

25 February 1962

Dear Boris

For many days I have had on my agenda the matter of answering a letter from you dated 2 December 1961 and I have just not been able to do so, for various reasons, but now comes your fine letter of 22 February written from Menton and courtesy if nothing more demands that I reply at once.

My long-drawn-out silence has not been because of physical illness - I've been pretty well in that regard - but rather because of a malaise and a feeling of anguish about the sad way in which Barbara's problems have turned out to bring sorrow and anxiety to all of us. And the end is not yet clear, except that the affair of her marriage has turned out badly, for reasons beyond the scope of this letter and must await a personal visit to explain.

This brings me to the question of how to answer your present letter, which must begin for me to tell you how much we appreciate the most courteous invitation you have extended us to participate in the celebration of your 70th birthday on July 2. At this moment I am not able to give an affirmative reply with a joyful anticipation - a definite and unequivocal acceptance. All I can say right now is that we want very much to join your family in observing that milestone anniversary and we shall do so if the local conditions

settle down a bit more if they are such as to relieve us of present anxieties, and Barbara's problems are solved in a manner which will make it possible for us to be away for any length of time more than a very few days.

We imagine that you plan to have the birthday dinner at Sundervik, since it is to be on July 2 and since you are usually in Sweden by that time - not to mention that most of your family is usually there rather than in Lug during the summer. Is this correct?

Within a couple of weeks we should know better just how matters are and should be able to give you a firm acceptance to your wonderful invitation but at the moment let us consider this as a tentative acceptance, to be confirmed just as soon as possible. Both Elizabeth and I have had a very difficult time going through months and months of great anxiety - a rest and a change of environment is really necessary. I shall write you soon again.

We are glad to note that both Anne and you are well - except for minor winter ailments - and hope you enjoyed your Manton visit very much.

I have been working quite diligently even though under conditions of great stress. At the moment I am working on a paper I am to deliver in April before the American Philosophical Society. Title is "Shakespeare, Secret Intelligence, and Statecraft." It involves a good deal of difficulty in research and writing. Elizabeth is helping me but Jim told my address will be of importance in Shakespearean scholarship. It will be printed later. I also have several other projects in the mill. Have seen Bo a couple of times & with Edith once nice visits.

Thanking you again and with most affectionate regards,
Sincerely,
Boe