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Pastor  
Neustadt a. A

Neustadt/Aisch 31 March 1946

Ci Staff, Civilian Internment Camp #5  
APO 1, US Army

Mr. Lieutenant Rudolph Sichel  
Natternberg

Concerning Otmar Muhlfridel

Dear Lieutenant!

In your writing of 22.3. 1946 you reproached me that in the testimonial that I filed in the case of Muhlfridel I attempted to prove the political inactivity of this man. Permit me to note the following about this. In the case of Muhlfridel, I never filed a testimonial, but merely a plea for a generous attitude towards his case. In this attempt, I never claimed that Mr. Muhlfridel had never been active in the Party. If you surmised this from my exposition, I was misunderstood. I aimed to point out that the chief reason for his entry into the Party and his taking on various positions lay in his yielding to the terror tactics of the functionaries of the Party. This terror afflicted persons who on the basis of their professional positions found themselves dependent on the state and the Party. This was especially crass in Neustadt/Aisch, an area that fell into Streicher's sphere of influence.

According to article 39, "the laws for seeking freedom from National Socialism) and militarism" can be taken into consideration on behalf of the accused. I think this exonerating defense could come to the aid of Mr. Muhlfridel. The district court of Neustadt/Aisch, headed by Mr. Muhlfridel, was in Party circles dubbed the "holy district court" since the chief as well as a large part of his lesser state functionaries held to the Church rather than the Party. Mainly because I remain convinced that in Mr. Muhlfridel's case it was not a matter of someone ideologically identified with National Socialism but that his membership and activity in the Party in the worst interpretation arose from a certain character weakness. Thus I decided to plead for him with the American military authorities. Mr. Lieutenant, you will certainly understand that I as pastor, as representative of a religion that preaches love and with full understanding of the social necessity of punishing crimes against the laws of humanity, should plead for a milder attitude towards the accused. You are from a country in which the Christian churches are permitted the right to influence everyday life, and in which leading men of the state regard themselves as recognizing the fundamentals of the Christian ethic. At the time, it made a deep impression on me that at the swearing-in ceremony of President Roosevelt, as was reported by the German press, the 13<sup>th</sup> chapter from the Corinthian letter of the Bible was displayed. This chapter is the ultimate expression of active and forgiving love. To act in this spirit is the God-given mission of the church. To implement this spirit was the Church's effort, even during the years when the demons of National Socialism brought so much misery to humanity. To illustrate this from one example:

There is a citation of a passage published by the Evangelical Lutheran Church information service about the care of non-Christians. Ladesbischof D. Meiser arranged that together with the (?) Internal mission) who were the body that carried out the work, arranged that in Munich and Nurnberg two pastors of that area church were to carry out the dangerous and necessary task of assisting/trying to look after non-Aryans. Also, funds from church taxes were placed at their disposal. 65 persons were assisted with emigration. The manner and method in which this emigration was carried out bordered on human trafficking. For example, a non-Aryan in 1939 could only emigrate if 5000RM were set aside for the Gestapo. \_\_\_\_\_ with the spirit and actions. And the church will not be free of this responsibility in the future. Though National Socialism has been conquered by the victory of the Allies, it still exists ideologically. The demons that were unleashed in the world by National Socialism can, I am convinced, only be banished by the spirit of Christian love.

Pardon me, dear Lieutenant, if the length of my exposition has imposed on your time. But perhaps it has enabled me to convince you as you tended to believe that I, in the case of Muhlfriedel, through carelessness was basically attempting wrong statements to confuse the American military authorities. While in fact, I was trying to place before you a plea for a person held responsible for his political past and that I felt I was bound to do this as a representative of religion with its Christian message and humanitarian goals.

Yours,

Reinhold Schultz  
Pastor  
Neustadt a. A.

Saturday Jan 15<sup>th</sup>

My dear Rudi!

Contrary to my usual way, I am writing in my mother tongue so that I can express my feelings more clearly and without the danger of being misunderstood through the use of an incorrect English word. And these few lines are about understanding feelings. Since you told me early on Monday that you had written to Walter I have had an uncomfortable feeling that I could only shed gradually after a few days of uncertainty when I decided to write you these lines in entire frankness.

I recognize that you are old enough and entirely independent to do what you think is appropriate. And you surely will not take it amiss if I express my thoughts in this way since in the evening before your departure there was no opportunity for this. Put briefly, it weighs on me that you explained your negative positions regarding our maintenance to Walter in writing. While I entirely honor your feelings and those of your comrades here in the country and beyond, at the front, I can recollect similar feelings of a quarter of a century ago. You will certainly understand that I and your mother often feel bitter that we are dependent in our old age. But in fact of this, I feel a certain satisfaction that apart from the rent, I can meet the cost of our existence and our other needs. And I only have the wish to stay healthy and will continue thus even as with trepidation I approach my seventies. But it is not the purpose of these lines to go into detail. I only want to request—and this is the point of my writing today—that you, our sons, both will solve all these issues in agreement in whatever form they may crop up sooner or later and remain aware that in raising and educating you for independence we never made any distinctions. You may perhaps smile and say: what anxieties are the old folks indulging in! But I want to avoid that any seed of discord might be sown by a spoken—or what is worse, by a written word. Walter knows nothing of these lines! Please accept them as they are intended!

Your father.

Archbishop of Munich  
To  
The Camp Commander  
Natternberg near Deggendorf

To the Honorable Camp Commander!

In the internment camp under your command, there is a Mr. Ferdinand Lehnert from Ebersberg, Upper Bavaria. In the name of the esteemed family of Ebersberg, especially in the name of his sister, who has a prominent position in the Vatican in Rome, and also in my name, I request that this Lehnert soon be returned to his family. Lehnert finds himself in great mental need and has had by his period in the camp paid ample penance for the stupidity that led him in 1938, that is in the later years, to join the Party, and in Jan 1943 to take on a position (with the Party). Ferdinand Lehnert was leading editor of the Ebersberger Anzeiger and was pressed in 1943, at a time when individual Nazis were already withdrawing from responsible positions, to take on the position of Pressereferent (the exact title is not known to me). Ferdinand Lehnert was previously for twenty years active in the Catholic Youth movement and remained loyal to his Catholic position/outlook. I am convinced that he will never again fall prey to National Socialistic slogans/outlook and I believe, since I know the family, I can vouch for the fact that he will seek to atone for the fault of the past by returning fully and entirely to a Christian political philosophy and work and help in his circle for the reeducation away from the crazy ideas of National Socialism. He has been under arrest since May 1945.

I send you my deepest thanks, for any efforts in the affairs of Lehnert.

Munich, 18 March 1946  
Cardinal Faulhaber  
Archbishop of Munich