

extra for As OR folder
Jerusalem

July 24, 1941.

Dr. Millar Millar Burrows
President,
American Schools of Oriental Research
Candlewood Isle,
Danbury, Conn.

Dear Millar:

I was shocked when glancing at the N.Y. Times of July 22 yesterday morning to read the notice of the death of Dr. Fisher. It must have been heart-failure. There was nothing seriously wrong with him before.

Your form letter of July 22 arrived this morning. I am answering immediately. I almost phoned you yesterday.

1. I suggest you immediately call a meeting of the trustees for the end of this week or the beginning of next, or, if that is impossible, to have the executive committee meet immediately.
2. I shall make a number of suggestions, some of which I think might require immediate action without waiting for any authorization.
 - a) Cable Barclay's bank, authorizing payment of funds to American Consul General for School, and inform State Department to that effect.
 - b) In same cable request Barclay's to pay Mrs. Pommerantz up to 100 pounds for current expenses of School, without any other authority than her own responsibility.
 - c) Cable Mrs. Pommerantz that you are cabling Barclays to pay her up to 100 pounds to defray current bills and salaries. She can be fully trusted, and will naturally render an accounting in her books.
3. For the present, I would give Mrs. Pommerantz more authority, placing the house-keeper, and servants under her charge. She knows the ins and outs of the School, and is a responsible person. I suggest her salary be raised to L.P. 15 a month, and that she remain at the School from 8:30 A.M. to 2 P.M. The present house-keeper to be under her authority. Otherwise, we shall have Mrs. Vester camping in our place.
4. Possibilities of using School.
 - a). have one family or several families of American Consuls move in. I had discussed that with Wadsworth before leaving; he is no longer there. I think Christian Steger is Acting Consul General.
 - b). or invite Iliffe and family to move into Director's House.
 - c). Khalil and wife and child to be asked to live in servants' quarters in Director's House. I suggest him because he is clean and responsible, rather than Shukri who has too large a family. Some responsible person whom we know ought to be on the grounds permanently.
 - d). the entire School to be turned over to Y.M.C.A. as hostel for American citizens, if our Consulate no longer wants to continue arrangements I made with Wadsworth.

Dr. Millar Burrows.

July 24, 1941.

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5. The American Consul General, Magnes of the Hebrew University, and Miller of the Y.M.C.A. to be invited to be the Jerusalem Executive Committee of the School, with authority to act. This suggestion based on possible desire of American Consul General not to bear full responsibility. For instance, Wadsworth might not have recommended one of the families he did to live in the School, knowing as he must have the character of the woman in question, if he had been able to say he was not the sole authority.
6. The desirability to be discussed of having P.L.^O Guy being general overseer of the School. He is an army officer in Jerusalem in charge of paper supplies. If he were free, he would make an ideal caretaker; or if he could find the time. In many ways, he would be the best bet, particularly now that there is no question in Palestine other than that of peace or of possible invasion. He is a splendid manager, is meticulous in details, and what is very important today, knows all the authorities.
7. I don't know how the arrangements regarding Dr. Engberg, discussed at the Chicago meeting, are affected by the death of Dr. Fisher. The reasons that impelled him not go out last June are far more cogent now than before, and were good originally. Our State Department is far less likely now to give travel permits to his family, ~~and~~ than last June, and I am certain, such permits would not have been granted then. We do need some one on the spot in Jerusalem, but he would be on the spot. I do not think the Schools should put the alternative before him of going to Jerusalem now or losing his job. Perhaps by January 1942, peace will have arrived, (which I don't envisage), and he will be able to go out to Jerusalem.
8. I think for the present, the School buildings can be managed through one of the methods I have mentioned above. I haven't suggested Lind's name again, because he is a Dane or a Swede, and as the former may have no status with our Consulate. In any event, our Consulate would have to be asked whether or not it approved of such an arrangement.
9. The only other thing I can think of at the present, is for one of us who know all the ropes in Jerusalem, to fly there immediately with full authority to settle the affairs of the School on the spot, and then fly back, or sail back on one of the U.S. steamers delivering supplies in the Red Sea.

Sincerely,

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