

May 11, 1958

Mr. Jacques Weiss
28, Rue Cambaceres
Paris VIII
France

Dear Mr. Weiss:

We are delighted to receive your very interesting letter of April 30 regarding the translation of the Urantia Book which you are making. You apparently have progressed a great deal in a very short time.

The task of translation not only needs a technical knowledge of the two languages, but also a sympathetic understanding of the concepts expressed in the Urantia Book, and I can well understand that in the process of translation you will probably build a study group of people who become really interested in the teachings of the book.

As you say, the matter of publishing a French edition is several years in the future and as I have told you before, that matter is in the hands of the copyright owner, the Urantia Foundation. However, I rather doubt that they will ever permit the parts to be printed separately, as not one of the parts is a complete whole by itself. Each depends on the others and, taken out of context, each would be misleading and misunderstood. However, that question is for the future.

You mention that we have sold only about 3,000 books in two and one-half years. We think this is a very good record. It is not the price of the book which has held the sales down. It is the fact that we have not advertised or promoted the book in any way. Almost all of the books have been sold by personal contact. When the book was published in October 1955, only a small group of two or three hundred people knew about it, and from that small nucleus have come the 3,000 sales or gifts. It is our feeling that for several years in the future we will not advertise or promote this book. We want it to spread slowly, from person to person, and rest on a very solid, firm foundation before we start any promotion which might stir up antagonism toward the teachings. It is not an easy book to read or understand thoroughly and we want to form many study groups and have it translated into several languages before it starts to take hold. We are convinced that the world is not ready for it at the present time and we will probably not live to see that day. But for the present we can continue to work quietly and help all those who are really interested in it.

Mr. Jacques Weiss

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5/11/58

We were very glad to hear from you and we hope you will write again now and then to let us know how things are going with you. We will try to keep you informed on what's going on here -- through our letters and by the Quarterly News Letter.

Cordially,

Secretary-General

Marian Rowley

cc Sylvia Sunderland
Chairman, Foreign Extension

Jacques Weiss

28, Rue Cambacérés

Paris - VIII^e

Anjou | 49-26
13-00

PARIS, APRIL 30, 1958

URANTIA BROTHERHOOD
533 Diversey Parkway
CHICAGO 14
(Illinois)

Dear Sirs,

I received with great pleasure your Quarterly News Letters for the last quarter of 1957 and the first of 1958.

You ask for possible news of interest. The one here is that I am practically building a half-spontaneous but not yet formal study group in Paris around the translation into French of the Urantia Book.

Last week, I had personally completed in handwriting the translation of the entire First Part. One half of it has already been corrected and typewritten. I am now starting with the Second Part.

I had hired a translator for the Third Part, but her first sixty pages did not qualify her for continuing.

And also I have another translator who has started the work of the Fourth Part. She is so deeply interested that she will carry this part to the end in proper time if her frail health permits.

Although it is perhaps very anticipatory, I am studying the possibilities of publication in France a few years from now. I noticed that in the very broad American market it has taken you several years to sell less than 3,000 copies, which does not preclude a brighter future. But what about the narrower market of French reading students, with their financially limited purchasing power? It is quite a problem and would probably only be solved by dividing the book in three and lowering correspondingly the purchase price.

However, it is not the present day's problem, and any comment from your side on the surplus of this letter would be welcome.

*remaining part
the rest*
Sincerely yours,

J. Weiss