

CELESTINA FOUNDATION  
UNDER  
THE PATRONAGE OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

CARONA-ARBEA UNIVERSITY CENTRE

Strasbourg, 8th February 1968

*Sir,*

I refer to my letter of 7th December 1967 to you in which I enclosed a memorandum concerning the Celestina Foundation. The last sentence of that letter reads as follows: "With regard to the position of the Foundation, the earliest possible clarification of the views of your Department and of the Federal Council is essential so that Dr. Reinhardt and myself may decide what course should be recommended to the Governing Body and in due course to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe".

On 22nd December 1967 I received a letter from the Head of the International Organisations Division saying that Ambassador Gagnebin would be getting in touch with me. On 8th January, Ambassador Gagnebin came to see me and told me that a reply to my letter and memorandum would be delayed for some time but that the Federal Council did not consider the Carona scheme as "dead". I made clear to Ambassador Gagnebin that I feared that the attitude of the Federal Council and the delays involved had already done irreparable harm to the project and again pressed him, in the interests of all those concerned in the scheme, for the earliest possible clarification of the Federal Council's attitude.

Dr. Reinhardt, meanwhile, has received from Federal Councillor Tschudi a reply to the letter which Dr. Reinhardt also forwarded to the Federal Council.

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His Excellency  
Mr. Willy Spühler  
President of the  
Swiss Confederation  
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3000 BERN  
(Switzerland)

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Dr. Reinhardt and myself met on 6th February and held a thorough discussion as to the position of the Foundation, in preparation for the meeting of the Swiss Members of the Foundation with you and Federal Councillor Tschudi on 13th February and we think it right to let you know our tentative conclusions in advance of this meeting.

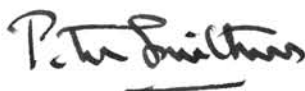
We do not feel that we can permit ourselves to remain for a further period of time in a position of uncertainty or that we can allow all of those concerned in the work to do the same. In the light of the position adopted by the Federal Council at the meeting, we shall therefore draw a conclusion as to whether the attitude of the Federal Council warrants the continuance of the Carona project or justifies our continuing to assume responsibility for the affairs of the Foundation. These conclusions, whether positive or negative, will be conveyed to the Governing Body which will be asked to take the appropriate consequential action.

Perhaps I should add that, in spite of the insistence of Ambassador Gagnebin that the Federal authorities do not consider the scheme to be "dead" and are not opposed to it as such and of the similar implication of Federal Councillor Tschudi's letter of 6th January to Dr. Reinhardt, we would not feel justified in retaining Dr. Sand's services as Secretary to the Foundation beyond the end of February, unless we were fully satisfied with the outcome of the meeting on 13th February.

I am providing a copy of this letter for Federal Councillor Tschudi and the other Swiss members of the Board of Governors who will be at the meeting.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,



Peter Smithers  
President