

July 7, 1967

Editor, The New York Times
229 West 43d Street
New York, New York 10036

Dear Sir:

I am deeply disturbed by the tone and content of your obituary for that great and gentle man, Konni Zilliacus. It is not accurate to depict him, as you do, as a persistent adherent to pro-Soviet views. His proficiency in the diplomatic and linguistic arts gave him special responsibilities in dealing with the Soviet Union during his tenure in the League of Nations. He took the view, which many responsible persons share in retrospect, that the Soviets should have been welcomed into the international community, if for no other reason than to assist in the fight against fascism. He excoriated not only the American decision not to join the League, but the decisions of all of the "democracies" to adopt a do-nothing policy with respect to fascist aggression in the period between the wars.

It was Zilliacus' view that the rule of law in the international community could not be achieved without the unreserved participation of every major nation in international bodies, first the League and later the United Nations. This passionate concern for the rule of law led him to condemn unilateral action by nation-states which disturbed the peace of the international community and violated the basic collective security scheme of the Covenant and the Charter.

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In the immediate postwar period, Zilliacus used his contacts in Eastern Europe to encourage participation by the Eastern European states in United Nations recovery programs and later in the Marshall Plan. This conduct on his part, which was later to be cited by the Soviets as evidence that Zilliacus was a "capitalist spy", is not mentioned in your obituary.

You also fail to mention that Zilliacus supported the Titoist break with the Soviet Union, a move which led to bitter denunciations of him by Soviet leaders. Not until 1956, when Krushchev was in London, was Zilliacus spoken civilly to by any Soviet official.

It is impossible in brief compass to speak fully of the qualities of eloquence, gentleness, strength, and integrity which made Konni Zilliacus respected not only in his own country, but, to an even greater extent, abroad. He was, of course, a socialist, for he believed that only with public ownership of the means of production could the scourges of poverty and war be ended. He was also a democrat, for he believed without exception that public debate, and tolerance of different views, are indispensable.

Zilliacus had also the qualities of personal greatness -- humor, kindness, generosity, practical wisdom -- which those of us whose lives he touched will not soon forget. I hope that The Times is mature enough and brave enough to remedy the harm which it has done, no doubt unintentionally, to the memory of a great man.

Very truly yours,

Michael E. Tigar

Letters to the Editor of The Times

Jerusalem's Site

To the Editor:

The July 13 editorial entitled "The U.N. and Jerusalem" may give the impression that Israel is proposing arrangements for the holy places of some faiths and not for others.

There is nothing in our policy or in our statements which warrants such an assumption. Our stated policy is to reach agreement for bringing the holy places of all faiths under the responsibility of those who hold them sacred. Any arrangements worked out with those concerned for the Christian holy places would be accompanied by corresponding arrangements for the holy places of other faiths as well.

At present the Moslem places of worship in Jerusalem are in the custody of the same Moslem authority that had previously administered them. The Government of Israel is ready to confer with the representatives of universal Moslem interests in order to give effect to the principles which we have formulated and published for the holy places in general.

GIDEON RAFAEL
Ambassador and Permanent
Representative of Israel
to the United Nations
New York, July 13, 1967

Services for Minorities

To the Editor:

Your editorial on neighborhood city halls (July 7) is timely but sketchy. It misses the potential inherent in a locally based, nonpolitical mediating agent between the individual and the social welfare-oriented state.

It is true that, given the complex structure of private and public social agencies, there is a need for information resources based within walking distance of the individual. The emphasis in experimental forms, however, should be on such service for the poor, specifically, in New York, Negroes and Puerto Ricans (e.g., Kingsbridge Welfare Center Information Center). It is this segment of New York's population that is most disoriented, that is in need of information as to services, rights, procedures and techniques of negotiating with agencies and government.

Moreover, what is needed, as in Mobilization for Youth service centers, is emphasis on active individual advocacy, because information on services and rights is useless where the knowledge cannot be converted into concrete benefits, where agencies' hopelessly mired bureaucracies (Welfare, Buildings Department, private placement agencies) often become obstacles themselves to service.

By keeping the service free of political affiliation, Negro and Puerto Rican groups will be able to break their dependence on Democratic or Republican party clubhouse politicians, hence exercise more leverage in political action through independent political stances.

JUAN D. GONZALEZ
Director of Neighborhood
Information Center
Program to Activate
Community Talent
New York, July 7, 1967

City Police Procedures

To the Editor:

I would like to draw your attention to an amazing and frustrating experience with the New York City police which recently befell me. It reveals features of police procedure which facilitate criminal actions perpetrated against visitors to your city.

Jan. 6 was the last day of my long stay in the city. On that day I was beaten up and robbed by four youths from the neighborhood, two of whom

I knew. My shock and confusion were such that when reporting this to the police I was unable to get myself to identify them. Three hours later I was on the plane to London.

In London I attempted to take the matter up at the United States Embassy, but was informed that nothing could be done.

Ten days ago I returned to the United States, and went to the Ninth Precinct in order to identify the persons concerned and to press charges. The detective in charge of the case (Detective Murray; case 61-274-233), was not on duty, and I was asked to come back in a week's time and talk to him. I did so, but he "had been called away."

Another detective took down the names and addresses I gave him, but could not tell me how further to press the matter.

He did not regard the six months' delay as serious under the circumstances. However he told me that on the grave charges I wished to bring (felonious assault, robbery with violence, demanding money with menaces, etc.), nothing could be done because I was only going to be in the United States for six weeks.

The outrageous implications of this are clear. Visitors are simply not protected against such crimes. Indeed, the people who robbed me knew that I was leaving and thought they would therefore get away with it. The police are proving them correct.

MICHAEL M. BROIDO
Fellow of
Magdalen College, Oxford
Waltham, Mass., June 26, 1967

Tribute to Zilliacus

To the Editor:

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Strength and Integrity

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Zilliacus had also the qualities of personal greatness—humor, kindness, generosity, practical wisdom—which those of us whose lives he touched will not soon forget. MICHAEL E. TIGAR
Washington, July 7, 1967

Mexico's Human-Rights Guarantees

To the Editor:

An editorial entitled "Land of Paradox" published on July 10 contains this statement: "Mexico has no habeas corpus, but she can fairly be said to live under the rule of law."

Mexico has a juridical procedure to protect the liberties of the individual similar to the habeas corpus named the Juicio Constitucional de Amparo. Our democratic civilizations require respect for the individual and a recognition of the liberties essential to man, who must be protected by juridical instruments before the existing courts established for the purpose of guaranteeing the defense of such liberties.

In the United States the rights specified in the Bill of Rights and the amendments to the Constitution are guaranteed by the writs of habeas corpus, error, certiorari, mandamus, prohibition and injunction. Our Mexican Constitution of 1917 reaffirms the rights essential to the individual and implements them through the Juicio de Amparo.

Since the Constitution of 1857 the Juicio de Amparo created

HUNGARIAN RAIN

Watertalk voices on my roof
declaim
Down the loud chute to iron
lilacs
And murmur into the mute of
whey
And caved-in snowbanks,

Magyar lingo from my
mother's
Homeland. I hear, I recognize
But do not understand.

Listen, she says, reaching my
hand
Under a melancholy cloud,
And teaches me by touch how
dreams
Go down the drain.

EDMUND PENNANT

the means to maintain the supremacy of the Constitution. Article 101 of the Constitution of 1857 left no doubt as to the definite recognition of the writ of Amparo as one of our fundamental legal institutions which enables the federal courts to intervene in disputes emanating from laws or acts committed by the authorities, including, for the first time, members of the judiciary.

The first 29 articles of the Constitution of 1857 enumerate all the human rights guaranteed by this historic document. Some of these rights were mentioned in our earlier Constitution.

The Constituent Assembly of Queretaro, which enacted in 1917 our current Constitution, approved the articles on human rights of 1857 and added others of social significance. Every person in Mexico is entitled to protection from any illegal act.

HUGO B. MARGAIN
Ambassador of Mexico
to the United States
Washington, July 10, 1967

Abused Parks

To the Editor:

Ann Bittenwieser of the Council for Parks and Playgrounds as well as August Heckscher and Thomas Hoving should spare us their meaningless categories of "nineteenth vs. twentieth-century" in the current controversy over Central Park.

I am sure they all have traveled and are well aware that London, Paris, Athens, Zurich, Mexico City—indeed, all big cities today in the twentieth century—have glorious parks which are havens of tranquility for the population, extremely well-kept although used intensively.

Only New York offers a sea of broken glass and beer cans, worn grass, dying trees, cement, drunks and degenerates—the whole spectacle, however, transformed into a "twentieth-century" dream of beauty, not by means of planting and gardening, but by more and more publicity stunts. If this be nineteenth-century thinking, make the most of it.

EUGENE VICTOR THAW
New York, July 5, 1967

Tshombe's Detention

To the Editor:

Permit me to commend your reasoned editorial of July 5 relative to Moïse Tshombe, former Premier of the Congo. As you point out, his recent kidnapping and detention in Algeria defy all canons of international law; and if he is now deported to his own country for summary execution it would be a tragic miscarriage of justice.

Whatever his faults, Mr. Tshombe has proved himself to be an opponent of Communism in Africa and a man who has worked for collaboration between the nations of that continent and the West. It is to be hoped that the United States Government, which still offers food to Algeria and gives considerable foreign aid to the Congo, will exert its influence on Mr. Tshombe's behalf.

JOHN DAVENPORT
New York, July 5, 1967