

May I dare to wish for you and your wife and
children a Happy New Year? Sincerely, Ada Albert-

4 ARLINGTON STREET - CAMBRIDGE - MASSACHUSETTS

December 10, 1939

Dear Margineanu:

Your welcome letter of October 8th arrived in Cambridge on December 8th: precisely 2 months en route. Now, I hope my greeting in reply will not be delayed till Spring to find you, or at least that it will not sink in some ill-fated carrier. How hideously uncertain life has become.

It was splendid hearing from you, even though your state of mind was uncertain, and even though the future seems so problematical for you. In the army- waiting nervously for what will happen, and yet writing at the same time 10 hours a day on a scientific book. You have admirable perseverance and courage. The goals you want to serve: education, research, culture, human welfare- think of the millions who want exactly the same thing, and cannot have it! Somehow our learning has made us stupid. We are Gelehrter and yet have virtually committed suicide. Our learning somewhere has been sadly at fault.

Roumania is in all our minds. We are holding our breaths, as you have done now for months and months.

Your nerves must indeed be stringy and taut. (I wonder whether this note can reach you if war strikes soon).

The same mail that brought your letter brought one from poor Zawadzki in Vilno. As a Pole he has received his salary in worthless Polish currency; and after January first will be unemployed altogether since the University will be Lithuanized. He writes that his wife is unwell and that with no fuel in the house she can scarcely escape serious disease. All his friends are ruined and cannot help. If he sells his camera he can have food for a couple of weeks, but after that he and his wife face starvation. And Zawadzki is a good psychologist. Is this to be our fate?

In our country the sympathy with Finland is very high, and Hoover's Fund for Aid is sweeping the country and bringing vast sums; but alas, I fear it will come too late, and another peaceful, progressive, humane country will be sacrificed to the wolves of Satan. Deeply do I hope Roumania will be spared.

((Your personal safety will be a matter of greatest concern to me.

I agree that slavery is worse than death, and so is slavery for one's children. But I hope as much as does your little family that no harm will come to you; that eventually you can be demobilized in a free Roumania to continue your scientific service in the interests of a universal humanity.

(It warms me to think that my book is at hand, and that you often look into it and think of me in a kindly way. Much too great is your praise, and I most certainly do not deserve to have your own volume dedicated to me. If you do so it will be the biggest honor I have received, and I shall cherish this token of friendship as long as I live.)

More and more I puzzle about the madness. Here are we: friends across the sea, and to our group we can add psychologists in Turkey, Scandinavia, Lithouania, Korea, England, Germay, Italy and France. All are friends of mine; and EVERYONE feels as you and I feel. Why in the name of Reason should we slaughter each other???

I am happy to hear that your family is well. Please greet them for us. Someday we hope to meet them all, and before your young progeny are grown too big.

It is almost ironical to wish you a "Merry Christmas" - no "peace on earth" now. But I do wish you a New Year of greater security, happiness, and personal well-being. Ever, your friend who wants to hear often from you,

Gordon Allport

Mrs. Allport and "Andrew" (Bobby) are well; the latter is now 12½ years old, doing splendidly in school. Cantril is writing ~~excellent~~ social psychology at Princeton, just finishing a very extensive piece of radio research. Roback is still in his attic, being a true scholar in spite of storm and stress. Murray after 3 years leave is returning to the Clinic next September. Lewin will visit us again for one semester commencing in February.

Our trip to California was a success, even though it was an effort to prepare and deliver my presidential speech. I called it the "Psychologist's Frame of Reference" and when it is published next month I shall surely send you a copy with warmest regard and greetings. The APA was vigorously democratic and passed many resolutions regarding the preservation of our own civil liberties and foundations for a free life. Also more and more psychologists are devoting themselves to basic social research. Here's hoping these efforts will not be too late.

And, so, dear friend, do not write GOODbye. There will be hard days ahead, but I am sure you will live to see your book published and to return to your work as a scholar, building up the intellectual life of your folk, and contributing to an eventual Federation of Free Peoples of all Lands. A dream?