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GENERAL CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

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"GENERAL CONFERENCE"
WASHINGTON, D. C.

July 20, 1950

TELEPHONE GEORGIA 0800

R. J. Wieland and D. K. Short
San Francisco, Calif.

Dear Brethren Wieland and Short:

Your two letters written since coming to the General Conference have been received by the officers and have been read with considerable perplexity but with a sympathetic spirit, for it seems that both of you are passing through a spiritual conflict in your relation to this movement of which you are a part, and must have opportunity of studying these things through with some of your brethren older in the ministry who I hope can give you wise counsel. Not having had any contact with you personally over these matters, our Officers find it very difficult to understand what you are trying to accomplish in your letters. There seems to be a spirit of accusing your brethren and a suggestion that the leaders of the denomination are on a "platform of error" in their present program of revival, and further, that, as Israel of old, we are today worshipping at the altars of Baal instead of the true God of Israel.

As I said, we hardly know just what you are hoping to accomplish by your letters, brethren, unless it is to accuse the leaders of teaching again the errors that brought about the Kellogg apostasy which Sister White rightly condemned in no uncertain terms. But before you fasten such accusations upon the leaders of the movement today, I would suggest that you study the matter through carefully and prayerfully, for your present attitude, it seems to us, is one of accusation and not cooperation. I, therefore, plead with both of you that through prayer and council with your brethren you study these matters out without reaching such decisions as your letters indicate that you have. According to your letters, your older, experienced brethren in the ministry are worshipping Baal, and their ministry is leading to Spiritism and "spurious manifestations of miracle-working power."

Brethren, these are serious charges and you cannot wonder that your brethren feel deeply concerned over your future. We are not holding any axe over your head as you suggest. In fact, we have not had time in the busy hours of this session to give the matter any consideration. But we believe that before either of you should plan to return to Africa that we must have an under-

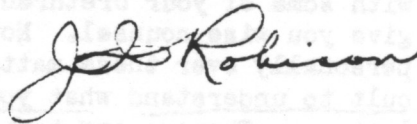
R. J. Wieland and D. K. Short—2

standing with you as to what your future relationship will be to the chosen ministry of the denomination who are bearing heavy responsibilities in this movement.

I trust that the Lord may guide you and that you may find, through a spirit of love, cooperation and prayer, a solution to the problems that in my opinion are far more dangerous than the so-called errors you seek to correct. Brethren, you are on dangerous ground. You are on the path that Satan trod in your spirit of accusation which led to his being cast out of heaven. So, I plead with you to turn your eyes upon Jesus. There you will find a perfect guide and a loving friend. If you continue to look at the faults of your brethren, it will lead you on to darkness and despair. We cannot see that God has placed you in His church as a critic of your brethren, but we do want to help you and save you to your work in Africa.

With sincere Christian greetings and personal regards, I am

Yours very sincerely,



JIR:mm