

JOHN J. McCLOY  
ONE CHASE MANHATTAN PLAZA  
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10005

April 9, 1969

My dear Abs:

Some time back I wrote to von Schlabrendorff regarding the Dynamit-Nobel concern and its position in respect to remuneration for the victims of slave labor used by it during the Nazi period and he had Dr. Kronstein write me regarding them. I am enclosing a copy of his letter to me.

I find the legal position of the firm to be unbearably legalistic and really irrelevant to the main moral issue. It is not a matter of "claims" and time of "filing". It is a fact that the firm did employ Jewish slave labor and certainly no proof of "torture" is now needful to show that injustice was done and unjust returns from the labor were enjoyed.

There was enough misery and enough tragedy to dispense with the need of further evidence of torture. I feel the same way about the other "legal" items set forth by Dr. Kronstein in his letter to me as an outline of the Dynamit-Nobel position.

I have bothered you in the past many times, but I am impelled to do so again to seek your best advice as to how this matter should be cleaned up. Should one write to Mr. Flick or to Dr. Pohle or perhaps Dr. Bührle?

I know that I do not need to repeat that I have absolutely no interest in these claims other than a purely humanitarian one and one which I believe is in the interest of Germany. I was most angry over the manner in which Manchester dealt with the Krupp history, not only in regard to my part in the commutation of Alfred Krupp's sentence, but also in its general treatment of the subject. My part in the release of Krupp, Flick et al was a gross distortion, indeed, libelous, but I have felt that life is too short to engage in litigation over such an issue.

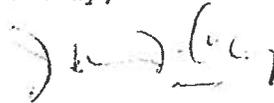
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I do, however, feel that I would like to impel Dynamit to do something to make amends for the old injustice.

I did not see Kiesinger at the time of the Eisenhower funeral except from a distance. I have heard a rumor that George Champion is coming to Bonn as our Ambassador. He is a close friend of President Nixon.

Give my best to your wife. I would be most happy to sit down with you for an evening and go over the state of the world. Mrs. McCloy wishes to be remembered to you both.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J. Edgar Hoover". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Enclosures

Mr. Hermann J. Abs  
Junghofstrasse 5-11  
Frankfurt (Main), Germany