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Mann, Klaus

Amsterdam, 1948-10-29

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Klaus Mann
c/o Querido Publishers
Singel 262
AMSTERDAM (The Netherlands),

29th October, 1948

To,
U. S. Military Government
Information Control Division
Munich, Germany

Dear Sirs,

Yesterday I sent you a telegram reading as follows:
I PROTEST AGAINST EDITORIAL ECHO DER WOCHE 22 OCTOBER
CALUMNIATING A BRITISH SUBJECT NAMELY MY SISTER ERIKA
AND AN AMERICAN CITIZEN NAMELY MYSELF STOP AM MAILING
DETAILED DECLARATION TO YOUR OFFICE AND TO THE MAGAZINE
WHICH I WILL SUE FOR LIBEL KLAUS MANN c/o QUERIDO VERLAG
SINGEL 262 AMSTERDAM

As for the "declaration" to which I referred in the wire, you will find a copy of it attached to this letter. The original has been mailed by my lawyer (Mr. Max Meyer, Prins Hendriklaan 1, Amsterdam) to the editors of ECHO DER WOCHE with the request that they publish it on the front page of their periodical -- the same spot where Wilde's slanderous article appeared. Also, I sent a copy of the "Erklärung" to my uncle, Victor Mann (Habsburger-Strasse 1, München), asking him to pass it on to DIE NEUE ZEITUNG and make them publish it, in case Wilde refuses. But even if Wilde publishes my statement, I intend to go ahead with my law suit and take the matter to court. My declaration corrects only one of Wilde's many lies. I am not inclined to assure Herr Wilde that I am not a "Fifth-Columnist;" rather, I want him to be punished for calling me such an offensive name. I think he should not only be convicted by a German judge but also officially reprimanded by U. S. authorities for having deliberately slandered an American citizen and war veteran.

My sister Erika, who is at the present moment on a lecture tour in the north-western part of the United States, has been informed of the incident. I expect to hear from her soon. Most probably she will join me in any action I may take against ECHO DER WOCHE and its editor. I should not be sur=

prised if she also addressed a formal complaint to the War Department and the Department of State in Washington. She is, as you may know, a member of the association of former war correspondents . Two years ago, the Secretary of War awarded her a medal in recognition of her bravery and good work. The statement about Berlin with which Herr Wilde chose to open his editorial seems to be a garbled quotation from a nation-wide broadcast my sister made last summer for one of the major U.S. radio companies. The sponsors of that program, who were particularly pleased with my sister's performance and thanked her warmly for her contribution, may be somewhat surprised to learn from Herr Harry Wilde that they were actually conniving at the subversive activities of a notorious Communist agent...

Will you please let me know what you intend to do about the slanderer Harry Wilde.

Sincerely,

PS. If Mr. James C l a r k happens to be in Munich, I should like you to bring this letter to his attention -- with my best personal regards. I thank you.