

MÜDÜR
BEBEK POSTA KUTUSU 8
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TELEFON : 63 56 60 - 63 35 00

İSTANBUL AMERİKAN KOLEJLERİ
THE AMERICAN COLLEGES IN ISTANBUL

PRESIDENT OF THE COLLEGES
POST BOX 8, BEBEK
İSTANBUL, TURKEY
CABLE : "ROBCOLLEGE ISTANBUL"

ERKEK KISMI - BEBEK
ROBERT COLLEGE

KIZ KISMI - ARNAVUTKÖY
AMERICAN COLLEGE FOR GIRLS

April 13, 1966

Please forgive me for sending you a photocopied letter. Because this letter is being sent out in several hundred copies, I have no choice but to have it mechanically duplicated. I apologize for this and request your kind forbearance.

For the past several months we at Robert College have made great efforts to communicate about matters relating to the Robert College Community School. The Headmistress of the School, Mrs. Lee A. Fonger, beginning on November 1, 1965, has sent a series of written communications to all the parents having children in the School and to all the foreign directors of commercial and manufacturing firms in the greater Istanbul area. These letters explained in considerable detail the changes in the mode of operation of the School. Also there has been a long series of public meetings, called to discuss the general problem, at which authorized representatives of our institution explained matters and answered questions. Finally, Mrs. Fonger and designated members of her staff have been readily available for personal conferences with parents, company directors, and other interested individuals. A very large number of people availed themselves of the opportunity to discuss the question in this manner.

Presumably, however, it is still possible that we have failed to communicate with some people or, if we have reached everyone, it has not been possible, in some instances, for our position to be clearly understood.

It is because of these possibilities that I am writing to you now.

I think it best to begin with a few basic truths:

Robert College exists to serve Turkey and our only reason for being in Turkey is to serve the educational needs of Turkish boys and girls.

Similarly, the Robert College Community School, an adjunct of Robert College, has only one purpose. It is intended only for the children of our foreign staff members.

In past years we have admitted an increasing number of children from outside the Robert College community. In this current academic year, the Community School's enrollment is 146 children. Of these, 49 are Robert College children. The rest of the children come from outside the Robert College community.

Obviously, the original purpose of the School has been badly distorted. Some of the results of this distortion are unacceptable and cannot be continued. The School is badly over crowded and this poses a serious threat to high educational and discipline standards. Some of the teaching staff is over burdened due to the pressure of numbers. Because the School building is so over crowded, certain safety and health problems have arisen. Moreover, under Turkish Law, we are forbidden to enlarge or replace our present building or to acquire by any means another building. Therefore, if we do not reduce the physical pressure on our present building, it will deteriorate at such a rate of speed that we would have no building at all within a few years.

Finally, the School has been operating at a substantial deficit for each of the past five years. The deficit by 1965-1966 has reached such a level that if we were to continue to cover it from general Robert College funds, it would mean that we would risk another serious distortion of our basic purpose. In effect, we would be taking large amounts of money from general funds --- which ordinarily would be spent entirely on fostering the education of Turkish boys and girls --- and using it to subsidize the education of a very large number of non-Turkish children whose fathers are employees of corporations here in Istanbul. I repeat, under no circumstances is Robert College willing to risk such a distortion of purpose.

The above are some of the more pressing reasons why our policy regarding the Community School has been changed. Certain specific steps have been taken, among them the setting of an optimum enrollment figure of 120 children, a figure which we intend to stabilize as soon as conditions permit. The children of Robert College staff members will be given automatic priority for admission. To the extent there are vacancies in the School's enrollment, these will be offered to the children of corporation officials, etc. The usual educational and pedagogical criteria for admission will be applied.

Under predictable future conditions, the Community School will continue --- within the limits of our capabilities and without distorting our purpose --- to offer places to a certain number of children of

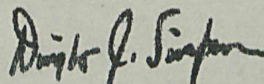
foreign corporation officials. Consequently, what our new policy amounts to, in sum, is a reminder of certain things: only Robert College staff members can claim as a right the admission of their children to the School. Although we hope to continue to cooperate and to serve the educational needs of a certain number of non-Robert College children, it must be understood that such service will be performed at Robert College's convenience. Moreover, we explicitly state that we cannot guarantee to admit to our School all children brought to Turkey by foreign businessmen whose duties require their presence in Istanbul.

We fully recognize that a transition period may produce certain difficulties. Consequently, we are instituting key parts of our new policy only gradually so as to reduce hardships. For all the non-Robert College children now enrolled in the Community School, (grades 1-9) we will allow them to continue until graduation or departure from Istanbul, whichever comes first.

At the same time authorized representatives of Robert College are entirely ready to extend reasonable cooperation to those individuals who are attempting to establish a new international school. It seems likely that the foreign business community resident in Istanbul will grow in numbers in future years. I hope it is understood that the Robert College Community School cannot be offered as the solution to the problem of those educational needs now present and which will surely increase. It seems obvious, therefore, that a new international school is both desirable and necessary. We will be glad to cooperate in this important venture.

Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to communicate with you.

Yours sincerely,



Dwight J. Simpson
President

DJS/gab

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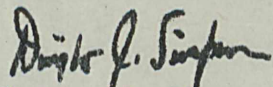
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President

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Boğaziçi Üniversitesi

Arşiv ve Dokümantasyon Merkezi

Kişisel Arşivlere İstanbul'da Bilim, Kültür ve Eğitim Tanıtı

Scott Ailesi Koleksiyonu



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