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ACQUISITIONS  
5-4

INTERDEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR THE ACQUISITION  
OF FOREIGN PUBLICATIONS

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1 March 1944

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the Interdepartmental Committee

FROM: Design Frederick G. Kilgour, USNR

Following are excerpts from a letter recently received from Reuben Peiss in Lisbon.

"It is almost two months since I wrote my last report, but it can hardly be said that reports from this office have been lacking, since Ralph Carruthers has been cleaning up a good number of odds and ends before departing. Before I go any further, I think it might be put on record that if civilians in this war get any distinguished service medals, one should go to him. It is unnecessary to elaborate: you know very well how he has built this unit up. Only an extended sojourn here, however, gives one any true picture of the incessant difficulties which he managed to surmount. As you already know, he is in London, and you will undoubtedly soon be getting tangible evidence of his presence.

As for the planning of a quick move, I think you have something there. Ralph and I have talked over the possibilities, as they look at this end, and I think he is going to write you about them from London. I agree entirely that Lisbon will dry up as a source of publications. The process is already fairly advanced and several months from now the condition will certainly be aggravated. The post will have to be kept open for some time after things do dry up, however. If publications slow down, I could probably be of greater use elsewhere, with somebody left here to hold the fort. Not that it wouldn't be pleasant sojourning in Lisbon with work easing off, but I think I should begin to chafe at the bit before long. So rush Shacter and Mrs. Robinson along as fast as you can.

We are ordering the Hungarian titles, and with any sort of luck ought to get some of them. The Livraria Portugallia has good contacts with a Hungarian book dealer. It may take some time, however, before they come through.

The weather here has been glorious for six solid weeks. Every day without exception the sun has been brilliant. At noontime the hardier souls venture out sans sobretudo (which I think a

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- 2 -

wonderful word for overcoat). Everybody is worried about the crops, though. Of course it's the poor people who will get it in the neck, but if the food situation becomes too bad, perhaps Portugal can be induced to discover its ancient and friendly relations with others of the United Nations, and produce some further beneficial move like the Azores deal.

List of books leaving from Lisbon for shipment by sea pouch."

*Frederick G. Kilgour*  
Frederick G. Kilgour

FGK/viw

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