

EYES ONLY

NYC10 2 DEC 64

TO OTT (FOR SMITH)

FM: PAGE INFO RICHARDSON YARROW

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904AM

AT RALPH'S REQUEST I HAD LUNCH WITH HIM MONDAY AFTER HER HAD READ YOUR LETTER. THE FOLLOWING ARE MY IMPRESSIONS WHICH I HOPE MAY BE HELPFUL FOR YOU (AS BACKGROUND ONLY).

HE HAS A GROUP OF UNCERTAINTIES ABOUT TAKING ON THE POLICY JOB AND IS CURRENTLY STRUGGLING WITH THESE. ONE IS A FEELING THAT SOMEHOW DICK BURKS WAS FORCED OUT. THIS FEELING WAS HEIGHTENED BY A RECENT TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH DICK WHERE DICK INDICATED TO HIM THAT HE WOULD "SERIOUSLY CONSIDER" STAYING ON AS POLICY DIRECTOR WITH RALPH AS HIS DEPUTY. (INCIDENTALLY, RALPH MENTIONED DICK HAD A RAND OFFER AS WELL AS THE WAYNE ONE.) I TOLD HIM THIS WAS NOT YOURS OR JR, JRMJS IMPRESSION AND WE BOTH AGREED THAT THIS REALLY WAS A MATTER FOR DICK TO DISCUSS WITH YOU AND/OR JR, JR.

SECONDLY, HE POINTS OUT THAT THE POLICY JOB IS A TOUGH ONE AND TO BE SUCCESSFULLY DONE REQUIRES THE FULL BACKING OF THE DIRECTOR, AND THEREFORE HE IS CONCERNED BECAUSE OF THE MANY RUMORS HE HEARS ABOUT YOUR PLANNING TO LEAVE RFE, AND THE UNCERTAINTY THIS IMPLIES. HE ALSO SEEMS TO HAVE SOME CONCERN ABOUT THE ABILITIES OF THE POLICY GROUP, ALTHOUGH I DIDN'T SENSE THIS IS A MAJOR FACTOR. HE DOES APPEAR TO NOT RELISH THE THOUGHT OF LIVING IN MUNICH. I DO NOT THINK THIS IS CONNECTED WITH HAVING A GIRL HERE, OR THE WEATHER IN MUNICH, BUT RATHER GROWS FROM A GENERAL TAKING STOCK OF WHAT HE IS GOING TO DO WITH HIS LIFE AND PERHAPS A FEAR THAT HE MAY BECOME AN EXPATRIOT.

HE TALKS ABOUT HIS RELUCTANCE TO LEAVE WHAT HE IS DOING HERE BEFORE HE HAS ACCOMPLISHED THE IMPROVEMENTS HE WANTS TO MAKE, BUT I SENSE THAT TO SOME DEGREE THIS IS MORE AN EXPRESSION OF HIS UNCERTAINTIES THAN A REAL CONCERN.

TOGETHER MY IMPRESSION IS THAT ALL OF THESE ADD UP TO REAL DOUBTS WHICH ARE GOING TO REQUIRE PATIENCE AND EFFORT TO OVERCOME. ON THE PLUS SIDE ARE HIS RESPECT FOR YOU AND THE LEADERSHIP OF FEC, HIS DEEPT BELIEF IN RFE, AND HIS LONG INVOLVEMENT WITH IT. HE HAS HIS QUESTIONS BUT IT IS ALSO VERY CLEAR HE HAS NOT MADE UP HIS MIND NEGATIVELY AND IS LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU.

END MSG