

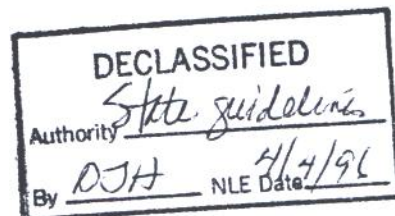
April 27, 1956

Dear Winston

The most enjoyable event in my week just past was the receipt of your fine letter. I am especially grateful to you for the advance copy of your "History of the English Speaking Peoples." I immediately plunged into its reading. I am anxious to see whether you make of Richard III as terrible a villain as does Sir Laurence Olivier in his interpretation of Shakespeare's tragedy. Since your account of that period does not come until the end of the book, it will be some time before I can make the comparison -- because my reading time is indeed limited.

Concerning my recovery from the coronary attack, I am largely dependent upon the doctors for an opinion. According to them, the clinical reports are excellent and show what they call "as complete a recovery as can be expected in any case of extensive heart damage." For myself, I sense no difference whatsoever in my feeling of health and strength as compared to my condition prior to the attack. The possible exception is that I do not always seem to have the same amount of zeal in tackling a new problem that I used to experience. When I mentioned this to one of my doctors, he merely grinned and said, "Of course you are a bit older, too."

In any event, at long last I have adopted your advice of former years to me to take a mid-day rest. Strangely enough, my doctors insist that this rest should be taken prior to lunch and so nowadays I have a very late luncheon -- something on the order of two o'clock. The only difficulty about this is that I can no longer use the luncheon period for meetings at which much business can be done under comfortable and pleasant surroundings.



Sir Winston Churchill -- 2

In my former letter, I did not mean to imply that I was disturbed about the relationships between our two countries. I merely meant to point out that even in the case of our two countries these relationships are not perfect. As you know I have long been a friend and admirer of Anthony; on top of this both Foster and I think that Anthony and Selwyn Lloyd make a splendid team. Of course we were initially disappointed when Macmillan left the Foreign Office because we felt we were getting on such a splendid basis of understanding and cooperation with him.

I regret, as you do, the two or three years wasted in your atomic development. Unquestionably you not only lost time, but also a considerable amount of money because the true circumstances were not understood by some fairly small characters before the Congress passed a law that tied the hands of the Executive Department. But I am delighted that you have gone so far in catching up and, of course, nowadays the law is not only less restrictive than it once was, but I would not be astonished to see it still further liberalized within a year or so.

I do not fully share your conclusion that an end to nuclear war will come about because of realization on both sides that by using this weapon an unconscionable degree of death and destruction would result. I do think it might tend to reduce very materially the possibility of any war; but I think it would be unsafe to predict that, if the West and the East should ever become locked up in a life and death struggle, both sides would still have sense enough not to use this horrible instrument. You will remember that in 1945 there was no possible excuse, once we had reached the Rhine in late '44, for Hitler to continue the war, yet his insane determination to rule or ruin brought additional and completely unnecessary destruction to his country; brought about its division between East and West and his own ignominious death.



Sir Winston Churchill -- 3

I assure you that Mrs. Eisenhower and I were delighted to have a good report on Clemmie's health. Please convey to her our warm greetings, and to yourself our best wishes for continued health and happiness.

With warm regard,

As ever

Ike



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