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The Johns Hopkins University

Baltimore-18, Maryland

September 2nd, 1947

Dear Nelson,

Many thanks for your letter of the 30th August, which crossed mine of September 1st. I am glad that you have changed your mind about the Shukri matter, since I recommended in this letter that the Executive Committee reverse its previous decision, in the light of new correspondence from Burrows. What you say relieves my conscience completely about this reversal. I feel sure that you have already voted to reverse our decision and have sent the material on to Sellers.

It is increasingly likely that I will go out to Egypt this winter for three months to work with Wendell Phillips' African Expedition of the University of California. It has not been made official yet, but apparently things are working out nicely. I have known the boy for years; he is the whiz-bangest (quoting Harlow Shapley, who ought to know) promoter of research that ever was. I wrote Burrows some time ago asking him to designate some one to replace me as acting president during my absence. The offer came only the middle of August.

I am delighted to hear about your reorganization of the administrative set-up at HUC, which means that you are not going to be overwhelmed with office work. I am sure that Blank is the right man to be chairman of the faculty. The appointment of an executive assistant is also a step in the right direction. Morgenstern worked much too hard.

I hope that the situation in Palestine will not be chaotic this ^{coming} summer, but I fear the worst, with the Arabs attacking the Jews and Jewish terrorists provoking the Arabs and both sets of extremists assassinating all the moderate leaders of both peoples whom they can. Anyway, Sellers and I are proceeding with plans for Beth-zur. We shall be more than happy to have you with us as much and as long as you can; I shall have to spend part of my time at the School anyway, if I go out as director. Wright can't go out this year.

I should have added that the projected work in Egypt will be archaeological exploration from Tanis to the Palestine frontier and from Raphia to Sinai. Huzayyin and Henry Field are also expecting to join, with the search for prehistoric settlements in the foreground. I also hope to make a few soundings. If the proposed expedition doesn't
over

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W.F. Albright

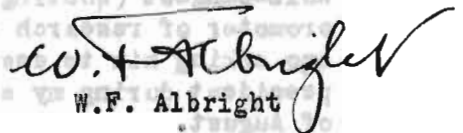
blow up in our faces I hope it can be resumed or continued later.

I am beginning to feel the effects of too severe application this summer. I have finished some 450 pages out of a program of 600 (much of it extremely hard going), but I must slow up now and hope that I can finish it before leaving for Egypt (if I do!).

Keep up the good work on Explorations IV! We are way behind on our Annals - quite aside from wanting to see your T.J. explorations under cover. Then you have Tannur and Kheleifeh to write up, while I have Bethel and a series of smaller digs. After this summer I shall have several volumes of lectures to write.

Give my best to Helen. Ruth had a toe cut up and was unable to walk for a fortnight after the operation, but she is rapidly improving and put on ordinary shoes this morning for the first time.

Cordially,


W.F. Albright