

Verbundkatalog Kalliope

Mann, Klaus

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September 20th 1941

Mr. Harrison
Room 7001
Department Of Commerce Building
Washington D.C.

Dear Mr. Harrison:

This is to summarize the situation with regard to a possible collaboration in Latin America between your office and "Decision" Magazine, as it appears to me after my conversation with you and Mr. Spaeth, yesterday afternoon.

The main alternative as I see it is this:

1) We stick to the scheme as originally discussed with Mr. Spaeth: i.e. to launch in the South American republics a magazine whose primary objective it would be to appeal to the various European minorities there - especially to the Germans. The fact that it would not be published in German but in Spanish and Portuguese, does not change in any essential way the project as I tried to outline it in a memorandum recently submitted to you and Mr. Spaeth.

2) We try to coordinate this project with other plans considered by your office. Needless to say that I would be happy to collaborate with any one you may deem fit. I am sure that whatever "Decision" may have to offer for your particular purposes, could be effectively integrated with those older schemes: especially if a man like Archibald MacLeish, whom I so greatly admire, agrees to act as a supervisor and co-ordinator.

However, this second solution (a combination of "Decision" and other organizations) is, as such, rather general and leaves open many essential questions. For instance:

Do you think that the new magazine for the Latin American countries is to be edited in Washington or in New York?

If it is directed from Washington - which function and position would the editorial staff of "Decision" assume in this new set-up? Do you think that I, or my father, or any other person connected with "Decision", is to join the staff of the new magazine individually (say, as an expert in European literature) - or is it rather your plan that the staff of "Decision" as such have a voice within the new organization?

Do you think we could work out an agreement according to which

a certain percentage of the material published in "Decision" is to be taken over by the new magazine?

It may be even considered to keep "Decision" - both its personnel and the literary material it offers - as the nucleus and kernel of the new scheme, which would be amplified and controlled according to your wishes.

The character of my own suggestions depends, of course, almost completely on your attitude toward these principal issues. The degree and scope of my activities is entirely up to you. I can work out, in no time, a whole set of detailed suggestions according to the general scheme in favour of which you and your friends decide.

I confidently hope to hear from you when you are in New York, next Wednesday - and that you then will be able to give me the directive information which I need in order to go ahead.

With my best thanks for your helpful consideration

Sincerely yours,

ib/KM

Klaus Mann

P.S. I am sending a copy of this note to Mr. Spaeth