

February 23, 1967

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Dear Phil:

I have been looking through some of the material which was sent to me for the Russian trip and I have several comments and questions:

1. It seems that practically all of the American visitors (Lebensohn, Kolb, Kline, etc.) have concentrated their efforts in the Moscow and Leningrad areas. Furthermore, there has been a heavy concentration upon research institutes leading to a lot of dubious material about Soviet therapy.

2. As you know, I am interested in the care of the patient. I would therefore hope that we would be able to see some hospitals not connected with research institutes.

3. I am also interested in facilities for children other than those contained in the Soviet outpatient dispensaries. These include special disciplinary schools which are under the Ministry of Education, day sanatoria and juvenile colonies which go under the Ministry of Internal Affairs. I am concerned that if we get boxed in with the Ministry of Health -- and this has happened to many visitors -- we will not be able to see any of these important facilities under differing administrations.

4. From all the articles I have read, no one has actually been able to see a typical work colony for chronic patients. It is my understanding that these go under the Ministry of Social Affairs. A visit to a couple of these colonies is an absolute must since every statistic from the Soviet Union is challenged because work colony populations are not included.

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In other words, the thrust of this communication is: Who is making up the itinerary? How soon can those of us who are going get a look at it so that we can make additional suggestions? As you well know, at least 50% of every article and every book on Soviet psychiatry is taken up with complaints as to the authors' inabilities to get to see what they asked to see, even though they had letters from Soviet psychiatrists supposedly opening the facilities to them.

I would appreciate your thoughts on this.

Cordially,

Mike Gorman