

Letter from the President Thorsten SELLIN

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Philadelphia, Pa., January 4, 1957

My dear PINATEL :

Denis CARROLL's death touched me deeply. I vividly remember the first time I met him. It was during the summer of 1949. The Secretariat of the United Nations had assembled an *ad hoc* international committee of experts to draft a program of work for submission to the Social Commission and ultimately to the General Assembly. The task involved the limited field of the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders, an area which the United Nations had decided to make its own. The other members of the committee, which met in the temporary quarters of the organization out on Long Island, were DONNEDIEU DE VABRES, who was elected chairman, SANFORD BATES, then president of the still existing International Penal and Penitentiary Commission, José Augustin MARTINEZ, formerly minister of justice of Cuba, J. M. KUMARAPPA, head of the Tata School of Social Science of Bombay, and myself. When the committee organized for work, CARROLL, BATES and I became a subcommittee for the formulation of the program of study and inquiry, while the others undertook to draft the program of other activities, such as technical assistance, seminars, training fellowships, regional conferences or seminars, congresses, etc. CARROLL proved to be not only a charming companion but a clearheaded thinker, broadminded in his approach to criminological study. His shy and disarming smile and his boyish enthusiasm, which so well suited his handsome and youthful countenance, endeared him to us all. A considerable share of credit for the final formulation of the program, which was later completely approved by the various organs of the United Nations, goes to CARROLL.

I met him next in 1950 at the Second International Congress of Criminology in Paris, when he presented what was certainly the most conscientiously prepared general report read to the assembly. The attractiveness of his personality and the excellency of his report were reflected in the very large number of votes he received when the assembly elected the new Board of Directors of the Society. Later, in November of the same year, when the Board elected its officers, he received a majority of the votes for the presi-

dency. He accepted the office with humility, somewhat fearful that the task might be too demanding but ready to give it his best efforts. Those of us who supported his candidacy little realized then that he knew, better than anyone else, that the burden might become too heavy to bear.

I met him again briefly in Paris in 1953, when he opened the First International Course in Criminology organized by the Society and then in London during the 1955 Congress, when I and Mrs SELLIN had the pleasure and the privilege of being guests in his and Mrs CARROLL's hospitable home. We heard, then something of the exasperating work of organizing a congress, the constant tension, the unexpected interruptions and difficulties, the annoying petty vexations that keep one's nerves on edge. Ten months earlier he had written to me, « I always had the idea that running a congress would be a very strenuous business, but so far as any masochistic satisfaction in the process is concerned I am coming round to the view that it is simpler to die off young ». My last meeting with him was in London on Easter Sunday, 1956, when he hurried to my bedside in a hotel to give me relief and encouragement during a temporary illness and get me on my feet for a flight to Milan early the next morning. As he left my room he waved his hand, wished me a good journey and expressed the hope that we would soon see each other again.

You, my dear PINATEL, know better than anybody else the value of the contribution which CARROLL made to the history of our Society. He assumed the presidency when the organization was greatly in need of a steady hand at the helm. During his administration the Society acquired a modern constitution and by laws, developed a program for research, projected the creation of an international institute of criminology, organized or sponsored several international lecture courses on various aspects of criminology, began the publication of a bulletin, participated in many international and other conferences, and finally, held a most successful Congress, which assembled a large number of scholars from all parts of the world. As you recall it, the Congress was originally to be held in Buenos Aires. When, due to a variety of circumstances, this found to be impossible, the unexpected burden of organizing it fell on CARROLL and his British colleagues. Having had some experience in such matters, I know something of the mental strain and pressures associated with such a task. The assistance, which he received from you and MANNHEIM and the rest of the local committee was, of course, both significant and essential, but it could not, in the last analysis, lessen the feeling of personal responsibility which CARROLL had for the success of the outcome, a feeling shared by Mrs CARROLL, whose unselfish and calm assistance did much to ease her husband's work. I think that I express a unanimous sentiment when I say that the manner in which CARROLL conducted the Congress earned him the admiration of all the participants.

Denis CARROLL's death has deprived the Society of a leader and has brought a great personal loss to all of us who knew him more intimately. He shall always live in my memory as a loyal and charming friend and a very able and tolerant co-worker. There comes to my mind the song of the Icelandic bard, « Our friends die, and so do our kinfolk, but one thing never dies—posterity's judgment of the dead ». That judgment will assuredly be most favorable to our departed friend and colleague.

Sincerely yours,

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