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January 31, 1952 # 7306

Personal and Confidential



Dear Ike:

I certainly appreciated your good letter of the twenty-third. You can rest assured that no matter what the professional liars and the pathological columnists may have to say, you and I understand each other.

I certainly hope that Lisbon meeting will turn out all right. It looks as if the French have thrown a monkey wrench in the Schuman Plan. I've always been amazed at the manner in which the French and British can upset their own apple carts, but they seem to have a genius for doing just that.

I think we are approaching a condition in world affairs where we can become powerful enough to ward off a third world war, if we continue the Foreign Policy which we have been pursuing. I think you understand it as thoroughly and completely as I do.

I hope everything is going well with you and that it will continue to go just that way. Please remember me to Mrs. Eisenhower.

Sincerely yours,

HARRY S. TRUMAN

General of the Army
Dwight D. Eisenhower
Paris, France



DDE

Supreme Headquarters
Allied Powers Europe
23 January 1952



PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Mr. President:

I am grateful for the courtesy of your letter, to say nothing of your thoughtfulness in sending to me a recording of your press conference. It is difficult to understand why any individual should want to produce irritation or mutual resentment between us. I suppose the hope is for an impulsive and possibly critical statement from one of us with respect to the other, thus making news. I deeply appreciate your determination to avoid any such thing - a purpose which does and will govern my own conduct. Unquestionably, you recognize the identity between my recent public "political" statement, which I finally felt forced to make, and the analysis of my position as I described it to you in the note I wrote just after New Year's.

The Lisbon meeting is now scheduled for the 16th of this month. I do not plan to attend, but I am hopeful that out of it will come clear proof of progress in attainment of European solidarity and security. The Schuman Plan, having been approved, serves as sort of an example for what could be done also in the military field. Beyond this, there will never be a viable economy in this region except through some kind of economic and possibly political federation. Therefore, if the governments of these particular regions will take the plunge and begin the definitive study of ways and means for this kind of union, I am certain that the step would be heartily welcomed by all thoughtful Americans.



It was a great disappointment to learn that it had been found necessary to take Ambassador Bruce out of his present post. His value to NATO and to me has been incalculable, and this work is bound to suffer to some degree. Quite naturally, when a public servant is as able and devoted as is David Bruce, there is always competition for him everywhere. But I doubt that anyone else can have as much influence as he in inspiring European governments, led by the French, to take action along needed lines. Much of this needed action does not demand additions to national budgets.

We are obviously approaching, indeed we are in, a critical period in NATO affairs. If the Lisbon meeting can only show real progress toward European military and other unity, as well as provide a satisfactory answer to the Greek-Turkish question and adopt a satisfactory program based upon the "Wise Men" recommendations, we should be able to look to the future with increased confidence.

With best wishes to you and your charming family,

Respectfully,

The President
The White House
Washington 25, D. C.

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