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Registered Mail  
Return Receipt Requested

17 February 1954

Mr. Pierce J. Gerety, Chairman  
International Organizations  
Employees Loyalty Board  
U. S. Civil Service Commission  
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Sir,

Reference: ILB:MMH:geg 5 February 1954  
Attention: Executive Secretary

I have your communication of 5 February 1954 with its enclosures. This registered letter was received by me on 10 February 1954.

With regard to your request for my sworn written explanation of your Interrogatory, I should like to refer you to the enclosed copy of my letter of 16 April 1953 to the United States Mission to the United Nations.

The considerations presented in my letter of 16 April 1953 apply equally to your request as communicated in your letter of 5 February 1954. These considerations have never been contradicted by the United States Mission to the United Nations nor by any other official.

I feel that the principle of the independence of the international secretariat, which was the primary basis of my letter of 16 April 1953, should never be violated. Certainly, nothing in the character of the "derogatory information" in my case warrants violation of this principle. The Interrogatory does not contain one iota of information which in any way challenges my qualifications as an international civil servant, either in terms of misconduct on my part or by imputation to me of any inadmissible affiliation, belief or utterance. Thus, no information has been given about me in this Interrogatory which can be considered "derogatory" by any rational standards.

Questions V, VII, and VIII all seek to cast suspicion on me on the basis of my alleged associations with other persons. These persons are not shown to be malefactors or in any way culpable. The individual referred to in Question V is alleged to have had proscribed political convictions, and nothing whatever is stated about the persons referred to in Questions VII and VIII.

Furthermore, it would be impossible to answer Question VI with any

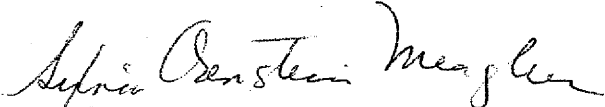
measure of precision. Surely no one can seriously urge that activities which would "tend to further the cause of Communism" is a meaningful standard for determining the qualifications of an international civil servant. Likewise, the questions relating to "adherence to communist ideology" and to activities or statements causing others to believe in such adherence, are hopelessly vague and seek to place upon me the burden of responsibility for the intellectual vagaries of other persons.

It seems clear that no derogatory information about me has been presented and that the questions posed in the Interrogatory constitute an attempt to conduct an irrelevant enquiry into my personal life and private affairs. I can only conclude that my insistence on principle, as reflected in my letter of 16 April 1953, has caused the pressing of an obviously groundless investigation to this extent.

It would be a very grave and a most regrettable matter indeed if any body of responsible officials saw fit to attach even the slightest suspicion to my integrity or conduct because of my respect for principle or on the basis of the trivial, if not frivolous information which has been presented to me as "derogatory".

Finally, I wish to assert most earnestly that I have never departed in letter or in spirit from the obligations of the Oath I took when I became an international civil servant more than seven years ago. I am enclosing a copy of this Oath for your information.

Yours sincerely,

  
Sylvia Orenstein Meagher

Enclosures--(2)