

The Metropolitan Club  
Washington, D. C.

June 10, 1957

Mr. Malcolm P. Aldrich  
President, Commonwealth Fund  
1 East 75th Street  
New York, New York

Dear Mr. Aldrich:

This is written pursuant to Mr. Lewis Douglas' telephone talk with you last Friday.

There is one item of unfinished business about U.S. aid to the Hungarians which Mr. Douglas, Dr. John A. Krout and I deeply feel urgently needs attention. Accordingly, we as individuals are working at this although the President's Committee for Hungarian Refugee Relief has been dissolved, and although this was only at best a marginal responsibility of the Committee.

The problem relates to almost 900 promising university students among the refugees who have been carefully screened as to their capabilities. Through joint action of the Rockefeller and Ford Foundations and the Rockefeller Brothers' Fund, some \$250,000 was provided for courses for them in basic English and Americanization. Thereafter, at the instance of the President's Committee, a joint office of the Institute of International Education and the World University Service, with a highly competent full time staff, was set up two months ago to complete the work already under way of arranging for scholarships.

To date, approximately 500 full scholarships have been provided, and 100 more partial scholarships which need to be supplemented with maintenance funds.

Also about \$200,000 has been raised which can be used for such supplemental maintenance. A minimum of another \$100,000 is urgently needed for this. Time is of the essence because we cannot get scholarships unless we can assure the institutions that the supplemental maintenance funds are available, and now is the time of year when the scholarships are being awarded.

Included in the \$200,000 already raised is the \$20,000 unrestricted gift which I understand the Commonwealth Fund made last winter for these general purposes to the Institute. I have been able to arrange through

Government funds for the budget of \$30,800 for the joint administrative office above referred to to manage the scholarship problem. This frees up and makes available directly for maintenance assistance the \$20,000 Commonwealth Fund gift of last winter.

When the Rockefeller and Ford Foundations and the Rockefeller Brothers' Fund last winter provided all the funds for the basic English and Americanization courses, it was with the understanding that this was their contribution to the Hungarian refugee problem, and that we would make every effort to avoid any burden on them for the scholarships funds later needed. Accordingly, it is imperative that we meet in full, if possible, the requirement for maintenance funds through other sources, although Mr. Douglas and I have frankly informed the three Foundations of the problem which now faces us.

While I have now no greater responsibility than any other citizen has for the refugees, I do feel deeply that for the United States to emerge from this unique situation creditably, it should give a chance to these exiled students to continue their education. This, I am convinced, is not only in our own national interest, but is a special obligation which we owe after bringing them here.

The Commonwealth Fund has already been generous in its gift of \$20,000, yet I hope that you may find it possible to make a further contribution for this purpose.

Since certain of the maintenance funds will not be required until after January 1, 1958, what we need now is a definite assurance that they will be available later, rather than immediate cash. Accordingly, if the Commonwealth Fund operates on a calendar year budget, and budgetary problems are involved, an assurance of money available early in the year 1958 would meet the needs of our situation.

In case you may not have seen it, I enclose a copy of our Committee's recent report to the President together with his press statement about it.

Sincerely yours,

SIGNED

Tracy S. Voorhees

enclosures (2)

TRACY S. VOORHEES

Metropolitan Club  
Washington 6, D.C.

June 14, 1957

Mr. Malcolm P. Aldrich  
President, The Commonwealth Fund  
1 East 75th Street  
New York 21, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Aldrich:

Thank you for your letter of June 12 concerning the Hungarian refugee matter. May I submit the following supplemental information for your consideration?

First, your letter states that since we do not need the money until January 1, 1958, you feel that delay should not affect our plans adversely. I am afraid that my earlier letter was not clear on this point. We do not need any further actual cash until after January 1 because we have, either in hand or promised, about \$200,000. This is two-thirds of the supplemental maintenance funds necessary to fill out the tuition scholarships which we either have or are seeking for about 370 students. However, there is urgent need at this time of assurance that we will later have such maintenance funds, for otherwise as a practical matter we cannot get the scholarships. Also, it would not be fair, either to the institutions or to the students, to enter the students without reasonable assurance of the funds necessary to complete their academic year, as both their work and the scholarships given them might well be wasted if the students had to drop out during the year. I mentioned the January 1 date because I felt that the Commonwealth Fund might well have its budget for the present year rather completely allocated, and therefore thought that it might be easier to provide the funds early in 1958 than in 1957.

Second, as to the Ford and Rockefeller Foundations and the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, I shall of course let you know what further they do. However, they have already shared in granting \$250,000 for the basic English and Americanization courses, and the Rockefeller Foundation has additionally made a grant of \$35,000 to the President's Committee to provide for certain expenses which we felt could not appropriately be paid from Government funds. Accordingly, these Foundations have carried the principal burden so far.

Third, I fully recognize that your generous gift of \$20,000 made last winter was, as your letter states, a special one considerably out of your field of usual activity. However, this Hungarian refugee crisis is out of the field of usual activity for all of us. It presented a challenge to America which we could meet only by extraordinary efforts. A very distinguished military scientist told me yesterday that this Hungarian revolt had contributed significantly to averting war because it had deprived the Russians of reliance upon the large numbers of divisions in all of the European satellite countries, and had made those forces not only no longer an asset but a liability, since they must be in effect guarded by Russian forces of more than comparable strength. I can recall how seriously General Gmuenter was concerned about the build-up of the satellite divisions as recently as two or three years ago. Accordingly, these Hungarians have made a material shift, adverse to the Russians, in the balance of power in Europe. Yet we could not help any of these people except the ones who escaped, and we all owe to them a special obligation.

If it should prove possible for The Commonwealth Fund to give to the Institute of International Education an informal assurance at this time of another gift next January such as the Fund made last January, it would be of the greatest assistance.

May I ask in any case that you consider what action the Fund can take in the light of the above circumstances?

I am sending a copy of this letter to Mr. Douglas.

Yours faithfully,

SIGNED

Tracy S. Voorhees

cc: Mr. Douglas

THE COMMONWEALTH FUND

HARKNESS HOUSE

1 EAST SEVENTY-FIFTH STREET

NEW YORK 21, N. Y.

MALCOLM P. ALDRICH  
PRESIDENT

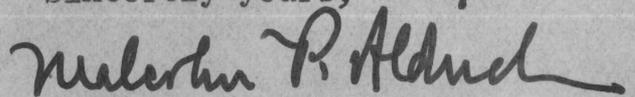
August 1, 1957

Mr. Tracy S. Voorhees  
Metropolitan Club  
Washington 6, D. C.

Dear Mr. Voorhees:

Supplementing my letter of June 18th, we are now ready to take under final consideration the request contained in your letter of June 14th. Before doing so, however, it would be helpful to know what action the other three foundations have taken on the subject. If you will be kind enough to supply me with this information, I can then let you know definitely our decision in the matter.

Sincerely yours,



President

MPA:N

Metropolitan Club  
Washington 6, D.C.

August 7, 1957

Mr. Malcolm P. Aldrich  
President, The Commonwealth Fund  
1 East 75th Street  
New York 21, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Aldrich:

Your letter to Mr. Voorhees of August 1st  
has been received in his absence in New Hampshire.  
He will return to Washington on August 13th, and  
I am sure will give your letter his immediate  
attention.

Sincerely yours,

Secretary to Mr. Voorhees

The Metropolitan Club  
Washington, D. C.

August 14, 1957

Mr. Malcolm P. Aldrich  
President, The Commonwealth Fund  
1 East 75th Street  
New York 21, New York

Dear Mr. Aldrich:

Thank you for your letter of August 1 which reached me on my return to Washington today.

I am glad to tell you that we have made great progress in obtaining both the needed scholarships and the funds for maintenance to support the tuition scholarships. This has been achieved without any further gifts from the Ford and Rockefeller Foundations or the Rockefeller Brothers' Fund, which between them had put up some \$250,000 for the basic courses in English.

The Ford Foundation and the Rockefeller Brothers' Fund have indicated that they could not contribute anything further. The Rockefeller Foundation has indicated a continuing interest, and my inference from my talks with Dean Rusk is that he is disposed to help further if necessary. However, I made clear that we would try to get the funds from other sources if possible since the Foundation had carried so much of the load on the basic English courses.

It now seems probable that we will have most of the funds necessary. A total of over \$300,000 has been raised to supplement scholarships and, as to the medical students, for tuition also. It has also been possible to obtain approximately enough scholarships for all of the most promising students.

Mr. Raymond, who is in charge of the joint full time office of the Institute of International Education and the World University Service which was set up for this purpose last April, is away this week but my information from his office is that by early September they can make a close estimate of their needs and that they are optimistic that the funds already promised will prove adequate.

As The Commonwealth Fund has already made a substantial contribution for the Hungarian refugees, we want to raise any balance of funds necessary, if possible, from other sources, and we are doing our best. Accordingly, may I leave it that as soon as Mr. Raymond and I can appraise the situation more exactly as to the extent of the need, we will lay the full facts before you for The Commonwealth Fund and before Dean Rusk for the Rockefeller Foundation if it should prove that additional moneys are requisite, and that we will report to you anyway.

To Mr. Malcolm Aldrich

August 14, 1957

I am most appreciative of your continued interest.

Yours faithfully,

SIGNED

Tracy S. Voorhees

cc: Mr. Lewis Douglas

*Mr. Raymond*

THE COMMONWEALTH FUND

HARKNESS HOUSE

1 EAST SEVENTY-FIFTH STREET

NEW YORK 21, N. Y.

MALCOLM P. ALDRICH  
PRESIDENT

CRANES & CREST  
August 21, 1957

Mr. Tracy Voorhees  
Metropolitan Club  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Voorhees:

I just returned to the office and have read your letter of August 14th. I consider this a very good way to leave the matter and I will look forward to receiving further information when you have all of the facts. Naturally, I hope that the entire amount will have been raised.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

*Malcolm P. Aldrich*

President

MPA:N

TRACY S. VOORHEES

Metropolitan Club  
Washington 6, D.C.

September 19, 1957

Mr. Malcolm P. Aldrich  
President, The Commonwealth Fund  
1 East 75th Street  
New York 21, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Aldrich:

Relative to my previous correspondence with you about additional financial assistance from The Commonwealth Fund to supplement scholarships for the Hungarian refugees, I have a good report to make. We are confident now that we have raised enough money for this purpose and that we shall not need to ask for further help from The Commonwealth Fund.

We are deeply appreciative of your disposition to cooperate further if you could. When I first wrote you three months ago, I felt that we could probably not succeed without some additional help from you. However, I was able to complete arrangements with the International Rescue Committee under which we obtained \$125,000, and we did secure also some contributions from other sources which had not previously contributed.

The Institute of International Education is satisfied that the funds in hand will be sufficient, and this includes provision for the promising medical students for whom we have to pay tuition as well as supplementary expenses.

Over 700 students have now definitely been placed, and applications for about 125 more have been submitted and are being considered by institutions which have offered scholarships. This will cover all of the really promising students who have signified a convincing ambition to go on with their education. We have, of course, attempted to make no plans beyond this year, as that would be more than the President's Committee for Hungarian Refugee Relief, which has already been dissolved as you know, could be reasonably expected to undertake.

Let me say again how grateful we are to you and to The Commonwealth Fund for your support in this Hungarian refugee program.

Please do not trouble to acknowledge this letter.

Yours faithfully,

SIGNED

Tracy S. Voorhees

CC: Mr. Douglas