

BROTHERHOOD VISIT TO FRANCE: April 23-25, 1982  
by John Hales and Carolyn Kendall

Report

1. Friday - Airport and restaurant.
  1. Gave Dupont book immediately. Ecstatic! Kissed the book.
  2. Called Henry from airport at Recloses. Mix-up. Did not come to airport or restaurant. We feared hurt feelings.
  3. Lunch. Showed book to LeCorvec. Pleased.
  4. Discussed scenarios for telling Weiss. Asked their advice. Invited them to accompany us. Needed their help.
  
11. Visit to Weiss. 2:45-4:30 P.M. Present: Mr. and Mrs. Weiss, Dupont, LeCorvec, John Hales, Carolyn Kendall. Claude Weiss not present (in England).
  1. Reviewed March 27 announcement to Brotherhood Executive Committee meeting.
    - a. Brief description of Amadon Corporation.
    - b. Book reprinted as Le Livre d'URANTIA, foot-notes removed, no other changes.
  2. Executive Committee appointed JWH and CBK to make personal visit to announce and give book. Gave book to Weiss.
    - a. Surprise, slight dismay, but graceful. Mrs. Weiss watched him intently for his reaction.
    - b. Weiss carefully examined book; compared to Tome I. Seemed satisfied.
    - c. Asked price, how to order. We explained discount.
    - d. Suggested he notify friends via his mailing. Didn't pick up on hint about mailing list.
    - e. Hedged on question about how much secretarial help he used.
  3. Weiss asked about having Concordex published.
    - a. We said we were not sent by Executive Committee, Amadon Corp., or Foundation as negotiators or intermediaries.
    - b. We advised he contact U.F. directly.
    - c. He asked if he could write letter to U.F. We said yes. He wrote letter. Handed letter to us to read. We each read it (except Dupont and LeCorvec) but did not comment or predict reception of letter by U.F.
    - d. He showed mock-up of Concordex. Not copied from Bedell's. Neater. No abbreviations. Looks like fewer entries than Bedell's. 450 pages.
  4. Mrs. Weiss served refreshments. Chit chat. Claude in England. Weisses plan trip to Luxemburg. Inquired about Julia, Oklahoma.
  5. Willingly posed for pictures with book. Photographed Concordex.
  6. Impression of physical and mental health:
    - a. Weiss well-dressed in suit. Wheel chair and walker. Glasses and hearing aid combined.
    - b. Thin. Only slightly pale. Heard well. 88th birthday last week. Heard he had heart attack last winter. His health is never discussed.
    - c. Sharp-witted. Asked good questions. Remembered events, names, situations. Slightly wary. No sign of senility, mental deterioration, or disarray.
    - d. Mrs. Weiss: sharp, agile, controlled, but natural. Very gracious, warm, kindly, responsive to spiritual approach. Moretrusting than he. Approximately 84 years old.

7. Weiss said to thank Executive Committee for our visit and gift book. Best wishes to U.F. Asked about new trustee. "Is he sympathetic to French?" He asked us to inscribe Le Livre, "Best wishes from Executive Committee."
8. Cordial leave-taking. Shook hands, smiles. She even warmer and effusive. Hugs and kisses with her. She to CBK: "I feel we are sisters; I love you."

111. Friday evening at Recloses, Dupont's home.

1. Henry and Bauk. Gave book. Excellent reaction. "Thrilling!"
  - a. Henry raised question of royalties. Says Weiss believes old contract still in effect. Urged Henry not to raise issues. Let everything settle out for awhile. He willingly agreed to lay low.
  - b. Henry has been withdrawn from French since Snowmass. Devoting efforts to Holland, Belgium, and Spain. Letting French do things their own way.
  - c. Never mentioned "default" theory all weekend. Mentioned "borderland" theory, but Bauk forced us to change subject. We joked about it.
  - d. Told Henry about Bedell monograph. Had received letter from Bedell prior to coming to France. Will write Bedell and urge restraint.
  - e. Bauk told us about meeting at Dupont's night before we arrived, with LeCorvec and Immanuel Deservier.
  - f. Regarding our visit: "Let them go to Weiss by themselves. We won't be part of it." They had all given up on Chicago. Our visit would be useless and hopeless. (In a phone call from Carol Kostic Tuesday night, she said that the French probably thought we were coming to announce a new translation had been started, but wouldn't be ready for 16 years.)
  - g. Since we arrived she (Bauk) said they had obviously changed their minds. They were euphoric. (As we were leaving, Dupont offered us and our families carte blanc to his home anytime.)
2. Nigel Hornby arrived from London. Excellent reaction. "How wonderful!" Later said it was a "bold move" by the Foundation.
3. Champagne toasts to U.F., Executive Committee, John, Carolyn, the book, Father.

IV. Saturday.

1. Jean Royer arrived from Avignon early A.M.
2. LeCorvec, Royer, John and Carolyn toured Fontainebleau Palace.
3. 3:00 P.M. Group consisting of:
 

Jacques Dupont	Louis Oberniche
Henry Begemann	George Dupont (son)
Bauk Begemann	Mrs. G. Dupont
Nigel Hornby	Young man - Immanuel's friend
Immanuel Deservier	Later:
Yves Chauvin	Alain LeCorvec
Jean Royer	Mrs. Triolette (Dupont's partner)
Alain Colombe	Mr. Triolette
Paul Brick	Mrs. T's mother
Andre Heisse	
Bernard Garnier	John and Carolyn

4. Group's response to book extremely positive.
  - a. We stressed book's availability first time in 7 years, legally. One volume. Original title. Low price. 20% discount. Gave ordering information. Delighted with all.
  - b. Urged getting on with spreading truth. Form study groups.
  - c. Play down disagreements. Urged unity. Reminded that superhuman overseers desire us to work together in trust.
  - d. Toasted everybody. Sent thanks to Foundation and Executive Committee.
  - e. We lauded Henry's efforts to bring issue to notice of U.F. and U.B.
5. Questions:
  - a. What was Weiss's reaction? Amazed about picture-taking, smiling with book. Did not ask why U.F. did not negotiate with Weiss.
  - b. What is Amadon Corp.? Why? Why we came, not Amadon? (They said "Foundation") We stressed the name, "Amadon," but they kept ignoring it, referring to "Foundation." French not attuned to legalities.
  - c. What about Concordex? "A valuable study aid." We said we did not come to negotiate with Weiss."
  - d. What about revision? Rest of group session spent talking about revision. We said that first, U.F. has to know that this printing can exist without complications or encumbrances and that it can be republished when supply is exhausted. No one questioned legality of books.
6. Heisse, Brick, and Royer discovered paging incompatibility. Heisse seemed gleeful. I heard "Concordex" mentioned. Henry called me to join them. I suggested they all work up simple comparative chart of page numbers and send them to Chicago for insertion into each book. Henry said, "Foundation should do that!" I said it would be quicker if the French did it, "so do not make it a big deal project." They will start working on it right away.
7. Then Henry said: "I have a secret to tell you."
  - a. "Concordex has already been printed; by someone in this room (Heisse, presumably); Weiss probably involved."
  - b. Not printed in Paris; probably another country. Henry hadn't wanted to know any of the details. Doesn't know time of intended distribution, exactly, "soon." Didn't know how many. Immanuel has advance copy. Obtained one month ago, was told to keep secret for two weeks.
  - c. Henry first learned about Concordex printing night before our arrival. Eventually came out that all French knew about Concordex printing but they hadn't planned to tell us.
  - d. I said I couldn't keep it a secret from Tom; nor he from board of trustees. I insisted he tell John so we could decide what to do.
  - e. Overheard Henry tell Immanuel: "I told Carolyn and she insists I tell John." He huddled with Dupont, and then told John.
  - f. Later Henry said Weiss has probably printed more than 1000 copies, the amount he asked for. That he asked for what he thought would be reasonable. Probably really 2000 but only guessing.
  - g. Henry said French believe that the Concordex printing could have been avoided if U.F. had talked with Weiss. Weiss was ready to sign agreement, "most anxiously," last year.

8. By end of evening, everyone expressed hope U.F. will give permission to Weiss to print Concordex to "bring peace." They all seemed to know about Weiss's letter to U.F., although we had not mentioned it in the large group session. "We don't want any more lawsuits!" Faulted U.F. for not communicating with French, or responding to Weiss. Questions arose about royalties to Weiss.
9. By end of evening, a revision team had formed:
  - a. Dupont, Royer, and DeVinck of Brussels. Immanuel will assist Dupont. Dupont is selling business and will retire so he can devote full time to revision activity. He will coordinate.
  - b. Will follow Henry's plan. 2 or 3 stage process; may take 5 years.
  - c. Royer has list of 3000 corrections. May include Bob Plamondon's list of revisions; will ask for Weiss's 100-page list of corrections.
  - d. They insist U.F. has no responsibility for revision process; "It is our business." They are not talking about printing, only revising.
  - e. They spent much time comparing textual errors. "Weiss translation lacks spiritual overtones. Appeals only to intellectuals. Only bilinguals realize deficiencies. Thousands of Weiss's friends read only French. Very few who are bilingual are real students of the teachings, and could revise.

V. Sunday morning.

1. At breakfast:
  - a. Question brought up about selection of trustees. We discredited source of rumors (an American) who believes that board should not be self-perpetuating. That person has not been privy to all early plans and instructions.
  - b. They were outspoken about unresponsiveness of U.F., i.e. letters not answered. No communication about printing plans; no hint.
2. In car on way to airport:
  - a. Henry reported he had just learned Heisse has recently reprinted (photo-copied) La Cosmogonie in 3-volume sets; that Heisse will have to recoup his investment by selling them. He inferred they were hard cover.
  - b. Nigel says NOBODY has examined Weiss's mailing list. Guards it. Believes list contains several thousand names. Someone occasionally surfaces who is on the list. Worldwide.
  - c. Henry, Bauk, and Nigel reiterated that it is "imperative" that permission be given for Concordex printing, even though it would be after the fact. Thought U.F. had previously given such after-the-fact permissions.
  - d. Permission would, in effect, they believe, immunize Foundation from claims by Weiss for royalties. Would get on with revision with some hope it could be published.
  - e. They believe Mrs. Weiss and Claude like Brotherhood now, and would develop positive feeling toward Foundation if Weiss were given permission now for Concordex. They will likely inherit moral right. Claude is under influence of Father Guillame, a Protestant priest -- a good man -- who also believes in The URANTIA Book.