

THE Rockefeller Foundation

111 WEST 50th STREET, NEW YORK 20

THE HUMANITIES

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November 22, 1960

Dear Sergio:

This is to acknowledge your extremely interesting letter of November 7. It seems doubtful that I can get to Chile before February of next year. This is due in part to my own plans for extended travel having to be coordinated with the travel schedules of my colleagues. Consequently I have no plans for getting to Chile before May of 1961. Clearly a short trip for one particular purpose is always a possibility but such travel is typically reserved for situations that are well developed and call for immediate action. If, in your opinion, there was some real urgency in my coming to Chile because of a feeling that a program so well developed was in immediate danger, I would make every effort to get to Chile in January. From your letter, however, I judge this is not the case.

My understanding is that the University of Concepcion has established an Instituto de Investigaciones Literarias which in effect is a writers' workshop. While you did not say so specifically, I gather that the only pressing problem facing the Instituto is the selection of a competent and strong director. I also gather that Fernando Alegria is such a person but that he will return to the University of California at Berkeley at the beginning of that University's spring semester. I believe you say specifically that he "ought" to return, and from this I am not clear whether he must be in Berkeley because of University obligations there or whether he is leaving Concepcion due to salary or other local conditions there. You do not say whether he was invited to organize and direct this writers' workshop by the University of Concepcion or whether his travel and living costs in Chile are being provided by some other source. Could you, then, let me know in some detail the steps that led up to the organization of the workshop: specifically where the original initiative lay. If there is no possibility of Alegria remaining at Concepcion beyond February who, in your opinion, would be the proper person to direct this workshop in its formative period? What are the problems confronting Rector Stitchkin and the University of Concepcion in getting the services of such a person?

As you know, I am in complete agreement with you about the importance of this opportunity to realize a workshop for playwrights that will have the necessary continuity and sponsorship to become an integral part of the theatrical and cultural life of Chile. I would suppose that the success of such a workshop would depend in large part on its being closely associated with the University of Concepcion Theater. My information about this is not current, the last I heard being that Pedro de la Barra had

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left Concepcion. I do not know the circumstances that surrounded his leaving, and should you be able to give me some information on this as well as your opinion as to the quality of this theater group and its expectations for the future it would be helpful to me.

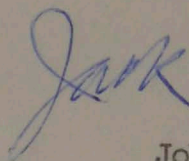
I am writing Professor Alegria directly in care of the Instituto at the University of Concepcion asking him some of the same questions I have put to you with an emphasis on his relationship to the program.

I envy you the trip to Punta Arenas. Now all you need is a performance of "Deja que los perros ladren" in Nome, Alaska, to have the distinction of being the only living playwright whose works have been performed in the most northerly and southerly theaters of the Hemisphere. I have not yet received the copy of the play and as soon as I do I expect to forward it to a publisher here to determine the extent of his interest in a possible English translation. Since I would also like a copy for myself would it be too much for you to send me a second one.

I too look forward to talking with you personally in the near future and also to the pleasure of knowing your wife.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,



John P. Harrison
Assistant Director

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JPH:MMS