

24th October, 1938.

Private & Confidential.

My dear Warden,

Thank you for your letter of October 18th. I have much sympathy with your desire to assist Professor Kantorowicz in his efforts to leave Germany. Unfortunately, however, my experience is that any foreign pressure exercised in matters such as this, which concern a German national, is resented by the German authorities and is likely to redound to the disadvantage rather than to the advantage of the person whom one is anxious to assist.

In the present case I think this is particularly true. The German authorities have shown themselves quite indifferent to the fate of their Jewish nationals and now no longer grant passports to persons whose journey abroad would be undesirable from the official German point of view. A stage has now been reached  
where

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where the grant of a passport for foreign travel almost amounts to an act of official favour; and I believe that passports are being withdrawn or their renewal refused in a very great number of cases where there is no urgent reason from the point of view of the German State for the person concerned to go abroad.

In view of this I am afraid that the German authorities may resent our interference and make it more difficult for Professor Kantorowicz to leave. If, however, I get an opportunity of doing so without making matters worse for him I will mention the Professor's name to the German Ambassador. And, in order to prevent any avoidable delay, when once he has obtained his passport, I am sending a copy of your letter and of my answer to the Embassy in Berlin so that the Passport Control Officer will be aware of the details of the case.

*John Sweeney*  
*Halifax*