

AMERICAN
SCHOOLS OF ORIENTAL RESEARCH
JERUSALEM AND BAGHDAD

409 PROSPECT ST., NEW HAVEN, CONN.

May 15, 1940.

Dear Nelson:

The international situation has been so uncertain and has been changing so rapidly that we have not known how to plan for the affairs of the School in Jerusalem for this summer. Dr. Engberg has his passport, but it has been quite impossible from day to day to tell whether or not he would be able to get to Palestine. The British Passport Control office tells him that he cannot be given a visa for Palestine without authorization from the Department of Immigration at Jerusalem. I am cabling you today to request that this authorization be given, but it is still impossible to say whether or not, or when, he will be able to use it.

Under these circumstances we take considerable comfort in the fact that you are there, and that you have been planning to stay for the summer anyway. It may be necessary to ask you to remain in charge of the School after the term of your appointment expires. I hereby request and authorize you to continue as Director until someone comes to take over the office. I hope it will be possible for you to carry out your Transjordan survey as planned. You had hoped, I know, to do this without being responsible for things in Jerusalem. In any case, I am sure you will manage everything in the best way possible in view of the situation.

Long before you get this letter you will doubtless hear from Mr. Wadsworth regarding the control of our property in Jerusalem in case Palestine becomes directly involved in the war, and the continuance of our regular work becomes impossible. In view of the arrangements you made on a previous occasion, I am sure you will understand what lies back of this move and will know what course is best to take.

We are eagerly awaiting news of your excavation. Mail travels very slowly, and it is tantalizing to have to wait so long. Jerusalem seems twice as far away as it did before.

Your book has gone to press. The job of printing it was given to Furst, and he promises proofs within a week. We have made one rather drastic shift in the order of your presentation, for the purpose of putting an especially interesting section at the beginning. Otherwise we have not made very great changes. We have not used all the pictures you indicated, but there will be about 130 illustrations in a volume of about 210 pages.

Sincerely yours,



MB/w