

AMERICAN CONSULATE
Milan, Italy
June 21, 1940

Dear Dad:

I am sending this with Dorothy's note for the \$450 and a letter, which please deliver to her. I am leaving the note outside the letter, so if you wish, you may ask her to have the account opened in my name when you turn over the note to her. I am asking her to just deposit it in my regular account at the Park National, if this isn't too much trouble.

Another problem that has been bothering me a bit recently is that of British and French island possessions in the West Indies. I should think it would be wise to arrange immediately for these islands to come under American protection, as who knows but what the Germans may try to take them over by strategy? I have visions of a French cruiser putting in any day, and suddenly disgorging a couple of thousand German troops. It would be no more surprising than their success in Norway.

One way this might be worked out to "save face for the Allies" would be to accept a lease on these islands for, say, 25 years, in return for which, we would consider the war debts cancelled. As you know, these can never be paid any way, so there is no point in keeping them around. This would then remove Great Britain and France from the action of the Johnson Act, which forbids countries in arrears on their debt payments to float loans on the American market. I imagined there are many who would be willing to take the risk involved in buying British bonds, provided these could be sold. In any case, the important thing is to get those islands into a state of defense quickly; we shouldn't have to be warned that the Nazis strike quickly and without warning, and even the most fantastic optimist could hardly think that our security would be worth much with German air bases within a few hundred miles of our coast and the Panama Canal.

I haven't heard anything from Ninnie and Aunt Vonie since I have been over here. I know I should write to them, but I hope that you will be able to pass on some of my letters to them, as it is terribly hard to find time to write, now that we are so busy. The same goes for Aunt Maggie and Jennie. I intend to write a note to Roe Francis for the benefit of the Lodge, but I haven't got around to that, yet, either.

Once again, love to all,

By pouch June 22

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