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GENERAL CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS TAKOMA PARK, WASHINGTON 12, D. C.

October 17, 1950

TELEPHONE GEORGIA 0800

CABLE ADDRESS
"ADVENTIST" WASHINGTON
TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS
"GENERAL CONFERENCE"
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Elder R. J. Wieland
8 Walnut St., N. W.
Takoma Park, D. C.

Elder D. K. Short
Ooltewah, Tennessee

Dear Brethren:

The General Conference officers yesterday gave some study to the report of the committee that had been appointed to study your manuscript as well as interview you when both of you were here in Washington.

I am sure you will understand that your manuscript demanded a more careful study than we have had time to give it in the last few days. Most of the officers had not read the manuscript as it had not been passed out further than to the committee members. We feel that because of the content of the manuscript and the nature of the problems involved that the manuscript should have wider study than we have thus far been able to give it. We are, therefore, recommending that your manuscript be-referred to the Defense Literature Committee of the General Conference for further study and investigation.

I do not need to outline in detail the points that we especially feel need study, for we feel that the manuscript as a whole presents a picture that surely needs some investigation. In saying this we do not in any sense agree with your conclusions, but we believe when any of our brethren have made such a thorough study on the question as you have, that the matter should not be passed by lightly. However, we do feel, brethren, that the study of this problem should be confined to the committee to which it is assigned and that the manuscript should not be circulated beyond the circle of this committee. We realize that you desire, as expressed in Brother Wieland's letter, to circulate the manuscript among some of those who have inquired with reference to your relationship to some problems that have been under discussion. However, you have stated that the manuscript was prepared for the ones to whom you addressed the letters in San Francisco and we therefore feel definitely that it should not be circulated at the present time among others than those for whom it was prepared.

I appreciate the letter Brother Wieland wrote us yesterday explaining the sources of the quotations taken from Sister White's writings. As pointed out to you there are some quotations in your manuscript that have

not been released. We are glad to note how you obtained them, and we recognize that you did so with no intent of overstepping the rules of the White Trustees with reference to manuscript releases.

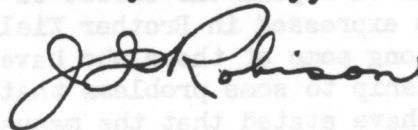
The committee also voted yesterday to permit you brethren to return to Africa. However, in taking this action we want to have the assurance from you that this whole subject which you have dealt with in the manuscript will not be a matter of agitation among the workers in the Southern African Division. The division officers have informed us that they would not feel free to have you brethren return to the field if agitation in these matters were to be transferred to Africa among their working force. We believe you do not have such intentions. In fact, I assured the officers when this matter came up that I felt you brethren would continue the very good work which you have carried on in years gone by, and would not make this a matter of agitation in the field.

I want to say that we do appreciate the very splendid, Christian spirit which you both have manifested personally and in your approach to this subject, and we also want to assure you that neither the committee nor the officers have brought any charge of heresy against either of you. We believe you are sincere and that you are trying to find a way by which the message of Christ's righteousness may be more fully proclaimed and accepted by our people. We would counsel that both of you endeavor to preach this message in your ministry with all the power at your command. We recognize that the church needs a revival and reformation, and we trust the Lord will richly bless you as you uplift the crucified, risen and soon-coming Christ before the multitude. We, therefore, are prepared to open the way for you both to return to Africa, but the brethren felt that we should have the assurance from you with reference to not making the manuscript matter a topic of agitation when you return to that field.

I want personally to assure you brethren that I have greatly appreciated my contacts with you when you were here on furlough and also when I visited your fields in Africa, and although we have not fully agreed about some of these matters, we have felt unity of spirit as we both are dedicating our lives to the great unfinished task of preparing a people to meet their Lord at His coming.

With kind personal regards and Christian greetings, I am

Yours very sincerely,



JJR:ms