

29 February 1952

Dear Jumbo:

When we received the official announcement of your retirement from the post of Director, GCHQ on 15 April 1952, my first reaction was one of great regret at the loss we were about to suffer by that retirement. But, of course, laying down the reins of office and having some years of leisure, peace, and quiet left us after that is a boon that the Supreme Power doesn't, in His Wisdom, grant everybody. With the realization that this boon will be yours, my second reaction is to offer my sincere congratulations for being able to enter upon a well-earned rest.

We have known each other for a good many years -- ever since 1927! Of course, in those early days we had nothing more than a mere bowing acquaintance, so to speak. But since 1941 I, like many of my associates who have had the pleasure of your friendship and association in activities of mutual concern, have developed for you a warm affection and high admiration for your abilities and your contributions. We shall miss your wisdom and counsel no end in future official contacts, but we can look forward, I hope, to many years of social contact with you, either here or over there.

You have left a target which will require a high order of markmanship to attain, so that Eric will have his hands full in that respect. But I know that his competence is such that he is bound to make a try at it that would surpass that attainable by other possible candidates.

My best wishes go to you for many years of fruitful endeavors in other fields of interest -- apiculture, for instance -- and of successful leisure as a country gentleman. I salute you and send you now my most cordial greetings and felicitations.

Sincerely,

Sir Edward Travis
GCHQ