

113525

OSLO, Febr. 19th
1949

To whom it may concern !

Referring to the International Bill of Rights (the rights of mankind) accepted by United Nations on the general-meeting in Paris December 10th 1948, your attention is hereby drawn to the fact that several of the articles of the Bill mentioned have been most recklessly violated by the Norwegian authorities since May 1945.

Art. 5 forbids torture and dishonorable treatment and punishment.

The Norwegian authorities who had totally neglected the defence of our country, fled from the country in 1940 and returned May 1945, had to sacrifice a very great scape-goat in order that the people should forget their blunders up to 1940.

Ten-thousands of fellow-citizens - members of the legal political party Nasjonal Samling (NS.) were therefore illegally thrown into concentration camps, forced to penal labor.

They were cruelly tortured and ~~sentenced~~ sentenced to many years of imprisonment.

Art. 7 proclaims that all people shall be subject to similar rights before the law.

These rights have been violated to an unbelievable degree, the Norwegian people has been betrayed through false propaganda and the illegal actions of the authorities have been perpetrated with an impertinence, unknown in a civilized society.

Art. 19 proclaims the freedom of speech, and even this point will, most surely, be of interest.

We still have an article in our Constitution concerning the liberty of utterance: "Frank utterances on the management of the State and any other matter is allowed anyone".

But, as a matter of fact, utterances, which do not coincide with the opinion of the authorities, are forbidden in Norway today. That is to say: the Oslo-papers reject to publish such matters, - and it seems that these papers act under control of the authorities.

If anyone ventures to raise his voice in defence of, or to set right the motives, statements and explanations of the 80.000 scape-goats of Norway, or against abuse of power, the illegality and the hypocrisy, then the unfortunate instantly gets the whole leach over himself, with the press as wirepuller.

The Oslo papers even rejects articles written by the most prominent persons in Norway, when the action against NS.-folks is criticized.

Furthermore the Oslo papers reject advertisements concerning books written on the same teme, - even when such books are recommended by persons, whose honesty can not be disputed.

Mr. Dybwad Brechmann, leader of the legal political party "Samfunnspartiet" (the Social Party) and co-operator of the paper "Samfunnsliv", was arrested and sentenced to 3½ years imprisonment owing to some warning articles against the politics of the authorities.

On Febr. 8th 1947 the Norwegian Typographers Union passed the following resolution, which has not until this day been objected to by the authorities: "The General-Management of the N.T.U. resolves that none of the members of the Union must hereafter have any connection whatever with the production of the paper

IV.

Neither has due regard been had to the Law of Nations. In spite of our obligations pursuant to international agreements, Red Cross-sisters, whose only crime was that they had nursed the sick, have been sentenced to up to 3 years compulsory labour. This is outrageous and ought not to occur in a democratic society. To nurse the sick is according to the constitutive principles of the Red Cross a Christian duty that extends beyond the limits of empires.

A law has also been passed in this country decreeing that all property belonging to German citizens living here may be confiscated. This also applies to such as have been living here since before the war, and who neither before nor during or after the war have come unpleasantly across the criminal law. What has here been introduced is organized depredation, highly at variance with the provisions of the Law of Nations, according to which private property is to be respected.

On a class with this, it is that such Germans have been threatened with expulsion and have also, in some cases, been expelled, in spite of their having got a family about themselves in this country. What has here occurred is also at direct variance with the declaration of rights of mankind that have recently been passed - also with the adherence of Norway and of U.N.

V.

We also mention the unequal treatment, which the NS.-folks have been exposed to as compared with others, with regard to duress and judicial error. Through the tracts which more or less illegally have been published after the war, we have got it established that also people, who are still considered as "good Norwegians", were obliged to do things during the war, that is considered disgraceful. These are free from punishment. But, if the same act has been perpetrated by an NS.-man, the same grounds for acquittal are not accepted. In this case it is punishable assistance to the enemy.

As an example of many, we mention "Hirdens Bedriftsvern" (The work's protection of the "Hird"), into which, amongst others NS.-folks were forced under severe denunciations. In spite of this total duress many of them have been sentenced to long years of imprisonment.

But in the case of the lawyers, who enforced the decrees of the Germans and of the NS.-authorities, nothing was done, provided the person was not a member of NS.-

VI.

We have little faith in the benefit of punishment in general Society, as well as the individual, is a loser by too rigorous punishments. We believe that education is a far better means by which to prevent the recurrence of a punishable action than the punishment of the person in question.

Taking our departure from this psychological point of view, the "treason settlement" is totally vicious. Love, and not retaliation, is also the highest commandment in our Christianity.

The "treason settlement" takes its stand on a wholly different basis. As a matter of fact we find in it some of the worst traits of the Hitler-system:

Political opponents are turned into criminals every one of them!

We also notice it in externals, where it manifests itself in that - instead of our national law-courts: the jury system - special tribunals have been introduced, in strict accordance with totalitarian recipe.

But even the object of the "settlement" appears - in any case

to a certain extent - to be similar to that which led to Hitlers persecutions of the Jews and the clergy: the scape-goat idea.

It is not implied that the persons concerned have been conscious of this object. The exasperation against NS. had grown great during the war. But it is a familiar psychological phenomenon that the one who is himself unchallengeable, will more readily understand and forgive people who have erred, and the one who has himself done wrong, would fain forget this, and that he imagines he can do best by being severe against others.

We on our part maintain that the theological as well as the juridical system of the past do not solve modern problems of justice like the case before us. Psychology per contra has the future on its side. The "settlement of treason" is a proof of the inadequacy of law and theology.

VII.

Simultaneously with the dissolution in criminal law a moral decay has set in. People have availed themselves of the "settlement" to grind their own axe. The NS.-folks have been robbed of their property, whilst it was under the administration of the Crown. Possessions and businesses have been destroyed without compelling reasons, and no one thinks of affording indemnification.

Morality and the reputation enjoyed by law and justice have steadily been declining and continues to do so. The "settlement" has drawn after itself an infinitude of sorrow, wretchedness and economic ruin.

It is full time that we have a change in the matter. We must have it for the sake of the people, and we must have it for the sake of the party concerned.

The law-suits are still in progress, 3½ years after the conclusion of the occupation.

Let us have them stopped!

They are in conflict with the fundamentals of our criminal law and its explicit order: that the case is to be brought forward without unnecessary delay.

Let us get out of the prisons those who are there!

Particularly appalling it is that the young ones, who are of that age when they should be building up the foundation of their life, are to have that foundation laid in prison. The result cannot be otherwise than bad, and not only the one who atones, but also - and particularly - society will come off a loser in the long run. -

Another - in our opinion - outrageous matter is that of the SICK. A series of the convicted are seriously ill, in some cases illness induced in prison. In spite of this they are not set at liberty. It must not be forgotten, that not common criminals are involved, but people who are atoning because they have held an other political view and an other view of what served Norway's interests, and who were of opinion that they were secured the possession of this conviction of liberty and freedom of thought!

IX.

The "Samfunnspartiet" has been desirous of laying this matter before the Storting. We do so with an appeal to the Storting: that the lawlessness which has been got up may be put an end to!

It is profoundly degrading for the whole Norwegian people. It is not merely law and Constitution that - in our opinion - have been trepassed against, but also the fundamental rights of man have met with the same fate.

When you meet my friends here today I wish to say that all of us feel that we are running a great risk. We are in fact living behind an iron curtain, which can not be denied.

Nevertheless, we are taking the risk to speak with you. If anyone should be arrested after this meeting, you will hear from us. But please do not publish any names if you should find it right to mention any of our facts in your papers.

You meet here today the type of men who since 1945 are accused of being "traitors" or more correctly: men who are accused of having forsaken their country during the German occupation - because we were members of a legal political party: National Samling. Through laws given in London by our Government - but unknown to us in Norway until autumn 1945, this party was declared to be illegal.

We are called "nazistz". I assure you, we have spiritually nothing whatever in common with the German Nazi Organization. Our main object was to build up our military organisation in order to be able to defend our country. Just on this question the N. S. party came in hard conflict with the Labour party.

The Labour party and the Government had to find a "SCAPE-GOAT" for all their political blunders from 1932 up to 1940. They had neglected our defence to an unbelievable extent. Their emblem was: "The Broken Gun". Such a sign was worn even by a member of the 1939/Government - Mr. Monsen who was in charge of the war office.

When the Labour Party was in a minority their leading members were opposed to military training. Our present Prime Minister, Mr. Gerhardsen, was one of the hardest "NUTS" in this agitation.

The Labour Party is today conducted by the same men, who in the years after 1930 accepted financial help from Russia for their unnational agitation. This fact was denied in the Storting (our Parliament), but the excuse was that this financial help was not received from the Russian Government, but from the Kommintern. For such financial help even Trygve Lie has given receipt - according

I may mention that the program of the four political parties in Norway in 1945 was more or less the same programme which National Samling had set forth in 1933. 4.

According to the budgets the very "settlement of treason" has up to this day cost about 200 million kroners, without having brought the end within reach. It surely has to be expensive to maintain uncountable "investigators" in the treason offices - and departements, uncountable special prosecutors and extra judges in lots of special courts of "Justice" with the organisations required therefore.

It is expensive to confine ten-thousands in concentration camps, even in the summer of 1948, about 20 to 25 such camps decorate our fatherland, all richly provided with guardians and administration, mostly much poorer with food for the prisoners. In one instance 300 - 350 guardians are watching about 450 prisoners.

And yet these expences are the lesser. Even today summer 1948, one has to count with ab. 20.000 unemployed NS members. If the daily worth of production per man is estimated at kr. 40, which is very low as an average, one arrives at a figure of lost production (the final standard of value) of about 800 million kroners for the first three years.

To this must be added that many of the NS folks have not got, and will not for years get jobs where they are able to render their best. Thousands of the most capable are still unemployed, many waiting for the "sentence", they are so to say suspended in midair with regard to income, employment and future.

All NS-folks in leading positions, as industrial managers and the like, are today without employment. And they were not a few. In 1942 on a meeting 220 NS industrials met together.

Norway must deem herself fortunate if she can get through with a sum of 2 billion kroners before the madness has been somewhat cured.

Considering an American workman gets ab. 50-60 kr. a day, whereas a Norwegian makes ab. 20 - 25 kroners according to the price index in our country, the fact would be that the amount, in proportion to the number of inhabitants in USA compared with Norway would foot up to ab. fifteen billion dollars for the first three years.

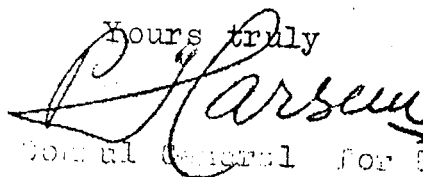
- 5 -

The problem today in Norway is to find a way to stop the madness of having a controversy between 1/4 million "scape-goats" and the rest of the nation - just in order to cover those responsible people who were the real traitors. In fact this problem is of far greater importance than the Marshall plan.

No country can in the long run live on help from others. It must help itself. The power of harmony is the only power that can save the country from ruin. Today a controversy is going on that is of far greater importance than you can imagine.

Hatred and punishment against ten thousands of women and men who do not feel any guilt will bring our country to ruin whatever the Marshall can achieve.

Yours truly



former Consul General for Romania

post box 23 Smestad pr. Oslo
telephone 69.72.24

I have been asked to say something about the condition of political affairs in Norway. I can here only mention a few things, which I consider it to be of importance to know, if one is to try to understand what is termed "rettsoppgjøret" or the "settlement of treason". Those of us who were active in politics as early as in the nineteen could not but feel deep disappointment at the political developments after 1905. The dissolution of the Union with Sweden represented, in my opinion the culmination of a sound political development - the most promising in my life-time. Upon this followed a sharp reaction. The Norwegian people did not draw the proper conclusions of their newly won political liberty. Our military preparedness deteriorated rapidly. Materialism gained around and spread into all classes: spiritual values were more and more disregarded by politicians and others. Marxistic viros were propagated with increasing force and became part of the Labor Party's programme. The military preparedness of our country was openly counteracted by the Labor Party and but weakly supported by the Left. conjointly with this the Labor Party was aiming at the Dictatorship of the working classes and at turning Norway into a Russian Sovjet; if necessary, through a bloody revolution. On the background of these facts one must contemplate the foundation of the political movement and lawful party the Nasjonal Samling. Its founder was V. Q., who had been the right hand of F.N. in his relief work in Russia.

He knew Russia and Bolshevism better than any other Norwegian. The main features the program of N.S. were drawn up by V.Q. as early as in 1918 i.e. before any of us knew anything about Hitler and German National Socialism. N.S. was founded in 1933.-100% Norwegian, without any connection with Germany. The likeness, which one may find between the two movements can only be due to the need of the times requiring solutions of a somewhat similar kind. On 7 - 4 32 V.Q., as minister of the war-department, made a speech in the Storting, in which - amongst other things - proved that the Labor Party had taken money from Russia to promote a revolution in Norway with a view to turning our Country into a Sovjet-republic. Our Parliament supported V.Q.; but nothing came of it.

Oslo, February 26th 1949.

The prosecution of the intellectual NS members.

Many of the most prominent scientist, authors and artist of Norway have been struck by the settlement of treason (the law suit against NS members).

KNUT HAMSUN - the greatest living author of Norway - a Nobel-price winner - 90 years old. He was arrested and kept in internment in a psychiatric clinic for 4 months and subsequently appr. 2 years in a public old people's home and deprived of the greater part of his fortune. His books have been removed from the bookstalls.

WILHELM RASMUSSEN - the most celebrated sculpter of Norway - creator of the national monument that should have been erected this year outside the Storting. It is now put away in a store, and will not be erected in this generation - as to the newspapers in Oslo. He was condemned to 3-4 years of prison. His address is today : Ilebu Prison, pr. Oslo.

DAVID MONRAD JOHANSEN, the composer, one of the greatest in north Europe. His works may not be played in this country. He was also condemned to 3 or 4 years of prison.

CHRISTIAN SINDING - a composer of world -wide fame - died during the occupation. He was after his death expelled from the Composers Union and his works are now not played in Norway.

ADOLF HOEL - polar explorer of international rank - professor in the geography of the Polar regions, organizer and leader of the Norwegian Polar exploration in the last 40 years and creator of the Governments Polar Institut. He has been in prison for one year and afterwards been obliged to report himself every day to the police. After four years of suffering (1945/49) his case is still under inquiry by the police.

TRYGVE GRAN : prominent aviator and polar explorer. He was the first to cross the Northsee (in 1914) and was the companion to Scott on his last expedition to the Antartic. He has also been in prison for more than 1.1/2 year.

Many of our best musicians and actors have also been condemned to many years of prison and have lost their situations. As an example of the treatment of scientists may be named the following : GUNNAR HIORTH, 47 years old, was professor of plant breeding at the Agricultural University of Norway. His scientific and practical works had made him known all over the world.

He was member of the NS -party, but only for a short time.

Immediately after the end of the occupation the so-called "Hjemmestyrker" (Home forces) came to the Agricultural University and destroyed all the plants (about 35.000) that Mr. Hiorth had cultivated for years and thus also the results of his breeding experiments, that had been looked forward to with the keenest interest by the farmers in this country. Mr. Hiorth himself was arrested and was imprisoned for a short time. But his case came never before the court, it was laid aside but not before last summer. He was dismissed from his position and was fined 1000 kroner.

He had ^{no} possibility of getting something to do in Norway, and therefore he tried to get a position abroad, which for a long time was prevented by his colleagues.

But through the aid of the world-renowned American plantbreeder Goodspeed (University of California) dr. Hiorth was charged with the honourable task to conduct the foundation of all the plant breeding work in Argentine. It turns upon a gigantic plan with mighty economic perspectives, for instance the breeding of species of cultivated plants that can support severe drought.

By means of such plants regions that now are uninhabitable can be cultivated to the benefit of mankind. Mr. Hiorth is now professor at the University of Tucuman and has a great staff of specialists at his disposal. In Gunnar Hiorth Norway has lost one of its most eminent scientists, a man that could have been of great importance for the recovery of our country.

Also scientists of other scientific branches have been punished with many years prison and loss of their positions. Some of them have not been members of the NS party. Their only guilt has been that they have sympatized with NS, written articles, critized the Government and the like. They have been expelled from the Academy of Sciences. This fate has struck professor of law, international law, history, zoology, inheritance biology and polar explorers.

A great number of physicians and dentist have been punished and lost their right to practice their profession for a number of years. Many members of these profession left the country and are now residing in Argentine. Many hundred of teachers in the higher and board schools have also been in prison for a short or a long time and they have all lost their situation for ever. Also the government officials

are treated in similar manner. The same is true of all the journalist that were members of the NS party. The union of journalist last year agreed to the resolution that all these people should be forbidden to work in the Norwegian press in the future.

The NS students at the University and Highschools have been punished by the court and a great deal of them have in addition to this been relegated by these institutions. Many of them have studied up to 4 - 6 years and had thus nearly finished their studies. They are thus forced to take up other work.

All these people have been obliged to try to support themselves and their families by work that has no relation to their education and former work. Also their wives are often compelled to take over hard work. One of our best musicians and his wife were for a long time newsmen - selling newspapers. - A physician is now mending mattresses. Such cases can be counted in thousands.

Other try to earn money as assistants to craftsmen and many of them have emigrated to Latin Amerika. Some who have not expiated their penalty have fled in small boats, like many people from the Baltic States and other countries in East Europe.

One of these boats called at Brazil. Under the pretext of that these people were criminals, the Norwegian Government demanded the extradition of them. But the Supreme Court of Brazil resolved that they were political refugees and they were allowed to leave the country and proceeded to Argentine. The same thing happened a boat that had called at Tanger.

All these members of NS are - in addition to the penalty, deprived of a great - often the greatest part of their fortune and they have lost their rights as fellow citizens: right of voting, right to have official situations or situations that require general regard etc.

In this connection should also be mentioned another insult against the NS members. The government had forbidden to erect sepulchral columns or wooden crosses with epitaphs on the graves of NS members. The interdiction was repealed only a week or two ago. The NS members suffer under an opinion of hatred and aversion, created by the press, broadcasting and last but not least by the Church through its primate, the Bishop Berggrav of Oslo. They are expelled from the community and in most cases reduced to have intercourse only with former NS members

For a small nation like the norwegian this state of things is a very serious one. It has lost many of its citizens of the highest mark. Some of them cannot be replaced and in any case it is a heavy loss to our country that so many of its intellectual have been compelled to pass the rest of their life in situations where their faculties and their education cannot show to advantage, not to speak of the cruel destiny of all these unhappy men, their wives and their children. The bitterness that all of them and their relations feel against the community represents in the long run a danger to our little nation.

The same feelings naturally prevail also in other NS members, but it admits of no doubt that it is the intellectuals who have suffered most severely from the action of the community against the members of the NS party.