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MP 51-4798

Telephone 4239

Replied
with latest
news 11/4/56.

Emmanuel College
Cambridge
21st March, 1956.

Dear Russell - Yebbett,

I am sorry to have troubled you with a feverish telegram. Batista was going to let me have full details of the conference, and yesterday I discovered that he had gone to Paris and would not be back until next term. So, as I am going off for a much needed change tomorrow, I had to wire you. I am now writing to tell you what I have arranged, so you will know a little bit more about what is possible for us and for you.

The College cannot possibly supply food or accommodate any delegates. We are about to rebuild the kitchens, and the staff are greatly overworked. As it is the middle of term, the College will be filled with its normal inhabitants; no more people can be fitted in.

I have arranged a lecture room for Friday evening from 8-10 p.m. This can be used freely by the delegates during those hours.

On Saturday there is a function in the College, so the lecture room cannot be used after about 6 p.m. I have booked it provisionally for the morning 10-1, and the afternoon 2-6. I am sorry about the evening, but the College Authorities cannot do me a favour here.

I understood from Batista that the Joos are to take place on Sunday morning in Christ's. I have not been able to see Trend, so I do not know whether that stands. I think it most unlikely that the College ^{evening} would allow a lecture room to be used for this purpose on a Sunday, so I have not made any arrangements for that time.

All this sounds a bit niggardly, but I have been left so much - the dark that I could not arrange anything before. If the number of delegates is not excessive I should like to offer sherry to them at my 6-30 in my room, but I cannot have more than about 20 in it. And I can only do this on Friday, not on Saturday. Perhaps you could tell me how many people will come.

I depart tomorrow for a fortnight in the country. I do not want to have to write a lot of letters during that time, so unless you have anything of the utmost urgency to say - reply to this, could you write me again about 6th April?

I see you also want a Committee Room. I dare say this can be arranged, but if not, my seat is at the disposal of the Congress, provided I can be told beforehand the hours at which it will be used.

That seems to be all for the present. It will perhaps help you to see what the College cannot do.

Yours sincerely

Edward M. Wilson.