

(copy)

April 1, 1942.

In reply refer to  
A-B/H

My dear Dr. Niebuhr:

I have read with careful attention your letter of March 26, 1942 concerning the organizations known as free movements, and that activities of Dr. Tibor Eckhardt, who is chairman of a Hungarian group recently organized in the United States.

The general policy of this Department in regard to "free movements" was made in Press Release no. 600 of December 10, 1941, a copy of which is enclosed for your information. Your attention is invited to the sentence in the last paragraph of this press release that reads as follows: "The Department has taken cognizance of the existence of a number of committees representing free movements; but has not extended any form of recognition to them, formal or informal". This is still the Department's policy and it applies to Dr. Eckhardt's Independent Hungary Committee as well as to other "free movements". The Department actually endeavors to be currently informed of the activities of all persons connected with organizations of this type, and it gives full consideration to information from all sources regarding them. Special studies and inquiries are also made whenever necessary, to make sure that such groups do not engage in activities contrary to the interests of the United States, with particular reference to our successful prosecution of the war.

(2)

Your letter quotes extracts from a letter signed by an officer of this Department, Mr. Harold B. Hoskins. I am not clear from your letter whether you have seen the full text of the letter in question, or whether you have been given only the extracts quoted. A reading of the complete letter would have shown that it contained no reference to recognition, formal or informal, of Dr. Eckhardt's movements. The phrases which you quote referred only to the organizational procedure recommended for all "free movements", of which Dr. Eckhardt's committee is only one of several groups known to the Department.

I have been glad of this opportunity to refer in some detail to a matter on which I have observed there has been some general misapprehension from time to time. I trust that you will find that the Department's policy has been determined by the same principles that motivate all of us in our varied efforts to bring this war to a successful conclusion.

Sincerely yours

*Sumner Welles*  
Acting Secretary

Enclosure:

Press Release no. 600,  
dated December 10, 1941.

