

UNIVERSITÄT SALZBURG

INSTITUT FÜR RECHTSPHILOSOPHIE,
METHODOLOGIE DER
RECHTSWISSENSCHAFTEN UND ALLGEMEINE
STAATSLHRE

Univ.-Prof. Dr. Ilmar Tammelo

A-5020 SALZBURG, Sept. 14, 1981
FRANZISKANERGASSE 2
TELEFON 062 22/44 511 KL. 335

Professor

Leonidas HEGENBERG
Instituto Tecnológico de Aeronáutica
12.200 S. José dos Campos
S. Paulo
Brazil

Dear Leonidas,

I am in a hospital at present and waiting for the diagnosis for my illness. My trouble may keep me out of action for some time. So I am dictating this letter to my secretary who will also sign for me.

Before my trip to Mexiko I promised to send you my self-portrait. I found it very difficult to write but I had to do it because a British Who is Who required it urgently. I enclose this sheet likewise a recent photo of mine which also was required by the Cambridge International Biographical Centre. I hope that you can make use of my written self portrait. I send the picture in case this may be required for the purposes for my portrait you intended to prepare.

I presume that you received a number of materials about me sometime ago and can make use of them to add anything you like to my self portrait. In addition to what I have said in my self portrait it occurs to me that the following feature may be important: I regard myself as a kind of a negative utilitarianist. Accordingly I believe that "the pursuit of happiness" tends to be a fool's errand; for happiness can only happen. Instead I believe that at least in our technological age the supreme moral principle is:

Misery ought to be abolished or reduced as much as feasible.

With all good wishes and cordial greetings,

I am sincerely yours,

Ilmar Tammelo



Ilmar Tammelo
Salzburg

A SELF-PORTRAIT

A boyhood desire of mine was to become a poet. However, my efforts to achieve this ambition led me to cultivation of form, which had a withering effect on my poetic thought, so that I gave up poetry altogether. My studies of law bored me, but I found a relief in philosophical studies. When I later specialized in legal philosophy, I occasionally experienced poetic impulses when writing down my thoughts; my early inclination to the form of poetry may have been responsible for my awakening interest in logic. In legal logic, which has engaged much of my attention, I have tried to render it relevant to practice. Thus I have devised actually utilizable logical decision-procedures and an improved notation and terminology, especially for "legal logic in action". I have sought for a counterbalance to my formalistics of juristic thought through my work in the theory of justice. Here, too, I have tried to render the results of my work relevant to practice: by offering a theoretical model which avoids current philosophical simplifications and matches the complexities of the problems of justice in the area of law and politics. In recent years, I have paid increasing attention to the "megaproblems" facing humanity in our technological age. Hence I have addressed myself, *inter alia*, to ecological, demographical, and polemological issues and am now engaged in a project which would result in a philosophy of peace and also in a philosophy of hope. Accordingly, I am seeking to formulate principles for a new ("eucratic") system of government, which would transcend our ailing and failing democracy and to lay a foundation for a "translinguistic" planned language, which would make it possible to reach the greatest attainable adequacy of expression to thought. So I feel committed to a new enlightenment involving a reassessment of our historical inheritance of ideas and constructive efforts to make ways and means available enabling us to escape from the contemporary predicament of humanity. One of my guiding ideas here is the "*communitas suprema*" which would include not only everyone everywhere in this present time but also in the foreseeable future.

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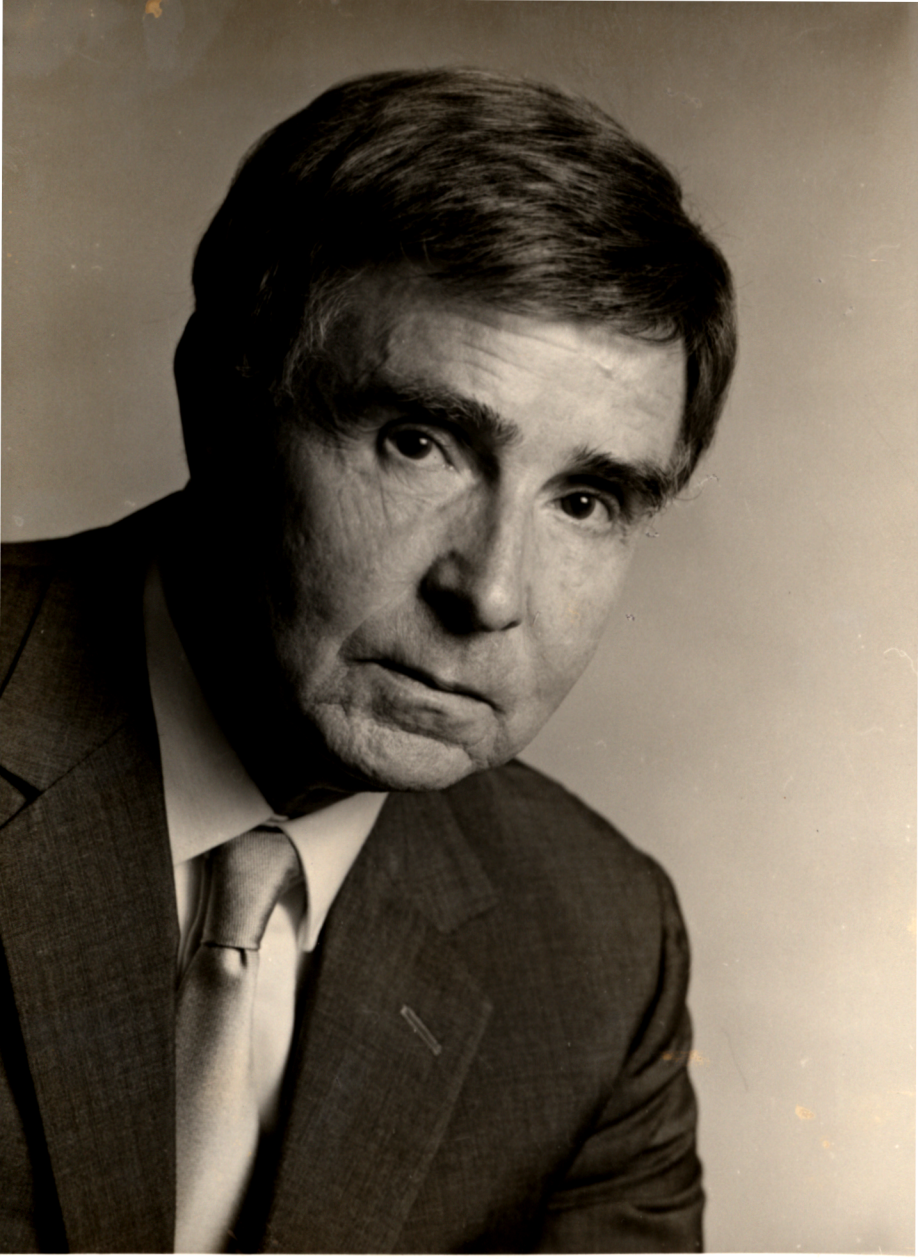
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