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August 15, 1950

AIR MAIL

H. 5485

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Personal

Dear Dannie:

Your note of August 7 from Pontresina with which you send me copies of letters exchanged with Dr. Adenauer reached me yesterday, and I was very happy to have a word from you. I quite understand your not writing me at any length and I am glad you have not, for a holiday disturbed by letter writing is no holiday. I did not hesitate to send you a few letters to Pontresina, as I hoped you would not be writing me while you were there.

I am delighted you had such a good holiday at Pontresina with the family, and I am sure it was a joy and satisfaction to have May and her family and Stephen and his family with you.

I have read with much interest the letters exchanged between you and Dr. Adenauer and I am very sorry to learn that he has not been well. He has a good many burdens and very real preoccupations, but I think it is a very fortunate thing that he is in the position he occupies. I am sure it must have been a pleasure to you both to talk over all sorts of things.

I noted with particular interest what you say concerning the European passport or the European "carte d'identité." I think either or both would be an excellent thing and a big step forward from the psychologic point of view in particular, but I am very much afraid that it will not be possible to carry through the idea at this time. Certainly there never has been a more important point in the history of the European peoples, as well as of the world, and it should be a time when the most major decisions can be made in the real interests of countries and peoples--no matter what the sacrifices of sovereignty and prejudices, etc., may be. But unfortunately the history of

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the world shows that no matter how grave the crisis, peoples have never responded that way, and to a large extent it is due to the incapacity of their leaders, who do not thoroughly understand what their people are prepared to do. Basically sound and helpful and important as the idea of the European passport and "carte d'identité" may be, I doubt whether it can be carried through, but that does not mean that every effort should not be made to do it. I will not enter into any analysis as to why or how I think it would be helpful, as I think our ideas in this respect are probably the same, as they have been on so many major matters.

You may think that I am unduly pessimistic, but as you know, while I am an idealist, I am at the same time profoundly realistic, as I know one has to be to accomplish anything. I see from the papers this morning that apparently the Conservatives are now joining with the Labor Party in an attack on the Schuman Plan. Whether the plan will survive or not, it is difficult to say. You will recall that in the last paragraph of the speech which I made in April at the Air War College, I said that in spite of all the realistic problems with which we had to deal in the world picture, general war was not inevitable, because there were certain forces which could be put to work which if put to work in time could and would prevent it, but I doubted whether these forces could be made effective in time. That may have seemed like a very pessimistic statement, but it is based on my appreciation of the actions of men and peoples and governments in the times of gravest crises and I do not see any reason, as developments come to us in these days, to change that pessimistic viewpoint.

I note what you say concerning your plans. If Hettie and Edna sail on August 31, I will almost certainly be in New York when they arrive or almost immediately thereafter, and look forward to seeing them. I note that you may have to delay your return until the middle of September, but hope to be there before the meeting. I am leaving here on September 7 by air and will be in New York in the late evening of that day, and Maryssael will be leaving on the morning of September 8 by air and will be arriving in the late evening of that day. We intend to stay at the Carlyle and I will make reservations there for him and me. We are both leaving New York on the evening of September 11 for Toronto, as we will have to have several days there before the General Meeting on the 14th. I wrote to Donald Duncan and expressed the hope that he and Hooker would be able to spend all of September 13 and 14 in Toronto, and I think they can do it. In that event, they would be leaving by train on the evening of the 12th for Toronto. We will certainly have to have an all-day Board meeting in Toronto on the 13th, as there are so many important things to discuss. I do not anticipate anything too difficult at the Annual Meeting on the 14th, but it is going to be different from our Annual Meetings in the past, as I have indicated in recent letters, and we can

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anticipate that there will be a number of people there. This man Arthur Ross from New York is bound to be there, and of course he very much wants to get on the Board, which is quite impossible in my opinion. I feel sure there will be some other people from New York and who have recently become interested in our securities, and a man by the name of Jeffries from Boston has told us that he is going to be there, but he is a very fine person, I believe.

Much as I think it would be desirable and much as it would be a satisfaction to us all if you could be at the Board meetings and General Meeting in Toronto, I do not want to press you in any way about this and I do not think you should make your plans dependent upon being there. I feel sure that by the time I reach New York you will be pretty certain as to when you will leave for the United States, and if you will not be in New York during the time that Maryssael and I are there before going to Toronto, I will get on the phone with you and we can talk over some of the major matters we have to discuss, as I want particularly your counsel before we have these meetings on certain points.

Marion is really much better, but she is not quite feeling her normal self yet and she gets discouraged at times. The important thing is that she is really better and the doctors found nothing important wrong. She is taking a good deal of rest and that has helped a great deal. Personally, I am well and everyone says I look better than I have for some time, but there are days when I feel the years creeping up on me. Jimmy and June are well and so is the baby. This is a hurried note as I have a busy day ahead of me and I am not able to write at the house as Mrs. Hall is still away on a holiday and will be for several weeks more. Marion joins in love and good wishes to you all.

Cordially and faithfully yours,



P.S. Marion just telephoned me from the house that there is a telegram from you to the effect that you wrote me from London some time ago that Binder had accepted and that he has spoken to Leper, who had accepted. The letter to which you refer in which you spoke about Binder never reached me. I will write to both Binder and Leper telling them how happy I am that they will join us on the Board.

GSM/cbc

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Telegr.