

Salzburg, Austria

July 2, 1951

Mr. William C. Affeld  
Consul  
American Consulate  
Salzburg, Austria

Dear Mr. Affeld:

This information is forwarded in response to your request for further details on the function of Dr. Ilona Scott as Medical Officer in the Salzburg USPHS station. I trust its length will not be too formidable. Where the facts have been reported to the Chief European Officer for PHS it will be indicated.

It is my information, in a letter from our Paris office of May 25, 1951, that Dr. Scott was separated from the service at the end of activities, June 15, 1951. A subsequent letter of June 14 informed me that Dr. Scott was to be carried on annual leave by the Paris station until July 15.

On reporting to this office after my visit to you on October 16, 1950, I was welcomed by an attitude of complete obstruction and hostility. Dr. Scott would not brief me in any way on the activities of this unit, and stated that she found it impossible to introduce me to any of the officers and agencies related to our program.

In the Salzburg office I found that the entire weight of medical examinations and virtually all medical decisions had been and were being carried by the alien physician, Dr. Mezaros. The function of Dr. Scott, as evidenced in her treatment of the staff and the disposition of individual problems displayed the fullest possible autocratic rule and lack of tact.

During my first tour of Austrian units in the DP Program I found that Dr. Scott had visited Vienna, Linz, and Villach each once, Innsbruck twice, and Kapfenberg never in her 18 months of supervision of the areas. The conditions for examinations were totally disorganized and deplorable, and there were several hundreds of backlog, undecided deferred cases. On October 30 I wrote a report to Dr. Nelson.

The report to Dr. Nelson was received 12 days after it was posted with my secretary. It had been sealed and marked personal. She was ordered by Dr. Scott to remain after duty to open the letter, and when she refused, the letter was opened by Dr. Scott, read, replaced in a new envelop, and delayed in transmittal. It is a further absolute fact that subsequent letters were opened, both personal and official, some unopened but read through Xray Viewers, and that my personal files were rifled on every possible occasion when they were unlocked and I was out of the office. Dr. Nelson was informed of the mail being opened.

Subsequently, there has been a train of petty circumstances, of more or less seriousness, directed toward thwarting and embarrassing the work here. In one instance, though the date for my marriage was long announced, and the leave granted, Dr. Scott threatened to become sick and have an elective operation during this time, thus leaving the station uncovered. His plan was dissolved only at the last minute by a direct order from Paris.

A satisfactory sharing of responsibility and working agreement was never achieved between us, and I was unable to reverse the initial poor relationship. On March 13, 1951, I wrote a final and urgent letter requesting the immediate transfer of Dr. Scott, with the alternative a transfer of myself, assuming the responsibility for not establishing a satisfactory situation, but insisting on its alleviation. By this time the personal situation was weighing on me so heavily that I felt our association must be quickly ended.

Her obstruction became more desperate in the last weeks, though had no important effect on our program. Two cases, for which I was called to testify by immigration authorities, disappeared from our files. The preceding day Dr. Scott informed our Dr. Reichl that she was taking several cases to Washington to "make trouble". They reappeared in our files when I gave her warning that no cases were to be removed under any circumstances. Her last remarks to our employees here were of a similar nature to those you have heard. I have gone under the assumption that she is no longer in the service (which may or may not be final), and that any formal criticism could be squarely met, any underhanded methods being beyond my control. However, being aware of her cleverness, a report from you would be effective in calling the attention of Washington to her behavior.

At the same time that I received notice of her separation from Paris I was forwarded the routine Civil Service Performance Rating Report to be completed on Dr. Scott. On the basis of character and ethical standards my report could not be satisfactory. After my long association with her I found her great caution in covering her medical deficiencies with advice from IRO physicians and expensive special examinations in cases which required her signature. According to our records there has been no report made on Dr. Scott in the long interval since September 1949, at which time the Paris Office sent a report of Satisfactory. I notified Paris at once that on the grounds of the above facts my report would be <sup>un</sup>satisfactory, and stated in addition, that my personal feelings were such as to preclude a completely objective report. The Paris office ordered the forms returned uncompleted, and it is assumed they were filled in there.

The situation has been fraught with personal problems, encountered to some extent in every life situation. Seldom are such situations not amenable to logical and fair resolution, as failed in this one. I will be happy to see you personally at your convenience.

Henry W. Blackburn, Jr. A Surg R