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New York, 1941-12-13

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DECISION INC.

New York,
December 13, 1941

My dear Mr. Deuel,

I was told by Mr. Sherwood's secretary that I should come in contact with you to discuss the project of a German magazine which my sister Erika, on her part, has recently talked over with Mr. Sherwood. I don't know, of course, how much he told you about it and whether he let you see a tentative outline my sister gave him on my behalf. However, I enclose herewith a copy of the document and also some additional suggestions made after, and according to, my sister's interview with Mr. Sherwood.

I would be very grateful, indeed, if you could manage to read those fragmentary notes before we meet on Monday. It would be fine, furthermore, if you could get Mr. Sherwood's opinion with regard to the matter we are to discuss on Monday. For I am exceedingly eager to find out, as soon as possible, how far his interest goes and if there is any serious chance that our plan may materialize with the support of your office.

I trust that you may forgive me for my urgency and persistence. However, I have rather cogent reasons to accelerate this affair as much as I possibly can - in fact, I am firmly convinced that a periodical of the type I propose may have an important function and that it should be started right now, if at all. The gesture

of launching a German review in the United States at this pivotal and dramatic moment, implies, of course, much more than the foundation of a foreign-language magazine usually does. Besides, I am compelled by personal circumstances to tackle this thing right away, or to drop it. For the fate and future of the American magazine "Decision" whose founder and editor I am, is intimately connected with the reaction of your office as to project of the German review. To tell the truth, I am very doubtful as to whether or not I ought to continue "Decision", unless some sort of arrangement can be made between our organization and the official center of American propaganda and information. This has nothing to do with any financial issues. The business department of the German magazine would ~~have to be~~ be completely independent and quite separate from "Decision", which is supported by a group of personal friends. However, I find it difficult, if not infeasible, to carry on a primarily literary magazine in these days and this country, unless the enterprise is somehow co-ordinated ~~to~~ and legitimated through its connection with official propaganda and policy. The German magazine, if it is made in collaboration ~~and~~ with and according to the requirements of your office, would create such an indispensable link in the most organic way. The Administration, by granting its support to the German venture, would implicitly approve of what we try to do with "Decision" - i.e. to establish an intellectual

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clearing house for the variety of productive minds gathering now in this country. It is my opinion that "Decision", if tied up with the German sister-magazine, may turn out to be more useful and stimulating from the viewpoint of American propaganda policy, than a purely political or official paper could be.

However, the problems and potentialities of "Decision" are only of secondary relevance in this particular context. I have referred to them only in order to explain why I am so eager to come to a quick decision concerning the other matter in which Mr. Sherwood seems somewhat interested.

I do not expect, of course, that any definite solution could be achieved when I see you on Monday. All I am hoping for is a clear and frank information as to whether or not there is any reason to carry on the discussion and to hope for a positive solution, not too long from now.

I have to apologize for bothering you with this unduely lengthy letter, ~~before~~ even before having met you.

Yours sincerely,

Klaus Mann.

(The Bedford,
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