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Mann, Erika

o.O., 1963-03-02

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March 2, 1963

Mr. David O. Selznick
Waldorf Astoria Towers
50th and Park
New York, N. Y.

Dear David O. :

Thanks again for your helpful letter. A week or so before it arrived there had been an attempt for me to see both Brauner and Dassin accompanied by Abich. I expressed my willingness to meet Brauner but refused to be confronted with Dassin - true to my resolution not to deal with the man, as he remained bent on casting Miss Mercouri. The whole visit never took place.

Upon receipt of your letter I tried to get in touch with Abich and failed. Then I phoned Krause, telling him that it was now imperative for Abich to write to you, authorizing you to get the film financed in the US or in Europe, perhaps with the assistance of Christopher Mann and his associates. I also said that it would be necessary for Abich bindingly to assure you that Brauner would under no circumstances counteract you or Christopher Mann. I am certain that Abich's letter will reach you soon. If it doesn't reach you simultaneously with my own communication, this is due to the sorry fact that Abich isn't even in Bremen at present but in Cologne or some other jolly place where he has to work on his TV job.

I understand - and have made Krause to understand - perfectly well that, as you say, "things are now becoming almost as difficult in the American film industry as they are in German production" and that there could hence be no guarantee of success on your part. But any serious attempt you'll make will be good enough for me and most certainly for Abich as well. Brauner - of this I have always been satisfied - is nobody to be feared in this particular context. He simply lacks the authority to make himself tiresome or to play any of the tricks he is accustomed to. Besides, as I told Christopher Mann, there isn't the faintest reason for Brauner to object to an arrangement which might prove to be more profitable to all concerned than would a possible deal with United Artists. Concerning the latter firm I have always doubted whether they are really as interested as Brauner plus Dassin keep trying to make us believe.

I was more than sorry to hear that Jennifer had left the Dolder Grand just before I called to tell her that I was going home and that I hoped to have her come and visit with us. I am a little better (not much, though) and capable of moving about the house on crutches without getting to trouble.

Let me hope that the two of you have found a satisfactory solution to your problem of where to settle down. Selfishly, I also hope that you'll eventually decide on London.

My mother asks to be remembered to you both and I am as ever
with my kindest regards

yours cordially,

PS. Needless to say both Filmaufbau and myself keep considering
Jennifer the best Clawdia we could possibly think of.



JP/SM