

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
OF THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY  
HELD AT 125 PARK AVENUE, NEW YORK CITY  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1945 AT 4:00 P. M.

PRESENT: Messrs. Aydelotte, Bamberger, Leidesdorf, Maass, Moe, Schaap, Veblen, Weed and Wolman and by invitation Professor Morse.

(1) The Director made a brief statement of the invitation which he had received from President Truman and Secretary Byrnes to serve as a member of a Joint Anglo-American Commission on Palestine. It was moved, seconded and unanimously carried that the Director should be granted leave of absence from the Institute for such time as is necessary for him to discharge his duties as a member of this Commission, provided that this leave should not extend longer than six months.

(2) The Director outlined the arrangements he proposed for the administration of the Institute during his absence. He proposes to entrust his duties to a Standing Committee consisting of Professor Marston Morse for the School of Mathematics, Professor Winfield W. Riefler for the School of Economics and Politics and Professor Erwin Panofsky for the School of Humanistic Studies, with Professor Morse as Chairman. The Committee will meet weekly in the Director's office at a stated time and Professor Morse will hold an office hour daily in the Director's office to take care of matters which may arise between meetings of the Committee. In addition the Secretary of the Board of Trustees, Edgar S. Bamberger, has undertaken to spend one day a week at the Institute attending to business matters which may arise in Miss Miller's office and to other details on which the Faculty

Committee may wish the advice of a member of the Board of Trustees. These arrangements were unanimously approved.

(3) Mr. Maass reported that the sale of the Bamberger Estate in Newark had been completed with a purchase price of \$162,500 with the understanding that \$82,500 should be paid in cash and a mortgage should be granted for \$80,000. The transaction was to be completed on December 19th. There is, however, a chance that the Government may wish to condemn the property for a veterans' home. If that should happen the entire sum would be received in cash. The completion of the transaction has been delayed until December 29th in order to await the decision of the authorities of the Veterans Administration.

(4) The Director reported the arrangements so far made for financing Professor von Neumann's electronic computer. The RCA has offered to contribute \$100,000. It is expected that the Navy will make a contract for \$100,000 and these sums together with \$100,000 from the Institute assure the construction of the computer including buildings. In addition Princeton University has offered to construct certain components in its Physical Laboratory. It is hoped that a certain amount of surplus electronic material will be received from the Army and the request has been made for \$100,000 from the Rockefeller Foundation which, if granted, would enable us to reserve the \$100,000 from the Institute as a contingent fund. The RCA and the Navy have made it a condition of their contributions that they should have exclusive rights to patents on inventions made in the expenditure of the funds contributed by them always understood that a free license

for the use of these patents should be granted to the Institute. The motion was that these contracts should be scrutinized carefully by a committee consisting of Mr. Maass, Professor von Neumann and Rear Admiral Strauss before they are signed.

(5) The Director recommended the appointment of Professor Samuel Eliot Morison of Harvard to be a professor in the School of Economics and Politics. After full discussion the recommendation was approved and it was voted that the Director should enter into negotiations with Professor Morison immediately. (I regret to say that Professor Morison has declined our invitation. F.A.)

(6) The Director recommended that Professor Kurt Gödel be made a permanent member with a stipend of \$6,000 plus a contribution to Professor Gödel's retiring allowance to be matched by him sufficient to give him a pension of \$1,500 at the age of 65. It was understood that the terms of the appointment are to be such that if for reasons of physical disability Professor Gödel should at any time be unable to perform his duties he should be retired on a pension of \$1,500.

(7) The Director recommended that Professor J. J. L. Duyvendak, an eminent Dutch authority on Chinese literature who is coming to the United States in 1946, should be appointed for a period not to exceed four months with a stipend of \$500 per month to make a careful study of the Gest Oriental Library and recommendation of the policy which should be adopted by the Institute in connection with this Library and the subject of Chinese studies. The recommendation was approved.

(8) The Director recommended that the budget for stipends for the School of Mathematics for the academic year 1945-1946 be increased from \$20,000 to \$30,000 to take care of the unusual number of men leaving war research who wish to pursue their studies at the Institute. The recommendation was approved.

(9) On the recommendation of the Director the stipend funds for the year 1946-1947 were allocated as follows:

School of Mathematics - \$30,000  
School of Economics and Politics - \$20,000  
School of Humanistic Studies - \$20,000

On motion of Professor Veblen it was resolved that Professor Gödel's stipend as a permanent member should not be drawn from the Mathematics budget but should rather come from general Institute funds.

(10) On the recommendation of Professor Meritt, Professor H. T. Wade-Gery of Oxford who spent a year at the Institute a few years ago, was appointed Visiting Professor in the School of Humanistic Studies for the academic year 1947-1948 with a salary of \$6,000.

(11) Members of the Executive Committee discussed in some detail the question of a subsidy of \$3,000 needed by the Princeton University Press to insure the publication of Miss Swann's book, "A Treatise on Food and Money" being a translation of an important Chinese manuscript of the Han dynasty. The Chinese text is to be printed along with the translation. It was moved, seconded and carried that this subsidy be granted on condition that Professor Duyvendak approves the volume as being worthy from the point of view of its scholarly excellence of being sponsored by the Institute.

(12) The Director reported at some length the discussions with Mr. McAneny, Professor Myers, Mr. Brakeley and Governor Edge concerning the proposed Princeton Battlefield Park for which it was desired to have some of the land formerly belonging to the Institute as well as a part of the land recently purchased by the Institute from Mr. Maxwell. No action was taken but Professor Morse was instructed to discuss the matter as the occasion arose with those interested and to report to the Trustees at some future meeting.

(13) Mr. Schaap was appointed to prepare resolutions concerning Mr. Hardin which might be sent by mail to the different Trustees for signature, sent to members of the family, and spread upon the minutes of the next meeting of the Trustees.

(14) Mr. Schaap also reported that inheritance taxes under the New Jersey law on Mr. Bamberger's Estate would exceed \$500,000. The State, however, has abandoned its claim for inheritance taxes on gifts made by Mr. Bamberger to the Institute before his death. The question had been raised whether these gifts were not made in expectation of death and were therefore taxable. The Director appeared at a hearing before the tax commission in September in this connection. The position of the Institute has now been approved and no claim will be made for taxes on the gifts made by Mr. Bamberger during his lifetime.

There being no further business the Committee adjourned at 5:40 P. M.

H. H. MAASS  
Chairman