

Verbundkatalog Kalliope

Mann, Erika

Prag, 1947-06-30

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Erika Mann
Hotel Sroubek
Prague,
June 30th, 1947.

Mrs. Midlred Allport
American Legation
Press Department
Alpenstrasse 35
Berne

Dear Mrs. Allport.

Enclosed, please, find copy of a cable I sent to Washington last Tuesday. Unfortunately, I shan't be in Switzerland when or if an answer is received. As I told you weeks ago, my financial resources are about to be exhausted and since little that one writes about Switzerland will ever be printed, I had better look for other hunting grounds. As a specialist on Germany, though, I shall find the going tough wherever I turn. I'll be staying in Prague for at least one week and trust that you will be good enough to keep me posted.

May I thank you once more for all your kindness and cooperation. I cannot, however, refrain from adding that this whole mysterious affair has been a severe shock to me. I am not now referring to the actual harm done to my professional and financial interests, as well as my journalistic prestige, although the damage is considerable. For it is not only as a reporter that I have been frustrated. As a lecturer, too, I've been badly hurt. According to my agent, Mr. W. Colston Leigh, 521 Fifth Avenue, New York City, I am today by far the most popular woman lecturer in the United States. That as such - and after years of service with the U.S. Forces, I should have been prevented from gathering the first-hand information expected by my audiences, is in itself most damagingly embarrassing. But what stuns and injures me more than anything else is the grave injustice that I have suffered at the hands of a government in whose fairness I firmly believe. Whatever caused them silently to cut off my livelihood and endanger my career I have no way of knowing. But I am absolutely certain that I would have been able to defend myself against any possible charges, if only such charges ~~were~~ had been presented. My militant loyalty to the United States and all that it stands for is a matter of public record. That in the face of my past performance the authorities in charge should not have considered it worth their while even to reply to any of my applications, let alone to explain their change of attitude, is hard to comprehend. Where every pick-pocket receives a fair and decent trial, the arbitrary and secretive way in which I have been treated seems all the more astonishing.

After three months of fruitless waiting I can hardly expect my ship suddenly to come in. Even so I refuse to believe the unbelievable and shall continue to hope, if not for a practically applicable solution - for which it will soon be too late - at least for the moral satisfaction to which I am entitled.

Believe me, dear Mrs. Allport,

yours very sincerely

FM/H

30.9.17

Allyson

