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REPORT ON MISSION TO SWITZERLAND
AUG. 1945

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AUGUST 11, 1945

ED/6A/3.0/AC Report on Mission to Switzerland

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TO C.A. SECTION 11 Aug 45
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To C.A. SECTION 11 Aug 45
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Return to Education Sub/c
5th Floor Rm. 26.

THIS FOLDER

CONTAINS PAPERS

FROM

AUG. 45

TO

CATALOGUE

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
Education Subcommittee
APO 394

ED/CWW/wf

ED/6A/3.0/AC

11 August 1945

SUBJECT : Report on mission in Switzerland

TO : Vice President,
Civil Affairs Section, AC

1. In accordance with the plan approved by you, by AFHQ, and the American Legation and Swiss Foreign Office in Bern, I spent 4-9 August in Switzerland, the primary mission being to select text books in the German language and secure permission to reprint them for use in German-speaking communities in the Italian Tyrol (principally the province of Bolzano).

2. A long-time friend of mine, very active in educational work (Dr. Elizabeth Rotten), came to Bern in response to a long-distance telephone call and was of inestimable help in making contacts for me and generally acting as my assistant throughout the visit. The American Legation (Military attache') was also very helpful as to local arrangements.

3. During my stay I conferred with the following persons at some length, others for briefer contacts:

Herbert Lang, a leading bookseller in Bern.
Dr. Rudolf, Director of Education, Canton of Bern.
Valdo Corti, organizer of proposed Children's Village.
Paul Geheb, internationally known educator.
Pierre Bovet, ditto and retired professor, Jean Jacques Rousseau Institute, University of Geneva.
Prof. Dottrons, School Director and Prof., Jean Jacques Rousseau Institute.
Dr. Georges Thelin, Director Save the Children Fund.
Dr. Rossello, Director International Bureau of Education.
Mrs. Plander, Press Bureau, American Legation.
Dr. Hans Zbinden, Publishers' Association, Bern.
Ernest Kocherthaler, Cooperative for International Compensation.

Some of these were in Bern, others came to Bern to see me, others I saw in Geneva.

4. I found that elementary school and lower secondary school text books in Switzerland are usually published by each Canton and furnished free to the children; that Bern is probably the most advanced Canton educationally, but that from the standpoint of books dealing with or based upon the Catholic religion the Canton of Lucerne was most likely to have books we could use.

- 2 -

5. I examined, cursorily, all the text books published by the Canton of Bern, and brought back samples of each. I examined all readers and religious education books published by the Canton of Lucerne, and brought back samples of all which might prove suitable to our purposes. And I examined a number of commercially published text books and brought back samples.

6. I requested, in the name of the Minister and the Education Sub-Commission that the right to reprint these books in Italy be granted, and suggested that because of Italy's poverty and lack of foreign exchange, and as a token of international friendship and cooperation, the rights, for the first printing, be granted without compensation.

7. Both the Canton of Bern and the Canton of Lucerne, and the two commercial publishers whom I included in the requests, granted the request and agreed that there would be no charge for the first printing.

8. The Canton of Lucerne suggested that the religious books be printed for Italy by them, and that the Italians, in return, send religious wood-cuts and wood carvings.

9. The Canton of Bern suggested that it would save time and money if they printed the sheets for the books and sent them to Italy for binding. Since this would avoid new setting of type, and since paper in Switzerland costs about one-fourth what it does in Italy, the saving would be very great, and books could be ready to use in October.

10. Ernest Kocherthaler, vice-president of the Cooperative for International Compensation said that if Italy would send goods (oranges, silk, sulphur, etc.) desired by Switzerland he could arrange to credit this against the printing and paper costs.

11. I made no commitments on this proposal but agreed to inquire as to the possibility of such a barter agreement on my return to Rome.

12. The above successfully completed my mission as regards the text books. But there were other by-products of the trip.

13. The International Bureau of Education in Geneva has several publications which would be of great value to the Ministry and to teachers and educators in Italy. I brought back samples with permission to translate and publish without charge.

14. Prof. Pierre Bovet, a world-renowned educator who speaks Italian fluently, agreed to come to Italy to lecture and hold conferences if the Minister would like to have him and if A.C. would permit his visit.

15. An International Study Conference is to be held in Zurich 10-29 September, on the subject of educational reconstruction in Europe, with special emphasis on child victims of the war. I was urged to attend the conference and speak on the work in Italy and to bring the Minister of Public Instruction and any other Italian educators who would profit by the Conference. I will write a separate official request that we be sent for a few days in the second week -- 17-24 September.

16. A conference with leaders of the European Student Relief Fund in Geneva resulted in plans for making available to Italian universities instruction material already prepared in Italian for prisoners of war by refugee Italian professors.

17. I learned a good deal about what is being done in other parts of Europe in the field of education, and renewed several old friendships.

18. I rubbed some of the rust off my French and German --enough so that they would go, even though gratingly.

Altogether, sir, it was a successful, profitable, and enjoyable trip. Thank you for sending me.

Carleton Washburne

CARLETON W. WASHBURNE
Lt. Col. A. U. S.
Director of Education.

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