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MARIE RODELL and JOAN DAVES, Inc.
LITERARY AGENTS
15 EAST 48 STREET — NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

Phone 3-0042

Cable Address: JODABOOKS

May 25, 1960

Dear Doris Dana:

I enclose a memo on the Nobel Prize Series in France, and the problems it raises in regard to Gabriela Mistral.

This morning, we have further word from Odette Arnaud, who writes:

"I have just had the opportunity to ask my lawyer for his advice on the book of poems by Gabriela Mistral to be published in the Nobel Prize Series. He says that there is no such thing in the French law and more specially since the new law on literary property (March 1959) as a letter binding the author to the publishers indefinitely, especially if the publisher doesn't sell the book. He says that 'not selling a book does not give you the possibility to sub-lease the edition to another publisher.' Not knowing the complete details of the case, he cannot say definitely but he feels that the contract made by Stock with Editions du Compagnonnage for the Nobel Prize series is not valid and could be very well annulled and done again in the name of Gabriela Mistral, for her own benefit, except a small token for the translator. He says, furthermore, that it is against the French law for an author to give away all his rights to a translator so in fact it seems that Gabriela Mistral's letter can be considered as non-valid because non legal."

Presumably, these remarks would apply equally to Gallimard - who claims to have a contract with Dona Gabriela, but have never produced it.

Do you wish us to instigate legal proceedings on your behalf to establish you as sole proprietor of the French rights? The cost, according to Arnaud, would be in the neighborhood of 400 NF, or \$50.00 - though I am very dubious myself that it could be kept that low. Should the suit be successful, the end result would presumably be that a new contract would be negotiated between you and the Nobel Prize Series publishers, and for a higher sum than that agreed to by Stock.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Marie Rodell
Marie F. Rodell

MFR:dg
Enc.

Miss Doris Dana
c/o Senor Radouir Tomic
Casilla 9080, Santiago de Chile, Chile, S. A.
Member of the SOCIETY of AUTHOR'S REPRESENTATIVES

JODABOOKS

[Carta] 1960 May 25, [New York, Estados Unidos] [a] Miss Doris Dana [manuscrito] Marie F. Rodell.

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