

Copy of letter to Miss Nancy Fisher from Dr. Pfeiffer. Dec. 21/47

Dear Miss Fisher,

This is in reply to your letters of October 2nd and September 14th 1947 with enclosures. I must excuse myself for not having been able to answer earlier your letters and the problems involved. However, these matters require quite some consideration. I also wanted to communicate with Dr. Wachsmuth first, before approaching any suggestion. In the meantime I have also had a long letter from Rolf Gardiner making his suggestion and asking my support, to blend together the English Biodynamic Association with the Soil Movement. I enclose a copy of my letter to Mr. Gardiner for your information.

After rechecking our opinion with Dr. Wachsmuth's opinion we have come to the following conclusion: First, there should by all means be maintained an internal circle of Anthroposophical Farmers and Gardeners who do research work, investigation, and work out such schemes that the Anthroposophical agricultural ideas of Dr. Steiner can be made understandable to the general public. In fact this internal group is the research group proper who bring down the message of the spiritual worlds into practical forms. This ought to be study group which studies, in particular, the Agriculture Course of Dr. Steiner, brings its own experiences and brings all this together into one unit of knowledge and wisdom. Second, the Biodynamic Association is to represent the experience based on the application of the Biodynamic Method to the outer public, that is, to those farmers and gardeners who are not able or willing to deal with the Anthroposophical ideas, but still want to use and apply the Bio-Dynamic method. Within our own ranks opinions differ, but I remember two quotations of Dr. Steiner where he says that we do need cow horns to make our preparations but we do not need bull horns to fight for our cause. The second quotation is that the Biodynamic Method ought to be for every farmer and gardener. Since we are not able to convince every farmer and gardener of our Anthroposophical background, it is, therefore necessary, of course, to have such association as the Biodynamic Association, to help the farmer who does not want to deal with Anthroposophy. This is therefore the external work, the public representation towards the practical part as well as the scientific part. This is really our front line of attack and defense. If we keep these two things separate there will be no trouble in making the Biodynamic Association part of the Soil Association if it is guaranteed its absolute independence in teaching, advising, etc. That is, if the Soil Association also does criticize or interfere with our Biodynamic ideas but supports them. Should we find the personalities who are willing to cooperate in such a way then it would be possible to carry this out. However, from the enclosures you sent me, particularly Mrs Murray Usher's letter and also the letter from Mr. Maude, I gather that the situation at present is premature. I do not know at what decisions you have arrived at the general meeting in November.

I believe it still will take some time before we can come to a solution. However, the matter ought to be discussed. This is the reason why I am sending you the copy of my letter to Mr. Gardiner, not that I want to influence your own decision or opinions, but that the matter is discussed and taken up again and that we finally see what we are able to do.

In fact, I see a better possibility of cooperating with the Soil Organization than with Dr. Mier's organization. Dr Meirs makes no clear line between the purely Anthroposophical endeavour and what is needed for the outside. He always asks through his way of publishing things that the outside has to take part immediately in Anthroposophical matters. This, I think, is not possible and also it is not right to ask the average farmer or gardener to show Anthroposophical interest at once. However, it should be our endeavour through the way in which we represent our practice and background in a business like manner that people gradually become interested. This is the way in which we work here in Americas. With the Biodynamic Association we go hand in hand with the Organic Movement with our Anthroposophical movement we have something which is not organized yet in any definite form, but we have a cooperation there with the people to authorize you to make copies or extracts of this part of the letter so far, to inform the members of the Association and the Directors of my opinion.