1940

A list of French mathematicians

who may be helped by an invitation to this country

GENERAL OBSERVATION: Probably the cases are most urgent of those mathematicians who have been dismissed (+) or who were teaching at Strasbourg or Nancy (*) or were born in Alsace (*); the latter are perhaps in danger of being made German citizens against their will.

- (1) Denjoy, Arnaud, born 1884, January 5
Married
Education: Ecole Normale Supérieure (ENS) 02-05
Positions: Maître de conférences, Montpellier 09-17
Professor, Utrecht (Holland) 17-22
Since then in Paris; full professor since 1931
Field: Theory of integration and derivation, series of complex rational functions
Rating: Outstanding.
Address: 116 Boul. Raspail, Paris
- * (2) Cartan, Henri, born 1904, July 8, at Nancy
Married, one child
Education: ENS 23-26
Positions: Charge de cours, Lille 29-31
Since then, full professor at Strasbourg
Field: Functions of several complex variables, general topology
Rating: First-rate mathematician; his work has created entirely new methods in the theory of functions of complex variables
Address: Université, Strasbourg
- * (3) Leray, Jean, born between 1905 and 1908
Married
Education: ENS 26-29
Positions: Full professor at Nancy since 1937
Prix Francoeur, prix Malaxa (with Schauder)
Field: Partial differential equations, application of general topology to analysis and to concrete problems in hydrodynamics
Rating: First-rate mathematician; his work shows mastery of both the modern and the classical methods
Address: 2 rue de la Craffe, Nancy

(4) de Possel, René, born 2/7/05

Married, 2 children

Education: ENS 23-26. Fellow (French funds) 26-33

Positions: Maitre de conferences in Marseille, Clermont-Ferrand, Besancon 33-38

Full professor at Clermont-Ferrand since 1938

Field: Analytic functions, theory of integration

Rating: A very good mathematician, thorough in his work (a large part of which is still unpublished). Outstanding teacher, apt to foster research among his students

Address: Clermont-Ferrand (Puy-de-Dome)

* (5) Delsarte, Jean, born 10/19/03

Married, at least 3 children

Education: ENS 22-25

Positions: Since 1927 in Nancy, now as full professor

Prix Madame Noury in 1935

Field: Operational calculus, Bessel functions

Rating: A very good mathematician, whose work, directed along the lines of classical analysis, is highly original (has not yet gained its due recognition)

Address: 4 rue de l'Oratoire, Nancy

(6) Chabauty, Claude, Born May 4, 1910

Married

Education: ENS during 3 years between /30 and /36, Proctor Fellow at Princeton Univ. 35-37

Position: Fellow in France (French funds)

Field: Algebraic numbers and Diophantine approximations

Rating: A very promising mathematician

Address: ? Care Prof. Claude Chevalley, Fine Hall, Princeton, N.J.

* * (7) Ehresmann, Charles, born in Alsace, April 19, 1905

Married

Education: ENS 24-27, Proctor Fellow at Princeton Univ. 32-34

Positions: Fellow in France (French funds) 34-38; Maitre de conferences, Strasbourg, since 1938

Field: Differential geometry in the large, topology

Rating: A good mathematician

Address: University, Strasbourg

* (8) Pisot, Charles, born in Alsace about 1910-13

Married

Education: ENS during 3 years between 1930 and 1936

Position: Fellow in France (French funds) since then

Field: Theory of numbers

Rating: Probably the most promising young French mathematician

Address: ? Care Prof. Claude Chevalley, Fine Hall, Princeton, N.J.

* (9) Dieudonné, Jean, born July 1, 1906

Married, 1 child

Education: ENS 24-27, Proctor Fellow in Princeton Univ. 27-29

Positions: Fellow in France (French funds) for several years; then

Maitre de conférences in Rennes; now full professor in Nancy

Field: Polynomial and rational functions of a complex variable, general topology, theory of integration

Rating: A very good mathematician, good at general theories and at special concrete problems

Address: 28 rue des Trente, Rennes (Ille-et-Vilaine); but now probably: Université, Nancy

+ (10) Kogbetliantz, Ervand, born 1888 in Russia; naturalized French citizen 1931

Married

Education: Univ. of Moscow, grad. 1912. Ph.D. ibid. Dr.Sc. Paris 1923

Positions: Instructor, Univ. of Moscow 14-18; Professor at Polytechnic Institute of Ekaterinodar and Univ. of Erivan (Caucasus) 18-21; Chargé de cours at the Sorbonne 21-27;

In 1926 invented a new type torsion-balance with three masses, patented in several countries, including the U.S.A.

In 1927 founded in France the "Société de Prospection Géophysique" (by gravimetric and magnetic methods)

During 1933-38 taught as professor at the newly-founded Univ. of Teheran (on recommendation of the French Government to the Government of Iran): Mathematics, Theoretical Astronomy, Applied Geophysics in the School of Mines, where he organized and directed a laboratory devoted to Gravimetry and Magnetometry

In 1938 returned to Paris and was placed in charge of mathematical research at the National Foundation of Scientific Research in France

Chargé de cours at the Sorbonne from 1938

In the French army until demobilization

Dismissed by the Vichy government in 1940

Languages: English, French, German

Field: Applied mathematics, Applied geophysics (new methods of prospecting). Infinite series, polynomials of Jacobi, Laguerre, Hermite, etc.

Rating: As a mathematician good, but not first rate. "Enthusiastic teacher" (according to Shohat). Should be placed in an engineering school.

Address: Care Professor Jacques A. Shohat, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia



The Royal Society
Burlington House, London W.1

Regent 3335

SEC.B/JWS

12 August 1940

Dear Aydelotte,

This is to introduce Dr Louis Rapkine, formerly a Canadian, naturalised some years ago as a Frenchman, who before the war was working at the Institut de Biologie Physico-chimique in Paris. I have known him for some time, particularly because of the generous and active part he has taken in France in recent years in providing for academic refugees from Nazi oppression. Since the war began he has been working with the French Coal Mission in London.

He is in very close touch with French scientific colleagues, and he and Dr Henri Laugier, Professor of Physiology at the Sorbonne, till recently Head of the pure research section of the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, have been invited by the Rockefeller Foundation to visit the United States in order to discuss the position of their scientific colleagues still in France. They hope that some means may be found to maintain the spirit and to preserve the personnel of French science for the day when France again is free.

I am giving Rapkine an introduction to you and to a few others in case you are able by your advice or in any way to forward his mission.

Yours sincerely,

A. N. Hue
Secretary R.S.

Dr Frank Aydelotte
Institute for Advanced Studies
Princeton N.J.