

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

U. S. Naval Station
Key West, Florida

March 20, 1952



Dear Ike:

I certainly appreciated very much your good letter of the eleventh regarding your recent trip to Turkey and Greece. I wish the morale of some of our Western allies would come up to the high point of the countries which you have just visited.

I was more than happy to have your comments on what might happen if General de Gaulle came into power in France.

We are working heroically on the economic situation in both France and Britain. One of our difficulties is brought about by the fact that some of our friends in Congress have not been acting enthusiastically for the maintenance of peace as they have in the past, but that is a customary disease in an election year.

I hope everything is going well with you and that it will continue to go just that way.

Sincerely yours,

General of the Army Dwight D. Eisenhower
Supreme Allied Headquarters
Allied Powers in Europe
Paris, France

HST:wr

Transcript of this morning's press
conference enclosed with following
comment on the last page:-

Ike: - This is a transcript of this
morning's press conference. It speaks
for itself. I thought you'd like to see
it. It is a factual, correct transcript
and has not been edited in any way.

I hope everything is going well with
you and that it will continue to be just that way.

Sincerely yours,

H.S.P.

General of the Army Dwight D. Eisenhower
Supreme Allied Headquarters
Allied Forces in Europe
Paris, France

HST:wr



D D E



Supreme Headquarters
Allied Powers Europe
11 March 1952

Dear Mr. President:

My recent trip to Turkey and Greece brought me in contact with governments and peoples who are refreshingly certain as to their own international aims and purposes and who appear to be rather firmly united among themselves in support of policies in the security field.

In both countries, I listened to political and military leaders using expressions somewhat as follows: "Of course, we need help of various kinds. We are not capable of producing needed military equipment and we do not have the money to buy. But with help or without help, we will fight if attacked. We will do better if supported, but we will fight to the bitter end and will never give up."

In both countries, I likewise found a favorable opinion toward the entire NATO project. They are exceedingly proud of their membership in the Organization. On the other hand, their low opinion of the spiritual, economic, and military strength of some of the other NATO countries was often openly expressed. These strictures were directed mainly toward France and Italy - strangely enough, I think that France was less respected than Italy.

While in neither country was I importuned to support a top priority position for the local government in the receipt of American arms, there was no lack of argument presented in the attempt to prove that each would use any such arms most effectively. For example, Turkey insists that, over and above the nineteen divisions that she calculates as needed for the defense of her own



territory, she could provide six other reliable divisions at a cheaper cost than would be incurred in any other country. Part of this derives from the fact that the Turkish common soldier receives a salary of twenty-one cents per month. (In Greece, this sum is a trifle over three dollars.) One Turkish official told me that the original cost of providing the six mobile divisions would be one hundred ten million dollars. Incidentally, he stated also that the Turks would make these divisions available for use at any point designated by SHAPE.

The situation here in France is anything but encouraging. The Pinay Government, which faces its first test today, seems to me to be merely a slightly altered version of the governments that have been repeating themselves over and over again, in this country, during the past several years. It has no new principle, policy, or particularly strong personality to give it any great promise of more permanency than has applied to the others.

If General DeGaulle came to power, the government headed by him would presumably be reasonably stable, since he has consistently stated that he would accept responsibility only with the promise of a changed constitution that would strengthen the central government. However, he has so blatantly attacked NATO and American policy and position that, from the standpoint of effective cooperation, I don't know what would be the results of such a development. His attacks on the European Army would be understandable if he were ready and willing to see Germany, independently, build up military forces as she chooses and to occupy an equal political position with France in any agreement drawn up between them. This I do not believe that France is prepared to accept and I do not think that the moderate elements in Western Germany want to risk what could develop into a revival of German militarism.

As you know, the economic crises of France and Britain, and of course Italy, pose to all of us definite and serious problems. To



my mind, the big thing is that we must not lose sight of final objectives. I think that to emphasize too much the need for adhering to preconceived schedules and programs ignores the obvious truth that national expenditures must always be tailored to national capabilities in the economic and financial field. We must remember that France has left no power to raise money by internal loans. If she goes in for deficit spending, there is only one possible recourse - inflation.

Of course, it is the primary business of Mr. Draper and his associates to deal with such tough problems. But we all know that it is no longer possible to separate so-called military activity from the other processes of national life and deal with them in a vacuum. We all have to work together.

I know and like Mr. Dunn who is coming here as our new Ambassador. He has the reputation of being a very capable individual but, from my viewpoint, I still regard it as scarcely less than tragic that David Bruce had to be relieved. His standing in this region was not only that of a very capable American Ambassador, he was almost regarded as the foremost statesman of the country.

As you can well imagine, my own life grows no easier. The complications of SHAPE responsibilities are enough to keep any man fully occupied throughout his waking hours. Add to this the many other kinds of personal and public questions that are constantly urged upon me, and I sometimes wonder how I keep my sense of humor.

Very respectfully,

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C.