

Dear Boris:

I have two letters to answer: the one of 20 October 1962, the other of 22 October.

As to the first, informing me of Wolodja's efforts to get me a set of the Russian books on the "solution" of the Maya hieroglyphics, I think I shall now wait patiently the receipt of the books and then I shall write him my thanks. I have not started on a search for another source of these books, so have no fear that I will end up with two sets of the books in question.

As of Monday of this week we started the key-punching of a portion of the text of the Voynich Mss and I hope we shall have some preliminary statistical data to guide our next steps in processing. It all looks most interesting, I must say, and perhaps not so difficult as I imagined at first.

A little while ago I came back from playing a little "Solitaire golf" -- my method of getting in the walking that the doctor prescribed. On my return, who should be in our house as guests but Stuart and Mabel Hedden! We had a very pleasant talk -- but the name Hagelin wasn't mentioned. They are on their way to their winter home in Vero Beach, Florida. Stuart said that as of today it looks very much as though the Soviet "illness" is over, that the end of Russia as a world power of first magnitude is in sight, that we, the West, don't have to do anything but sit tight and defy the Russians to do their worst. Well, I hope Stuart is right! As no doubt you also do.

Your inclosed photo of your visit to that famous wine cellar was much appreciated. It is an excellent likeness of you. I wish that I were fond of wines--but am not, unfortunately. I appear to be very provincial in this respect, although I do admit that occasionally a wine or two with dinner goes very well.

About a visit, to see what Crypto AG has been up to of late, please Boris, just a little more patience. Things are brewing here and I might, just possibly might, suddenly send you a message saying that you should meet me in Zurich! I can think of nothing nicer, really. It's been a long, long time -- too long, in fact, to suit me. I'd really like very much to visit you, and, if possible, before you go to Sweden for the Christmas holidays.

As I said above, Boris, it looks as though the Soviet bluff has been called, and maybe the real end of troublesome affairs is in sight, to the advantage of all the countries of the West. We have been over-awed much too long, I think, by sheer bluffing.

Your letter of 22 October requires very little response. I shall write Wolodja promptly and thank him when the books arrive. But in the meantime, your indication that I should regard the books as a belated gift for my last birthday is very much appreciated indeed.

Sincerely,

Mr. Boris C. W. Hagelin  
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Zug, Switzerland