

21st April, 1942.

I am prepared to be as suspicious as you like of America generally, though I think that this suspicion should be somewhat mitigated in favour of the present Administration. But what I do want us to recognise is (i) that our best friends there are suspicious of us, and why, and (ii) that we ought not to put forward proposals with suspicion written across the title page.

I entirely agree that no good can come of our appearing to truckle to American opinion. I should go forward with far-reaching constructive proposals on the basis that they were the minimum necessary for "that pacification and regulation of the world which is essential to their own well-being" (I quote from you) as well as ours. Common interest is a basis on which we can make our talk as "virile" as you like; and the existence of common interest is a stark fact. I should say "Don't be fools: you know quite well that with modern science international anarchy will get you into trouble again". I think that the present Administration would lend a kindly ear, and that, if we could expedite matters, we could between us set up certain institutions within the lifetime of the present Administration, which it would be very difficult for a future administration to un-scramble, if they were working well.

But for this to be done with conviction and effect, it is essential that our people, or some of them, should themselves be convinced of the feasibility and desirability of this regulation of the world. That is the point on which I do not feel too happy.

I am most grateful to you for writing at such length. I am keeping your letter by me and will brood over the various points you make.

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Offices of the War Cabinet.