



## ANTHROPOSOPHICAL SOCIETY IN GREAT BRITAIN

RUDOLF STEINER HOUSE, 35 Park Road, London, N.W.1,

24th April, 1934.

*To Members of the Anthroposophical Society in Great Britain.*

It is necessary to bring to your attention events that have taken place since our Annual General Meeting (Feb. 10th 11th). We regret that the Report and Appendices sent herewith should have to be so lengthy but it is important that as clear a picture as possible should be placed before our Members and we can only hope that it will be unnecessary to trouble you again with such a mass of detail.

Copies of the Resolution passed at our General Meeting were distributed to all our Members and sent to the Members of the Vorstand at Dornach. As a reply, a circular letter, dated Feb. 19th, signed by Herr Steffen, Frau Marie Steiner and Dr. Wachsmuth was sent from Dornach to many Members individually in England. Comments on this circular by seven Members of our Society were distributed, together with the original text. The nature and tone of this circular made it evident that it would not be possible to find any way of reaching a solution of the difficulties existing between this Society and the three Members of the Vorstand concerned.

The attention of your Executive Council was then called to certain changes in Clauses 6 and 13 of the Legal Statutes which it was proposed to bring before the General Meeting at Dornach (see Appendix No. 1).

These circumstances, together with all that had preceded them, made it clear that the time had come for consultation with the Society in Holland and with certain Groups in Germany and elsewhere who were in agreement as to the results of the leadership of the General

Anthroposophical Society by three Members of the Vorstand only, and for common action. The outcome of this consultation was the framing of the “**Declaration**” (see Appendix 2) referred to at length in the report of the General Meeting at Dornach on March 27th/28th. Your Council took part in the framing of this Declaration and unanimously approved it in its final form.

On April 1st as your General Secretary, I wrote to Herr Steffen as follows (Translation)

*Dear Herr Steffen*

*On behalf of the Secretariat at the Goetheanum, Fraulein Grabs wrote to me in a letter dated Feb. 3rd, that my letter of Jan 24th could not come up for discussion until after lecture-tours of certain Members of the Vorstand but up to now I have not received an answer to the questions contained in this letter*

*In view of what transpired during the General Meeting in Dornach on March 27th and 28th, it is now necessary that we should know whether and under what conditions, you, Herr Steffen, as President of the Society, are willing to sign the Cards of new Members of this National Society*

*I would ask for an early reply in order that the Council of this National Society may know exactly what the position now is in this matter*

*Yours sincerely, Signed: D. N. DUNLOP, General Secretary*

This letter, at the time of going to press (April 27th), has neither been acknowledged nor answered

In sending to each Member a report of the proceedings at the Dornach General Meeting, the Executive Council desire to state that they support fully what Mr. Kaufmann did and said on their behalf on this occasion and at the same time to express their appreciation of his courage. We also wish to include our appreciation of the way in which the principles of our Declaration were presented by Dr. Kolisko and Dr. Zeylmans.

The Executive Council have decided to summon an Extraordinary General Meeting of Members of the Anthroposophical Society in Great Britain for Saturday, June 9th, at 2.30 p.m., when the situation up to that date will be fully considered, together with such questions as (a) the future constitution of our Society. (b) signature of Membership Cards, capitation fees, etc. A full Agenda of this Meeting will be issued in due course.

For the Executive Council:

D. N. DUNLOP

General Secretary

—

REPORT on the GENERAL MEETING of the GENERAL ANTHROPOSOPHICAL SOCIETY, held at Dornach, March 27th/28th, 1934. (The appendices Nos. 1 to 4 at the end of the report consist of certain documents and statements to which reference is made. Appendix No. 5 consists of communications indicating further developments since the General Meeting. This account of the General Meeting has been based upon three independently written reports.)

The meeting was opened by the President, Herr Steffen, who in his speech on the work of the past year spoke of the new publications issued and gave some account of the various conferences. He referred to the difficulties created by the present world-situation, pointing out the consequent need for even greater conscientiousness in the work than before.

The financial report from Dr. Wachsmuth was then given, followed by the adoption of the Balance Sheet.

Immediately after this, the following motion and declarations were presented to the Meeting:

(1) The Motion for changes in the Legal Statutes, presented and spoken to later in the proceedings by Dr. Fränkl and Dr. G. Schubert. (*see Appendix No. 1*).

(2) *The Declaration (see Appendix No. 2) read by Dr. Kolisko and spoken to by him, Dr. Zeylmans and Mr. Kaufmann (the latter representing the General Secretary and Executive Council of the Anthroposophical Society in Great Britain).*

(3) *A declaration in the form of a letter from Dr. Wegman (prevented by illness from attending) to Herr Steffen, read by Dr. van Deventer. Also a declaration signed by eleven Doctors working with Dr. Wegman (see Appendix No. 3).*

The Motion for changes in Clauses 6 and 13 of the Legal Statutes was read out, the representative of the seven signatories stating, however, that they did not propose to explain the reasons for their motion until later on in the proceedings.

The Chairman (Dr. Wachsmuth) then called upon the representatives of the Declaration to speak.

Thus from the beginning of the Meeting, two distinct lines of initiative were clear - one represented by the Motion for the change of the Legal Statutes and the other by the Declaration. It was natural at least to hope that there would have been some recognition of both these directions of will in the Society. The course of the Meeting, however, proved otherwise.

Constant attacks were made all through the Meeting upon the representatives of the

Declaration, as well as upon Dr. Vreede who openly supported it. The support of Dr. Wegman was expressed in her letter to Herr Steffen (Appendix No. 3).

Representatives of the Motion to change the Legal Statutes stated that false motives were attributed to them by the second paragraph of the Declaration further that misleading information was being conveyed to Members in Holland, England and Germany by the signatories of that Declaration. It was stated that the aim of the proposed changes was rather to bring the Legal Statutes into line with the Foundation Statutes given by Dr. Steiner, since it had hitherto been the custom for Herr Steffen to sign all Membership Cards. With the exclusive right of signature now proposed, the intention, it was stated, was to bring this custom to expression in the Legal Statutes too.

The representatives of the Declaration rejected this interpretation. They could see therein no justification of the motion. They raised the question, why, at this particular time, it had been thought necessary to bring about this change? No direct answer was given, although the reason was clearly enough forthcoming from the course taken by the General Meeting. It was emphasised by representatives of the Declaration that the second paragraph was not directed against the signing of Membership Cards by Herr Steffen, but against the establishment of the exclusive right now proposed. It was emphasised that the proposed changes would place in the President alone, powers which, in the sense of the Foundation Statutes<sup>1</sup> belonged to the whole Vorstand.

The Declaration was read and spoken to by Dr. Kolisko. Both he and Dr. Zeylmans who followed him, based their speeches upon experiences connected with the attitude of the three Members of the Vorstand towards the Arbeitsgemeinschaft and the Society in Holland. Dr. Zeylmans was followed by Mr. Kaufmann, whose speeches as our representative are in this account reported rather more fully than those of the others.

Mr. Kaufmann emphasised that in this National Society we recognise all sections of anthroposophical endeavour and all creative anthroposophists. That we had had ample time to see that under the leadership of three Members of the Vorstand only, important Groups and eminent lecturers were ignored and set aside. We could not accept this as the true and full leadership of the Society. Five Members of the Vorstand had been appointed by Dr. Steiner, not only three. Mr. Kaufmann also mentioned the circumstances under which the English News Sheet published at Dornach had been inaugurated, as an instance of a decision taken by three Members of the Vorstand without any consultation with the other two or with the Group most affected by such a decision.

---

1. From No. 11 of the Foundation Statutes : " ... the admission of Members is in the hands of the Groups. The forms of admission shall, however, be submitted to the Executive in Dornach for signature, the Executive signing them in confidence to the officials of the Groups."

Dr. Wachsmuth contested the statements contained in the Declaration that work had been disavowed and National Groups re-organised from Dornach. His standpoint was that the three Members of the Vorstand had been obliged on account of the difficulties of preceding years to take over the leadership. It was a case of suffering under the "dictation of untrue and lying situations."

In another speech, after Dr. Vreede had emphasised the right of Groups and functionaries to admit Members, Dr. Wachsmuth said: "But functionaries are responsible not only to the Groups but to the Leadership. If the principle of autonomy is carried too far, a Group, for example, might choose a representative of Christian Science as functionary and we should then be forced to recognise and be co-responsible for this. Mr. Dunlop refuses to give the addresses of the Members. It is demanded of the President that he should sign Cards of Membership of people of whom he does not know where they live... " (see Appendix 4).

In the further course of the meeting, attempts were made, with increasing intensity, to discredit the content of the Declaration itself by attacks upon its representatives, above all upon Dr. Kolisko. Those who opposed the Declaration returned again and again to the much-discussed question of the right methods as the basis of their attacks, which were levelled, at this stage, chiefly against Dr. Kolisko, Dr. Wegman and the Medical Section, Attacks upon Dr. Kolisko were made above all by Dr. Jenny and Dr. von Baravalle. Dr. Jenny attempted, by criticism of a recent lecture on Haeckel given by Dr. Kolisko in Basle, to show that this lecture contained scientific inaccuracies. Dr. Kolisko defended himself on the charge of inaccuracies while declining on principle to justify his lectures to those who attended them for the purpose of finding points to attack.

Beyond a brief mention, this report does not propose to enter into the content or nature of the attack made upon Dr. Kolisko by Dr. von Baravalle in connection with an educational pamphlet. Our opinion is that it was entirely out of place to import into a Meeting of this kind an affair concerning only the College of Teachers of the Waldorf School.

A concerted attack upon the Medical Section and the work of Dr. Wegman was led by three Swiss Doctors. Dr. Kern brought forward a case of six years ago, blaming Dr. Wegman and the Clinic Doctors for negligence which had resulted in the death of the patient. The aim of such action as that of these three doctors was a deliberate undermining of confidence in the Clinic. There followed an inevitable debate among the Doctors on purely medical points, the course of which proved that medical opinions on this given case were completely divided. The work of Dr. Kaelin was also attacked.

To a remark at the end of a speech by a Member from Holland, that the Meeting ought to be speaking of the rights of the President, Mr. Kaufmann rejoined that nothing was being said about

the rights - which were not respected - of two Members of the Vorstand. At this Herr Steffen remarked that once again there had come the reproach that he was doing something wrong in not calling the five Members of the Vorstand together. Why, he asked, had Mr. Kaufmann not come forward with his moral maxims after the death of Rudolf Steiner? Herr Steffen went on to speak of certain actions (in the years 1925 and 1926) in which Members of the Vorstand had participated without informing him. This had happened, he said, systematically time and again, until he declared that he could no longer be responsible for what was done by the Sections. And inasmuch as I am its President, the Society too is not responsible for it. He went on to refer to the accusation of dictatorship now being made.

On the morning of the second day, to a statement by Dr. Vreede that she had not presented Herr Steffen as a dictator but the Motion concerned with the Legal Statutes aimed at making him one, Herr Steffen replied to the effect that two Members of the Vorstand and several Councils or other countries could not accept the sole right of the present Leader of the Society to sign Cards of Membership. "Thereby a situation is created for me, England does not send the addresses and I cannot sign. To-day one must decide what one wants. If I have not the right to sign, the duty for me to sign falls away. Naturally, I shall then not be able any longer to accept into the Society, people who adhere to such views. He went on to say that his right to arrange conferences had been contested and he should not, therefore, do so again. Another duty too had thus fallen away from him.

Dr. Eckstein and Dr. Lauer, in speeches which went to extremes of intolerance, tried further to discredit the content of the Declaration by accusations against its representatives. According to Dr. Lauer, there cannot fundamentally be said to be two equally justified directions of will. What there is, is the "contrast between Goetheanism and Theosophism."

Dr. Guenther Schubert read a statement in support of the Motion to change the Legal Statutes, drawn up by certain workers at the Goetheanum and the "Initiative Group" of the German Society. He went on to say that the representatives of the Declaration spoke constantly of the last eight years but nervously avoided going back to the year 1925. At that time they themselves were trying to establish a dictatorship and had to some extent brought about a dictatorship of Dr. Wegman. (The words in the German *Mitteilungsblatt* are : "*und hatten zum Teil eine Diktatur Wegman verwirklicht.*") The speaker continued that the same people who later on were always demanding a Vorstand of five were those who by their deeds did not accept but fought against this Vorstand. He said: "Every human being not only has the right but the duty to find the right methods himself. There is a true and there is false, *as fact*. I ask you : Would the Goetheanum exist at all to-day if the three persons (Herr Steffen, Frau Dr. Steiner, Dr. Wachsmuth) had not concerned themselves with it during these years? It would have been transformed into an

army-camp of ... the Great, or into a Bodhisattva Sect." (It is unpleasant to report a speech of this character, but it is given at length in the German *Mitteilungsblatt* and has been included here as being characteristic of the speeches made in opposition to the Declaration.)

In the course of a speech at which in justice to the Meeting it must be said that many demurred, Dr. Roman Boos descended, after a series of offensive statements about Dr. Wegman and Dr. Kolisko, among others, to the quotation in Latin of a sentence of Thomas Aquinas: "The sacred Host may not be given to dogs: they cannot change their nature." This and other oratorical excesses of Dr. Boos were allowed to pass without rebuke.

At the end of the second morning, Dr. Kolisko, Dr. Zeylmans and Mr. Kaufmann spoke again. Dr. Kolisko showed that the course of the Meeting itself had throughout confirmed everything brought forward in the Declaration. On the point of the much-discussed "methods" Dr. Zeylmans spoke to the effect that he could entirely appreciate and respect the attitude of Herr Steffen when he referred to the necessity of right methods, pointing to the book "Knowledge of the Higher Worlds." But when other people rose to proclaim what they considered "right method" and accused others of being enveloped in a so-called "theosophical, mystical fog-then he (Dr. Zeylmans) could only say that this kind of thing did not upset him or the work. The work would continue, in spite of it.

Mr. Kaufmann, who spoke now, corrected a statement made by Dr. Wachsmuth on the subject of our Members' addresses to the effect that we would not even allow the President to know the name of the place where a member lived. Mr. Kaufmann pointed out that if we had not sent the full addresses heretofore, it was because Dr. Wachsmuth himself, in 1924, had instructed him (Mr. Kaufmann) that all that was required was the town or place where each member lived (of which there would have been no question of refusal), not the full address. Mr. Kaufmann then spoke of the circular of Feb. 19th received by our Members from the three Members of the Vorstand, and stated that we were always ready to give the addresses when we should come to a mutual understanding on a basis of confidence. (On this whole subject see Appendix No. 4.)

In order to make the account of the rest of Mr. Kaufmann's speech clear. it must be mentioned again that in one of his speeches, Herr Steffen used the following words: "*The President is not responsible, and thereby also the Society-inasmuch as I am its President-is not responsible for what is done by the Sections.*" This was in reference to the Medical Section which had just been attacked; immediately after this Herr Steffen had gone on to speak of the magazine "*Natura.*" Dr. Wegman had several times been attacked for her mention of the Christ Impulse in her letter (actually, "*christliche Liebe*") and in her report of the Medical Section to the General Meeting last year. Mr. Kaufmann now said:

*"But I will now come to more fundamental matters. As an example of what impels us and will*

*impel us still more after all that we have experienced in this Meeting, I may take what was mentioned again today by Dr. Poppelbaum. Again and again you drag down and represent in an unfavourable light what Dr. Wegman said a year ago with regard to the work in the Medical Section. You repeat her words in such a way as to drag them down. But is it really so unreasonable, what she said on that occasion about the Christ Impulse, how they are trying to give effect to it in their profession as healers? I have been listening attentively while friends have been speaking about anthroposophical method, and I say openly that I gain many things, of value from the content of what they say, even where I reject the whole attitude in which they say it. I listen to them trying to formulate : What is true Anthroposophy? What is the Goetheanic method ? But I find again and again, while they speak of anthroposophical method, anthroposophical method does not prevail at all in the way they put it forward. And there I must say, I would rather have an imperfectly presented Anthroposophy and a faulty method if the fundamental spirit is modern and anthroposophical, namely, the spirit of the age of science and of the impulses of Rudolf Steiner. That I would rather have than the most excellent discourses concerning anthroposophical method, if this method is propounded in a way which I can only feel as medieval, full of dogmatic statements and anathemas.*

*Now as to what was said about Dr. Wegman yesterday and again to-day, I find you in practice deeply at fault in anthroposophical method. You take no account of the reality that lives in the human being whose words you criticise. Dr. Wegman, as healer, is one who has the right to speak in the way she did of the Christ Impulse. It is her real being. Listen to her words out of her real being, and you find them justified. And if you really had anthroposophical method, you would not criticise them ex cathedra, in the superficial way you did. As to the things that were said yesterday about the Clinic, about the Medical Section it is a thing of shame for our Society. I know what is being done in many places - curative homes, centres of healing. places where Dr. Wegman comes on her journeys, where she sees patients from morning till evening, where she gives advice to many people for their life - countless people are thankful to her. I have seen something of what lives as Christ Impulse in this will to healing. And there are many among us to-day, people of value, people of deep experience and responsibility in life, men and women of the world, who have found their way to Anthroposophy by virtue of this work. But now I have heard the President declare: "The President is not responsible, and therefore the Society too inasmuch as I am its President - is not responsible for what is done by the Sections." That is precisely what compels us to our present attitude. That is precisely what I meant when I said last night: The Medical Section is disavowed, treated in such a way as to abandon it to the kind of thing that happened yesterday. That is the kind of treatment which we will never, never support. Therefore I say in conclusion: We too are standing for the spiritual leadership and for those to whom Rudolf Steiner entrusted it. We stand and shall stand for them according to our own insight, and in this sense we also claim our*



*membership in the General Anthroposophical Society."*

Herr Steffen then asked Mr. Kaufmann to repeat his quotation from his (Herr Steffen's) speech, and his own word "*abandoned*" (*preisgegeben*). Mr. Kaufmann repeated his statement, also the sentence from Herr Steffen's speech which was not disputed. Mr. Kaufmann concluded : "*Precisely by your dealing with the matter in this way, which comes to expression in your own words just quoted, the Medical Section and Dr. Wegman herself are abandoned to the kind of treatment in our Society of which we had another example yesterday.*"

Herr Steffen expressed indignation at it being said that he had "*abandoned*" anything. Mr. Kaufmann, he said, had passed over the silence the circumstances which had compelled him to relinquish responsibility. His remaining President would depend upon how the Meeting expressed itself. Herr Steffen now declared that he laid down the Presidency and asked Frau Dr. Steiner to take his place. He then left the Hall. Frau Dr. Steiner declared that without Herr Steffen as President she would not remain in the Vorstand, and also left the Hall. When the tumult had been stilled, Herr Englert-Faye finally proposed that the Meeting request Herr Steffen, Frau Dr. Steiner and Dr. Wachsmuth "*to constitute the Society anew*" (*ganz neu zu konstituieren*). At this there was prolonged applause and after taking a vote (of an overwhelming majority in favour) Dr. Wachsmuth undertook to transmit this proposal to Herr Steffen and Frau Dr. Steiner. He summoned the Meeting for a later hour in the afternoon.

AFTERNOON SESSION. - Herr Steffen read the following statement : "*The President of the General Anthroposophical Society felt obliged to lay down the Presidency during the General Meeting, owing to unjustified reproaches made by Mr. Kaufmann and in view of many things that had gone before. He handed over the Presidency to Frau Marie Steiner and left the Meeting. Frau Marie Steiner declared, however, that she would only continue to be in the Vorstand if Herr Steffen remained First President, and also left the Assembly.*

*Dr. Wachsmuth was then entrusted by the General Meeting to hand over to Herr Steffen and Frau Marie Steiner the decision of the General Meeting carried by an overwhelming majority of votes, namely that the Society should be reconstituted by these three persons, Frau Marie Steiner, Herr Steffen and Dr. Wachsmuth*

*The constitution of the Society is contained in the Foundation Meeting. for those entrusted with this task, who have the work of Rudolf Steiner at heart, there results accordingly the following question which they now submit to the General Meeting :*

*"Is the Anthroposophical Society willing to allow these three persons to continue the work in the sense of the Foundation Meeting and to consider the decisions to which they come, as binding for the Society?"*

This question was answered by vote in the affirmative : 774 pro ; 94 con: 23 abstained from voting.<sup>2</sup>

The Motion for changes in Clauses 6 and 13 of the Legal Statutes was then put to the vote and carried by a like majority.

Dr. Wachsmuth put it to the vote that the meeting be now closed. This was carried. Dr. Kolisko asked to be allowed to read a brief statement on behalf of the minority. Put to the vote and voted down. Dr. Wachsmuth said that the motion for changes in the Legal Statutes must be formally carried in the presence of a Notary. Dr. Kolisko said that he would be obliged to make a statement in the presence of the Notary. Herr Steffen asked Dr. Kolisko to read it now and he did so, as follows:

*"In the name of the representatives of the Groups and Members who have here brought forward the Declaration, I hereby state:*

*"We cannot acknowledge as binding for our Groups and Members who number some 2,000, the new exclusive Leadership of these three persons. We do not recognise the changes that have been accepted in the Legal Statutes by a majority decision and will eventually announce this to the Notary. We regard ourselves as Members of the General Anthroposophical Society founded in 1923 and claim all rights of Membership in the Society, at the Goetheanum and in connection with the Sections. As free and independent Groups we will continue our work within the General Anthroposophical Society and at the Goetheanum."*

The hour of 10 a.m. the following morning was suggested for the meeting in the presence of the Notary.

Dr. Vreede now declared: *"I shall continue my work at the Goetheanum in the name of Rudolf Steiner and by virtue of the power with which I serve him."* She then left the Hall.

It was now decided to summon the Notary immediately. After insistence by Dr. Kolisko that he would have to make his statement of protest for the minority in the presence of the Notary, Dr. Wachsmuth agreed that he should do so. The voting was then repeated in the presence of the Notary, but although Dr. Kolisko rose to catch the eye of the Chairman, no attention was paid. The meeting was then closed.

—

---

<sup>2</sup> It is stated in the *Mitteilungsblatt* that the total Membership of the Society according to the lists, is 18,900.

## APPENDIX No. 1.

The motion to change Nos 6 and 13 of the Legal Statutes was signed by : Paul Bühler Dr. E. Eckstein, Mr. E. Pfeiffer, Mr. P E. Schiller. Dr. Guenther Schubert, Dr. Richard Schubert.

	Original form	Amendment
No. 6	Membership is acquired by means of written application and acceptance on the part of the Vorstand.	To add the words : " by signature of the Membership Card by the President."
No. 13	The Vorstand represents the Verein to the outer world. The legally binding signature in the name of the Verein shall be the signature of: the First President, the Second President, the Recorder, the Secretary-Treasurer: the individual signature of each of these.	The Vorstand represents the Verein to the outer world. The legally binding signature in the name of the Verein shall be the signature of : the President alone ; the Recorder and the secretary-treasurer, signing collectively with the President. The President can give to Members of the Vorstand a general power of attorney or one for special spheres of work entitling them to sign alone.

---

## APPENDIX No. 2.

### DECLARATION.

*The undermentioned Groups and Members have witnessed the growing development, during the past eight years, of divergencies of will within the Anthroposophical Society. An ever widening gulf has opened out in the life of this Society.*

*It has now come to our knowledge that proposals to amend the Legal Statutes<sup>3</sup> have been submitted for the forthcoming Annual Meeting - proposals by means of which the basic constitution of the Anthroposophical Society would be incisively altered. In this regard we have to say that we cannot recognise a change of such a character, which would empower the President to re-distribute the offices and functions within the Vorstand, to alter the rights of signature, or exclusively to sign the cards of membership.*

*We see in this proposal an attempt, via the legal Statutes - Statutes intended solely to regulate our relations with the authorities - to modify the constitution of the Society as such, given by Rudolf Steiner in the Foundation Statutes and adopted by the Foundation Meeting at Christmas 1923. - Such a procedure would virtually legalise the state of affairs which has come about in the Society during the last few years.*

*Quite independently of these proposals to amend the legal Statutes, we find ourselves obliged in view*

---

*<sup>3</sup>This footnote is added for the information of Members of the Anthroposophical Society in Great Britain.*

\* Shortly after the Christmas Foundation Meeting, the General Anthroposophical Society was entered in the Swiss Trade Register as a legal entity - as the owner, among other things, of the Goetheanum property. A form of legal Statutes or Articles of Association was therefore required, according to the forms laid down by law.

*of the aforesaid situation as a whole-to bring to the knowledge of the Vorstand and members the following declaration of our will :*

*We hold to the constitution of the General Anthroposophical Society given at Christmas 1923.*

*We cannot accept as binding for the whole Society decisive measures, issuing, as has of late grown customary, from three members of the Vorstand only.*

*The same applies to majority decisions at General Meetings at Dornach, by means of which decisions of vital import for the life of the Society have been brought about, during the last eight years, without any previous consultation within the Vorstand or with the functionaries and leading members.*

*We have now the state of affairs wherein two members of the Vorstand are without any responsible share in the leadership of the Society, while at the same time a large number of leading members in the different countries are deprived of the opportunity to take part in the development of the Society and to do anthroposophical work at the Goetheanum. Since the three members of the Vorstand have been carrying on all the business alone, valuable work of existing Groups has been rejected and disavowed, National Groups have been re-organised by measures taken from Dornach, and a concerted effort has been made to re-mould the entire life of the Society in the sense of this part of the Vorstand.*

*We ourselves will not deny that changes in the constitution of the Anthroposophical Society may become necessary in the course of time and as conditions may demand. Such changes, however, can only properly proceed from the conscious responsibility of the whole Society.*

*Over against the interferences that have been mentioned, we must uphold as a matter of principle the autonomy of the several Groups one of the most essential foundations of life in this Society, and involving among other things the free choice of their fellow workers by the Groups.*

*We refute the judgment that those members alone are faithful to the Goetheanum who agree with the specific guidance and direction of the three members of the Vorstand and who are thereby ready to obey their leadership. Spiritually, the Goetheanum is at work wherever anthroposophical work is being done. We too are engaged in this work with our best forces; we all have been contributing as best we might, according to our several faculties and spheres of work. We claim to carry on our work at the Goetheanum in Dornach also. The Goetheanum is there for all members.*

*We regard it as our task to make accessible to those who are associated with us the spiritual life of the Goetheanum in all its aspects.*

*The history of our Society shows clearly that there are human beings in it, striving, it is true, for one and the same Anthroposophy, but tending to pursue it in different ways. This fact was always recognised by Rudolf Steiner; it was taken into account by him in the Foundation Statutes and in the appointment of the Foundation Vorstand. We are convinced that the Society will only be able to fulfil its tasks if the tendency to centralise which has set in of late is confronted with an element of differentiation. We find this need expressed in the words of Rudolf Steiner (February 1923) :*

*"In the true realm of Spiritual Science we unite by differentiating, by individualising not by centralising."*

*In these words, Rudolf Steiner voiced a leading thought essential to the very life of the Anthroposophical Society and reaching far beyond the occasion for which they were then spoken. Living differentiation is better than apparent uniformity. It is the true way to unite and as a fact it is the element of*

life for a large section of our members. Moreover, in our judgment there are wide circles in humanity to-day who will only find the living ground which they are seeking for in this Society when these principles are realised.

On these foundations, therefore, we shall maintain our work as free and independent Groups and Members within the General Anthroposophical Society. We shall thereby most readily be able to meet the demands of the present moment. Today more than ever before, the world requires of us the imparting of true spiritual knowledge, the will to co-operation, and an open heart for the needs of men.

Signed : Anthroposophical Society **in Great Britain** :

Executive Council:

D.N. Dunlop: General Secretary, M. Wheeler: Treasurer, Owen Barfield, Andrew Curtis, G. S. Francis, E. S. Francis, A. C. Harwood, George Kaufmann, Mary Kaufmann, Arthur Sheen, Theodora M. Wilson, Michael Wilson

For the Executive (with the exception of Dr. R. van Houten) and a large number of Members of the Anthroposophical Society in Holland : Dr. F. W. Zeylmans van Emmichoven

In the General Meeting at The Hague, 18th March, 1934. 76 voted for the Declaration, 33 against, 22 abstained from voting. A number of other members subsequently signified their agreement.

Anthroposophical Arbeitsgemeinschaften in Germany

Stuttgart : Dr. Eugen Kolisko. Mannheim: R. Ch. Wolfing. Munich 1930: Gregor Hurst. Mains: Eduard Kuhl. Nuremberg : Grete Brüll, Max Herberg. Bielefeld : Max Westhäuser. Liengnitt: Dr. Karl König. Magdeburg : Heinrich v. Borstel. Tübingen : E. Gildemeister. On behalf of working groups in Hirschberg, Schweidnitz and Pilgramshain : Dr. Karl König. On behalf of unattached members and working groups: Jirgen von Grone.

APPENDIX NO. 3. Letter from Dr. Wegman to Herr Steffen (read at the General Meeting by Dr. van Deventer): also Declaration signed by Doctors, read by Dr. Kaelin.

Arlesheim, March 24th, 1934.

(Translation).

Dear Herr Steffen,

Again a General Meeting is approaching, again emotions will be stirred, again it will certainly happen that people worthy of respect, whom Dr. Steiner valued and loved, will be attacked through these stirred-up emotions, their prestige undermined and individuals systematically ruined. And you, as President of the Anthroposophical Society, allow these things to be. You think it is good that people should correct one another. But you pay no heed to what is thereby cast into ruins.

A proposal is now being brought forward by a group of seven individuals. In this proposal, their aim is to give to you, Herr Steffen, rights which extend far beyond your rights as President. I see therein nothing that is good. It is a still further departure from the principles laid down by Dr. Steiner and expresses a tendency to make the Goetheanum accessible to a specific group of people, while the others are excluded. This has been happening for several years now, and as a Member of the Vorstand I cannot consent that this state of things,

*which will be carried to its consequences by three Members of the Vorstand, shall now be legalised.*

*I support the Declaration of the Groups of the Arbeitsgemeinschaft and of the National Societies of Holland and England, because in this Declaration they are resisting, and rightly so, a one-sided leading of the Goetheanum.*

*So far as my own work in the Goetheanum is concerned, work that is also specifically connected with healing, I hereby declare to the Vorstand and to the Membership that I will not recognise changes which may be attempted in the Sections. To this task which was given to the Sections by Rudolf Steiner I will dedicate myself, together with all those who are willing to work with me and feel in themselves an awakening of the will to heal. Under the protection of Rudolf Steiner's spirit we shall find it possible to dedicate ourselves to this vocation of healing, removed from the strife and the dissensions that are now raging in the Society. With this will to heal we now consciously remove ourselves from all quarrellings. We will also remain in the Goetheanum, the centre created by Rudolf Steiner not only for one small, favoured group of people, but for all of us. And mindful of the true Christian love we will try, together with those who have understanding for this kind of work, to deepen, continue and promulgate the knowledge given us in such abundance! by Rudolf Steiner, undisturbed by the confusion within the Anthroposophical Society.*

*Signed : ITA WEGMAN.*

*I wished to bring this forward personally at the General Meeting, but I do it in this way as I have been in bed for a fortnight with fever.*

#### *Declaration from the Doctors in Arlesheim.*

*Arlesheim, March 25th, 1934.*

*To the Vorstand of the General Anthroposophical Society, per the First President, Herr Albert Steffen.*

*The undersigned workers at the Goetheanum take the opportunity of the General Meeting to declare to you the following:*

*Consideration of the proposals and declarations brought forward leads us to state that we too, within the General Anthroposophical Society, will adhere implicitly to the Statutes given by Rudolf Steiner. We will not recognise votings and majority decisions which, in their consequences, set out to interfere with the spiritual activity of personalities, because such actions are a departure from the principles of these Statutes.*

*We consider our task to lie in the fulfilling of Anthroposophy in the way that emerges from the inner nature of the vocation of healing. From the experiences of our daily work we realise that in the present world situation anthroposophical medicine will be needed more and more urgently. We feel the obligation resulting therefrom to continue this work with our best powers. In our work in co-operation with The Leader of the Medical Section at the Goetheanum, we see the possibility of extending and deepening medical science through Anthroposophy in such a way that the impulse given by Dr. Steiner can work in it.*

*We hereby associate ourselves fully and completely with the task as described to you, Herr Steffen, by Dr. Wegman in her letter.*

*Signed : Dr. Kaelin, Dr. Bockholt, Dr van Deventer, Dr. Stavenhagen, Dr Suchantke, Dr. Ilse Knauer, Dr. Walter. Dr. Bort, Dr. Berthold, Dr. Leroi, D Ernst Marti*

#### APPENDIX No. 4.

So much misunderstanding prevails about the action of the Executive Council in connection with the sending of Members' addresses to Dornach that it is necessary to add this appendix in order that essential facts may once and for always be on record.

In October last for the first time in all the years of the existence of this National Society, a letter was received from Dr. Wachsmuth addressed to the Office of this society, requesting the addresses of Members. The only earlier request, which had been immediately complied with was for lists of Members divided into Groups, together with the names and addresses of the Group Leaders only. The following is an extract from a letter dated Jan. 6th, 1932. from the Secretariat at Dornach: *"It is sufficient for us if you give us a list of the Groups, Groupleaders and their addresses.* This, as said above, was immediately sent.

In sending cards of Membership for signature it has always been our practice to add the name of the Group in those cases where the Member joined a Group and in other cases the Secretariat were informed that they were 'Unattached Members. As already said, until October last no request reached us for any other details. Membership Cards to the average number of 50 a year over some nine years were signed regularly by the President, without query or request for the addresses, the sending of which has now been made into a fundamental issue.

—

The following letter, dated Jan. 24th, 1934, written by Mr. Dunlop to the three Members of the Vorstand, which has remained unanswered, expressed the attitude which, in view of recent happenings culminating in the withdrawal of permission to publish Dr. Steiner's lectures in our periodicals, was the only one that could be adopted by the Executive Council :

Jan. 24th, 1934.

Dear Herr Steffen, Frau Dr. Steiner, Dr. Wachsmuth,

I duly received your letter of January 5th.

In my letter of Nov. 2nd you received the assurance of the Executive Council, that all official communications for our Members would be transmitted to them without alteration, even if on occasions, as responsible officials, we might have to make some comment for the guidance of our Members. In your letter of Nov. 29th, you stated that the sending to the Headquarters at Dornach of addresses of Members, was not, for the present, the matter of first importance. It appears that you have now decided to make it of first importance and you state that the President must refuse to sign the Cards of Membership unless the addresses of all the Members are sent. We do not think that there is any statutory right which justifies this refusal on the ground stated provided the Cards of Membership are first approved by our Executive Council

and signed by the responsible official elected by the Members of this National Group of the General Anthroposophical Society. The request in this matter is not signed by all the Members of the Vorstand but only by three.

Under conditions of mutual confidence the question would never arise.

The three Members of the Vorstand who have signed the letters dealing with these matters do not, perhaps, bear in mind the fact that two of them at least have refused to recognise our requests, one of them for a visit from the Goetheanum Eurhythmists and the other our invitations to lecture at the Rudolf Steiner Hall on the platform of this Society. Secondly, the right of translation and publication of Dr. Steiner's lectures has been withdrawn without any explanation or consultation whatever with us. Notices of our work for publication in the "Anthroposophic News Sheet" have been rejected.

All these actions, and others as well, indicate that confidence has been withdrawn from us. Our work in all branches of Anthroposophy has been hindered and the entire support of three Members of the Vorstand extended to the other Group in England, with partiality and lack of consideration for us. The contents of my letter of Nov. 29th are entirely ignored. We have proofs that information about affairs concerning only this National Group and its relations with the Goetheanum reaches the other Group here and is used to increase hostility towards us.

Can any assurance be given us that will remove our doubts and restore our confidence? If confidence in us is restored and impartial treatment is exercised as between the two Groups here, there would not be the slightest objection to sending the addresses of all Members of this National Society. In view of the present attitude that is adopted towards us you will surely realise that we cannot but feel apprehensive as to the use to which the addresses might be put. The request for them is of such recent date that we cannot but connect it with the lack of confidence which has expressed itself so acutely during the last few months.

Can any assurance be given us that will remove our doubts and restore our confidence ? Can we work in freedom with all Anthroposophists without being penalised by three Members of the Vorstand ?

All these questions are of vital importance to us and I hope that you may be able to send an early reply.

Yours sincerely,

Signed : D. N. DUNLOP,

General Secretary.

This letter, raising as it did the essence of the whole matter, namely that of confidence. was acknowledged by the Secretariat but not answered. The circular dated Feb. 19th from three Members of the Vorstand merely stated on this subject: "*We are forced to mention, too, that Mr. Dunlop also refuses to communicate to the President of our Society the addresses of Members, even of those that have to be accepted by the President as new Members of our Society.*"



APPENDIX No. 5. Letter addressed by Dr. Vreede, Mr. Kaufmann and Dr. Kolisko shortly after the General Meeting to Dr. Wachsmuth as Secretary of the General Anthroposophical Society.

(Translation).

Arlesheim, April 2nd, 1934.

Dear Dr. Wachsmuth,

As unfortunately we were not given the opportunity of speaking to you personally about an important matter, we must bring before you in writing the following: -

In the Declaration we have indicated our resolve to continue to work at the Goetheanum. For this purpose it is indispensable that we should come to an agreement in principle on the question of the accommodation.

In the case of the lectures which during these days have been arranged by Dr. Vreede, the lack of any such understanding has made itself strongly felt. The lectures were announced to the Secretariat. No answer was forthcoming about a room which might be used. Although it was a question of general anthroposophical lectures, these, therefore, had to be given in the room of the Mathematical-Astronomical Section. When the programme was put up on the black Notice Board, it was torn down several times by Members.

In these proceedings we see the expression of an attitude of rejection which makes it exceedingly difficult to come to an understanding.

For future eventualities we ask you to remember that a considerable number of Members also wish to work at the Goetheanum and we must therefore regard the arranging of lectures and conferences at the Goetheanum as a necessity. Thus at the end of July 1934 it is our intention to arrange a conference at the Goetheanum with the co-operation of our Groups and Speakers. A settlement of the accommodation question is therefore necessary in the case of this conference and for other occasions.

We cannot take the standpoint that only what is represented by the three Members of the Vorstand can be given accommodation in the Goetheanum: under the present abnormal circumstances a group consisting of a considerable number of Members must also have the possibility to claim the right to be accommodated in the Goetheanum, even to a humble extent.

Once again, therefore, we are seeking to come on this important question, as soon as may be.

As already stated, we are still at your disposal tomorrow for a verbal discussion and ask you, in the contrary event, to send the reply to the address of Dr Vreede.

Yours sincerely, Signed : GEORGE KAUFMANN, DR. EUGEN KOLISKO As representatives of the Declaration.

Signed : E. VREEDE *As a Member of the Vorstand at the Goetheanum.*

---

*To the above letter the following answer was received*

Dornach, 10th April, 1934. *(Translation)*

*Dear Dr. Vreede,*

*In answer to the letter of April 2nd signed by yourself. Dr. Kolisko and Mr. G. Kaufmann, we beg to state that by reason of the decisions of the General Meeting the arrangement of lectures and conferences in the Goetheamun mentioned in your letter is impossible.*

*With anthroposophical greeting,*

*Signed : ALBERT STEFFEN. MARIE STEINER. Dr. GUENTHER WACHSMUTH.*

---

The following was printed in the Dornach News Sheet of April 15th :

*DECLARATION*

*Following upon the General Meeting of the 27th 28th March held at Dornach, the undersigned functionaries have consulted together and have come to the following conclusion as a joint opinion:*

*The General Meeting has authorised Herr Steffen, Frau Marie Steiner and Dr. Wachsmuth to take over the guidance of the Society and to declare the decisions arrived at by these persons, as binding for the whole Society. Hence every functionary who does not hold by this decision of the General Meeting forfeits the possibility of bearing responsibility for the Society and of exercising his office.*

*Dornach, 3rd April, 1934.*

*For the Direction of the Anthroposophical Society in Germany : Sgd. Dr. Hermann Poppelbaum. Sgd. Martin Münch.*

*For the Anthroposophical Society in Finland and/or the Society of "Finnish Anthroposophists": Sgd. Olga von Freymann.*

*For the Section Francaise : Sgd. S. Rihouet-Coroze, Paul Coroze.*

*For the United Group Branch (London) General Anthroposophical Society (Dornach): Sgd. Dorothy Pethick. Sgd. : Harry Collison.*

*For the Societa Antroposofica d'Italia : Sgd. Maria Kassa pian-Gentilli.*

*For the Anthroposophical Society in Austria : Sgd. H. Tomsche for Dr. H. E. Lauer.*

*For the Anthroposophical Society in Poland : Sgd. Marie Przyborowska.*

*For the Anthroposophical Society in Sweden : Sgd. A. Waager-Gunnarsson.*

*For the Branches of the Anthroposophical Society in Switzerland : Sgd. C. Englert.*

*As a member of the Committee of the Anthroposophical Society in the Czecho-Slovakian Republic : Sgd. Dr. Hans Eiselt.*