

December  
December 20, 1947

Dear Mrs McVicar,

I am so glad to hear through Mrs Brack, that you have recovered from your recent illness and are about to take a holiday. Unfortunately, it would be quite impossible for me to come to Baltimore before you leave for Florida and I am wondering what your reactions would be to the following alternative arrangements, either of which would be satisfactory to me.

Alternative 1 :

If I were to plan to arrive on January 15, would you be willing to leave the precious source material in safe custody where I could have access to it and examine it at my leisure during your relatively short absence? This browsing process would afford the background which I really need before I can confer with the Committee regarding the conditions under which it might be desirable for me to participate in the project. I quite realize, however, that this approach might not be acceptable and do not wish to urge it too strongly.

Alternative 2 :

My arrival might be deferred until after your return which I understand will be early in February. We could then go into the situation together from the outset. This plan would involve a further but not serious delay in getting under way.

I am sorry that all these unavoidable complications have arisen but I am sure that we shall get them ironed out eventually. I shall eagerly await word from you as to your reaction to these alternatives or possibly others which have not occurred to me.

With all good wishes for Christmas,

yours very sincerely

Ethel Johns