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REPORT

TO: URANTIA Brotherhood
Education Committee and
Publications Committee

DATE: June 30, 1983

RE: Brotherhood School
Textbook Project

FROM: Project Subcommittee

In a memo from Barbara Kulieke dated January 25, 1983, our subcommittee was established and charged with the responsibility "to explore the possibility of republishing some textbooks of the Brotherhood School, but not to assume that republication should be recommended."

The committee met for the first time on June 30, 1983, after each member had individually reviewed all of the seventeen textbooks developed by Dr. Sadler and Alvin Kulieke for use in the Brotherhood School. At that meeting we heard a history of the origin and use of the texts from Marion Rowley and Helen Carlson, who did the work of preparing the materials from the authors' notes and who participated in the Brotherhood School during its period of activity. We also heard recommendations from Jim Mills as to the usefulness of having such materials currently available for teaching the contents of The URANTIA Book.

As a guiding philosophy for our recommendations we agreed to support the statement issued by URANTIA Foundation in its newsletter of December, 1976, a portion of which is reproduced as follows:

As most of you know, The URANTIA Book is the principal publication of URANTIA Foundation. The URANTIA Book is magnificently complete and self-contained, using an economy of words and a clarity of expression heretofore unknown. The Trustees believe that The URANTIA Book is fully capable of speaking for itself without need for systematic and/or comprehensive interpretation. Indeed, even the best of human interpretation or explanation runs the very real risk of appearing as presumptuous as that of a candle trying to illuminate the way for a search light.

However, from time to time creative efforts may appear which -- while certainly not of epochal significance -- may promise, with certain safeguards, a respectable degree of assistance in the study of The URANTIA Book. The Trustees either have published or have authorized the publishing of a few such supportive works, when, after careful and considered deliberation, it was thought that the work itself would contribute directly to the study and comprehension of The URANTIA Book.

However, where a proposed work based on The URANTIA Book was nothing more than a restatement of the teachings of The URANTIA Book, and hence tantamount to a new version, the Trustees have declined to participate or to give approval.

It seems especially unwise at this early stage of the presentation of The URANTIA Book to our world that there be hundreds or thousands of works (perhaps reflecting a decided western cultural bias) all claiming to tell what The URANTIA Book is saying, when The URANTIA Book speaks for itself so splendidly.

Once the primary and fundamental position of The URANTIA Book is widely recognized, the matter of secondary works (as opposed to new versions) will be of less concern. Until the primacy of The URANTIA Book is safely established, there is the worrisome problem of The URANTIA Book's submergence in a clutter of derivative works, some of which may well delimit the universality of the URANTIA message through restrictive and/or formalized interpretation, or the inextricable association of The URANTIA Book with so-called western culture. In any event it appears that there is no more need for a proliferation of second hand or interpretive works concerning The URANTIA Book than there is for the creation and maintenance of a pervasive institutional religious hierarchy.

The URANTIA Book can and does speak for itself.

It is significant that the Revelators saw fit to present The URANTIA Book as it is. Had there been a better or more efficient way by which they could have accomplished their mission, we are confident they would have done so.

In comprehending The URANTIA Book there is nothing more productive or of more lasting promise than the serious and applied study of The URANTIA Book itself. Each of us should have first hand contact with the teachings of The URANTIA Book. Consistent with the copyright laws, each reader is encouraged to develop his or her own study aids (for his or her own personal use), the value of which will depend on one's personal application to the study of The URANTIA Book.

But study the Book. If one wishes to appreciate an object, one studies the object, not its shadow.

The textbooks developed by Dr. Sadler and Alvin Kulieke represent a tremendous effort on their part and by the people who helped to produce the documents. Their value as aids to understanding The URANTIA Book is endorsed by the committee, in spite of the existence of acknowledged errors in the texts.

Consequently we make the following recommendations with regard to republishing these works:

1. All seventeen titles should be reproduced without any changes or corrections, as the significant work of individuals and not as "official" textbooks.
2. Reproduction should be in microfiche or microfilm format. Individual committee members will investigate available technologies, services, and costs, and will report their findings by August 1, 1983. These will be summarized in a follow-up memo.

Micro-format provides low-cost availability of the documents to those who have a serious interest in using them. Most libraries are equipped for reading standard format materials and facilities for producing hard copies are accessible in many locations. As the question of derivative works continues to be explored by URANTIA Brotherhood, consideration should be given to the establishment of an archives collection of some sort. The use of micro format may prove useful in such a project.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Laurence, Chairman
Helen Carlson
Steve Dreier
Lisa Renn