

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 70<sup>th</sup> 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

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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  
Eng 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 Elyse-  
beth 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 ail-  
ments - 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,  
Bo