

MAR 6 1959

Saturday, Feb. 28, 59

Dear Dannie,

Marion and I came to the Cuernavaca house last evening. It is becoming more and more a problem to maintain the house, as we have spoiled the servants and there is always something out of order. This week we have no heat boiler and it is useless to try to have it fixed up over the week end. Were it not that the weather here is so wonderful, I think we would take a larger house in Mexico City and try to sell this. Of course we enjoy having week end guests here, and we would miss that too. Sam and Grace Katz were to be with us but as Sam was leaving Mexico City for here yesterday afternoon he got word that an aunt had just passed away in St Louis, so Grace is here but Sam went to St. Louis last night. The Ellis' are here. They have just returned from the Ochaner (?) Clinic in New Orleans where both had an operation and are fine now.

We shall miss Anthony Eden and his charming wife. They have returned to England. We had many good talks here. I think this stay in Cuernavaca and Acapulco did him good. He said a very nice thing to me when we last saw each other here at the house. He said - "If Winston and you and I were talking about something, we wouldn't have to explain our positions, and would not be able to disagree." Last night on arriving here I found a very nice note from him and a photograph - with an invitation to visit them in England. Very nice of him - but I have no intention of crossing the Atlantic again.

I have had an invitation from the President of the University of South Carolina and the Trustees to deliver the Commencement address on May 29. He is a former pupil of mine in the High School in Geneva, Delaware, in 1906-7. I did not answer immediately and yesterday he called on the 'phone to urge me to come but I told him I was just about to write saying that I would not be able to do it. It would mean a little more physical effort and travel than I feel up to now. And I did not want to undertake an obligation so far ahead that I was not sure I could adequately meet. I did want to go for many reasons and it would have given me a good forum to say a lot of things I have on my mind. That it would have meant their giving me an honorary degree of doctor of laws did not interest me for I have two of them now and they really mean little.

I saw with interest that Jimmy may do something in the publishing field. That is what he wants to do and I hope it works out. I just can't get to work on my memoirs - I'm too lazy. Some friends at home are again pressing me to finish what I have done, but for me what I have done is too unsatisfactory. Strangely enough Anthony Eden knew I had done some preliminary work - and he is familiar with some of my papers written during the 1937-40 period, and he pressed me to write. The trouble with me is that I have so little strength. A few turns around the garden in Cuernavaca tire me out.

What I know of things here and at home depresses me very much - and what is happening in the big picture gets worse. This matter of cutting the 4 Atlantic cables is very mysterious, and I have the impression the papers are not telling us all that our Government knows. It is extraordinary that the cutting happened when Macmillan was in Russia, and our Government must have passed

the word to Macmillan. It is all very mysterious but certainly the cutting of the cables was intentional, and who could have done it but the Russians. Are we working to a climax.

Dulles is a man of extraordinary physical resistance but this cancer is of a kind that I don't see how he can last long. I am afraid that Dillon may end up in getting the post, and that in my opinion could be a disaster. He isn't in any way up to it - he and Draper are good friends.

I will not write about the Acapulco meeting of the Presidents except to say it should not have taken place now. I said from the outset I would not go, and thank God I didn't go. When I see you I will give you details.

We have serious times ahead here in Mexico. The National Railways with a deficit of about 800 million pesos a year and badly run, had a strike and the Government gave the workers 125 million a year raise! The Polytechnic Institute which has been giving a lot of trouble (the students) has been closed. The teachers in Mexico City will get another 90 million pesos a year. Our union is after us for months, we will probably be the next in the list for real trouble. Draper is seldom here, and Maryssael is terribly overworked. The budget of the Government is already very much out of balance for this year, and no amount of money we may lend them, and no amount of help from the Monetary Stabilization Fund or the International Monetary Fund will help - unless the Mexicans put their own house in order.

Hill, the Ambassador here, has gone on a trip to Europe for five weeks. He is a good man.

I'm getting a strong urge to take a trip North but doubt if I will do so before May.

I had a letter yesterday from Allen Dulles, but naturally he can't say much about Foster, because no one knows how long he can last.

I enjoyed your letters and will return the enclosures to the first one. You had shown me the extract from Swinton's book. I hear very little about him now. You gave me a copy of Bertrand Russell's book you refer to, last summer, and I have read several of the essays a number of times. I have a strong prejudice against Russell but I have read these essays with pleasure.

To grow old is an art, but the parts of our machine wearing out makes growing old gracefully more difficult. Marion is wonderful and has great power of will - more than I have.

This is a long letter and it has been a pleasure to chat with you, while Marion is playing scrabble with Grace Katz. I will have to take a few turns around the garden before lunch, and Marion and our guests are deserting me for lunch - they are going out for lunch with some friends. Wish you were here! Marion joins in much love and good wishes to you all. Faithfully GEORGE