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September 18, 1941.

Dear Dr. Burrows:

I am writing, as you requested, to give you my views on the directorship of the Jerusalem School. Let me say first of all that I am perfectly willing to go to Jerusalem at any time if such a course seems advisable to the Trustees of the Schools. The State Department, however, has recently given the opinion that no American should go abroad at the present time except on a defense mission. That apparently has settled one aspect of the question. In view of this situation and the uncertainty of the war's duration, I believe it to be in the best interests of the Schools to appoint a business manager, now in the Near East, to manage the Jerusalem School until it is possible to resume work. The principal job in Jerusalem at present is to manage the full house of guests. An unusual opportunity exists for the School to more than pay for its upkeep. Recent monthly statements from the School are very interesting in this respect. Thus with good management the School ought to be in a fine financial position when the war is over. Perhaps Mrs. Pommerantz, who from her letters seems extremely capable, might be entrusted with this responsibility. Dr. Glueck could answer this.

As for myself I have become most restive and ~~is~~ dissatisfied due to the trend of circumstances. Since the State Department opinion arrived I have come to the conclusion that the only sensible thing for me to do is to locate another position. I have some notion as to how difficult it is to raise funds for the Schools and archaeology, and therefore am loath to accept the Schools' funds while not performing my expected duties, although it is true that the office has continued to claim most of my attention. These considerations make it clear to me that the best solution, for the Schools and for myself, is to find another job. While canvassing the field, a matter in which I would appreciate any assistance, I shall turn over my Wellesley salary to the Schools.

I understand that the question of a reduction in ~~my~~ my salary may be raised in the event of my being unable to go to Jerusalem. I should be most reluctant to have to accede to such a suggestion. Beyond that I am unable to say what my final reaction and decision would be. I dislike any possible implication that any decision of mine has brought about the present situation; the Executive Committee has made the decisions regulating my activities. A reduction in salary would therefore appear to me to place full responsibility ~~on~~ me for my not being in Palestine. I am, on the other hand, as I have said, most anxious to relieve the Schools of my salary item in the budget as soon as possible. This, of course, is stated on the assumption that I will be unable to go to Jerusalem.

As a result of our various talks I believe you understand my thoughts in the matter and think you will be able to answer any further questions which may come up at the Executive Committee meeting.

Sincerely yours,

Robert M. Engberg. (signed)