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Letter from
Goldman, Hetty
to
Simonsen, David

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(København, Denmark)

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(København, Denmark)

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Comment: Enclosed copies of letter to and interview with Maxim Litvinov written by Julius Goldman

Related:



Telegram-Adresse
Angleterre, København.

April 27/20

My dear Professor Simonsen; -

I am sending you a copy of the
interview between Mr. Litvinoff and my
father, and also of the letter written by my
father to Mr. Litvinoff.

With kindest regards and a last
word of farewell to you and Mrs. Simonsen

I remain,

Very cordially yours,

Hetty Goodman

Copy. Meb Copenhagen.

April 26th. 1920.

Maxim Litvinoff, Esq.,
Representative Russian Soviet Government,
KOPENHAGEN Denmark.

Dear Sir,

Referring to the interview I had with you on Saturday, April 24th., at which I asked for permission to send a Commission, composed of four gentlemen whose names I gave you, appointed by the Joint Distribution Committee of the American Funds for Jewish War Sufferers, of which I am the Director General in Europe, into the Ukraine, for the purpose of distributing Relief among the suffering population of that country, and at which interview you told me that you would communicate with your Government at Moscou and also with the Government at Kharhoff as well as with Mr. Marten, the representative of the Russian Soviet Government in America, it was agreed between us as follows :

1. You were to cable to Mr. Marten in New York to obtain information regarding the acceptability of the four commissioners for whom I have applied for admission into the Ukraine.
2. If the information received regarding these gentlemen prove satisfactory, you would endeavour to obtain the consent of your Government in Moscou and also of the Soviet Government in the Ukraine for the entry of these gentlemen into the latter country.
3. You were to notify me at my hotel as soon as you received the desired information.

Since I have seen you I have been urgently called back to Paris and shall leave tomorrow morning, Tuesday, April 27th. I accordingly called at your office this morning with a view of obtaining a second interview from you and then received the following information from your Secretary :

She stated on your behalf that you had cabled to Mr. Marten in New York regarding our commissioners; that you, however, had some doubt as to whether a cable reply would be received by you, and that in such event you would have to await communications by letter. This your secretary stated would result in the loss of much time and you therefore suggested that I endeavour to accelerate a reply from Mr. Marten by having the Committee in New York take some action towards this end. This I told your secretary I should at once do and I shall accordingly cable to New York to-day.

You further sent me word through your secretary that, if the report regarding our commissioners proves satisfactory, you felt confident you could obtain the permission for them to enter Soviet Russia and the Ukraine with supplies.

Two of our commissioners, viz: Dr. Israel Friedlaender and Mr. Maurice Kass, are now in Copenhagen awaiting the result of your investigations. They will be pleased to call upon you whenever you so request. They are stopping at the Hotel d'Angleterre. If you should have any communication for me, have the goodness to send the same to Dr. Friedlaender at the Hotel d'Angleterre and he will at once forward your communication to me.

Inasmuch as the work of our Committee will be far-reaching in bringing relief to the suffering inhabitants of the Ukraine, I feel

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sure you will do all that may be in your
power to facilitate and hasten our work.

I am under obligations to you for the
attention you have given to me,

Respectfully Yours,

Dr. Julius Goldman,
European Director General
JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE.

Copy. Mob. Copenhagen.

INTERVIEW OF DR. J. GOLDMAN & MISS HETTY GOLDMAN WITH
MR. LITVINOW IN HIS OFFICE APRIL 24th. 1920.

Copenhagen.

Dr. Goldman opened the interview by stating what organisation he represented; that the organisation had been working in Poland, Austria Hungary, Germany, Roumania etc., that it was an organisation that worked on a large scale and was prepared to spend large sums and that it was much larger than any other organisation which was trying to operate in the Ukraine, and, while Dr. Goldman was willing to submit to any necessary arrangements, he was anxious to make an independent agreement with the Soviet Government.

Dr. Goldman stated that he had seen Kopp in Berlin to whom he had said substantially the same he was now saying to Mr. Litvinoff and that Kopp stated he was prepared to communicate with his Government and thought he could obtain the consent of same for the JDC to enter the Ukraine. Dr. Goldman told Kopp that he did not at that time have the consent of his Government. He then stated to Mr. Litvinoff that he had since received the consent of his Government to have a Commission go into the Ukraine with supplies. He also told Mr. Litvinoff that two of the JDC Commissioners had telegraphed to him that they had obtained the consent of the Soviet Government of Moscow to enter the Ukraine by way of Poland, to which Mr. Litvinoff replied he doubted this very much because if this were so he undoubtedly would have been informed by his Government.

He then asked Dr. Goldman the exact nature of the material he intended to bring into the Ukraine. The answer was :

Milk for children Oils,
Medical supplies of all kinds including hospital supplies, linen etc
Clothing, both for men and women and Shoes.

Litvinoff then asked whether any of the clothing was Army stuff, Dr. Goldman stated that he did not think it was, but to be quite frank,

it might be possible that some of the shoes were old army shoes worked over and also some of the material of which the clothing was made may once have been army cloth, but that of course its character had been entirely changed, the material re-dyed, so that it had no appearance of being military clothing. He finally said this was of no importance.

He then asked ~~me~~ the name of the Commissioners, which Dr. Goldman gave him, to wit:

Judge Fisher of Chicago
Max Fine a lawyer of New York
Israel Friedlaender, Professor at the Hebrew Theological
Seminary at New York
Maurice Kass of Philadelphia,

He said he had already heard of Dr. Friedlaender. He then asked Dr. Goldman if he had seen Mr. Marten in New York before he left. Dr. Goldman told him he had not. Litvinoff stated that was regrettable as things would be much easier if he had seen Marten. Litvinoff said he would have to telegraph to N.Y. to have Mr. Marten investigate the various Commissioners and ascertain exactly who and what they were. Dr. Goldman said "Of course, you will not accept my guarantee, but I can assure you that they are all men who have no other purpose than that of assisting in the Relief Work". Dr. Goldman also stated that the J.D.C. was compelled to submit the names of the Commissioners to the U. S. Government before they could come over and that they were approved by the State Department; whereupon he laughed and said that they would be more acceptable to his Government if they had not the approval of our Government. He stated that they had to be very careful as to whom they gave permission to enter Russia, because under the guise of philanthropic organizations many people had entered Russia who turned out to be undesirable.

^{Litvinoff}
He stated that it would be necessary not only to obtain the consent of his Government at Moscow, but also of Mr. Rakowsky, head of

the Ukraine Government. He said that they were different Governments, but that they co-operated perfectly, although the nature of the Ukraine demanded somewhat different policies. He said it would be very easy to communicate with Moscow; that Moscow would have to communicate with the seat of the Ukrainian Government which is Kharkoff and there might be some delay in that direction, especially as they might wish to discuss the matter in conference before arriving at a decision, which might also be true of the Moscow Gov't. He promised, however, to ask for a prompt reply to his communication.

(I had the impression while talking with him that there would be quite some delay and that no answer would be given until Mr. Marten had been communicated with. In connection with this he stated that this would be a difficult matter, because Mr. Marten would not be allowed to cable in cipher and any other communication from him might not be forwarded if he disapproved of our Commissioners,)

Dr. Goldman told Litvinoff that Mr. Martin could find out all about these people from the J.D.C. Chairman, Mr. Felix M. Warburg, but he stated that this would not do, as Mr. Marten would have to make his own independent investigation.

He asked whether Dr. Goldman knew of Mr. Joehelman and Dr. Goldman told Litvinoff he had seen the letter he had sent to Joehelman, but frankly speaking did not think that that amounted to much, because it gave to Joehelman only the permission to join the International Committee and to send one representative to Russia.

Dr. Goldman asked him what the International Committee was and said he had been told it was really a commission formed by Lady Marly, wife of the English Ambassador to Denmark, to attend to the distribution of her supplies for British residents in Russia. He stated that was absolutely not so, in fact, he never had anything to do with Lady Marly. He had formed the International Committee himself, because a great many organisations had applied to him for permission to do work in Russia and as he could not give so many organisations that permission he had suggested the organisation of

the International Committee through whom all the Relief work could be done. This organisation he stated was operating only in the Northern Part of Russia. Upon being asked what he meant by that he said Petrograd and Moscou.

Litvinoff asked whether Dr. Goldman intended going to the Ukraine himself. He replied "Not at present".

Litvinoff seemed to think, although he could give no definite information, that the port of Odessa was now accessible and promised to make special inquiries on that subject, and stated that that would be the safest and speediest route by which to get supplies into Russia. He also seemed to think that Odessa was now in the hands of the Soviet Government but that there was still fighting in the surrounding country. He stated that all other routes would be rather difficult and did not seem to think it would be possible to bring supplies in any quantities from Moscou to Kiew. He was particularly interested in the statement that we might bring in lorries to distribute our supplies if a proper organisation could be perfected. In fact, he laid so much stress upon this that the thought arose in Dr. Goldman's mind that there might be danger of the lorries being seized if ~~we~~ ever get them to reach the Ukraine.

According to Litvinof the bringing of supplies into the Ukraine by way of Poland was out of the question.

He was particularly interested to learn whether we had ships and what the amount of the tonnage would be that we contemplated bringing into the Ukraine. Dr. Goldman told him that he thought there would be no difficulty in obtaining ships to Reval or some other port in that neighbourhood but as to the quantity of tonnage it would not be possible for him to express an opinion as that would depend upon the nature of the supplies we sent. Dr. Goldman had the impression that one reason why he was so anxious to know the tonnage was because he had doubts as to his ability to furnish the amount of transport-

ation.

Mr. Litvinoff laid great stress upon the necessity of the J.D.C. making no distinction between Jews and non-Jews, because of the animosity it would arouse if only the Jews received assistance, but he stated laughingly, that "in as much as you will probably only work in the large cities you will be working where the majority are Jews and when you are once established, it will be easy for you to give the preference to the Jews".

We also asked Mr. Litvinoff what the regulations of the International Society were, to which he referred in this letter to Mr. Jochemann and he said as far as he knew there were none and he also said he did not care much what they were, it was merely a matter of form.

When speaking of the products we would probably send into Russia we mentioned vegetable seeds, and he said unfortunately it would be too late for that now.

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