

COPY

16 September 1938

Dear Dr Bramson,

I have now returned from Moscow, I hasten to give you some account of the position. I saw Dr Rosen, who has made a satisfactory agreement in connection with the J.D.C. He stated that the position is more difficult for the ORT, as J.D.C. is an American Organisation who consequently can call on the American Embassy for help in case of need. In fact Rosen tells me that he threatened to hand over negotiations to the Embassy, & only then was he able to secure a more rapid and willing cooperation. The ORT, being international, has no government to call upon.

Dr Rosen also criticise the ORT for a number of reasons: -
ORT refused to accept his offer to negotiate on their behalf. ORT should have had a non-Soviet citizen in charge in Moscow.
ORT should have liquidated its work 2 years ago.
ORT should never have embarked on work in the Far East.

et. etc.

He also says that ORT has a weak case, in that it has in recent years failed to keep its agreement with the Soviet Union to introduce foreign capital & that the Soviet Union will say that the profits are really derived from internal Soviet trade.

However all this may be, he thinks the ORT has a weaker case than the J.D.C.

I considered carefully the best line to approach the official in charge of the Soviet Control Commission of ~~Soviet Union~~ had clearly indicated that he was prepared to discuss ORT liquidation with a properly accredited agent. Accordingly I decided to concentrate on:

- (a) confirming the conditions of accreditation.
- (b) facilitating the entry of an ORT negotiation.

~~xxx~~

This is clearly a matter for Narcomindel, and it was with this department I dealt.

My task was rendered more difficult by the absence in Geneva of Litvinow, & by the preoccupation of Potemkin, Molotov & others in a series of Cabinet meetings in the Kremlin, concerning the War situation in Czechoslovakia.

Moreover the head of the Control Commission was away from Moscow for several weeks, & Stomoniakow is seriously ill. I therefore discussed the matter ~~with~~ very fully with the head of the Western Section of Narcomindel. He considers that there will be no difficulty in arranging an amicable settlement. He has promised me to get into touch with Sovnarkom, & to confirm the visa & other conditions. He will then communicate with me, through the Ambassador either in Warsaw, or in London. These conditions I will then send on to you. There will be no difficulty for a visa, provided the person is not a known enemy of the USSR, & he promised he is ready to stay several weeks (Rosen was four months) to complete the negotiation.

Narcomindel also promised to indicate to Sovnarkom the desirability on international ground of an amicable settlement - & I have no doubt that we shall get a satisfactory arrangement.

Whether the ORT will receive anything like the sum affected, I cannot say,

and this will be a matter for whoever will be chosen as your negociator.

A knowledge of Russia is, I should say, most important.

If there are any other points upon which you would like to question me, please write to this address. I am leaving tonight for Kaunas and Riga, and shall be back in Warsaw about the 22nd. I could also communicate with Moscow if there are any other matters of principle in connection with the matter.

Bromberg now has another appointment away from Moscow and will not talk. Ort offices have become a Taxi driver club.

Zegelnitzki I found difficult to get news of: but I think he will receive "another appointment - to prove himself" -as soon as ORT negotiations are finished.

I may say that I had a number of interviews to get this information and to prepare the ground - it is hard and slow work. But I have every hope that we shall get a satisfactory result.

Yours sincerely

Marley