

Dear Mr Don, I hope you can forgive me for beginning my "Washington Notes" on a yellow pad balanced on my knee as I sit by our comforting open fire - This apartment could easily be in Paris or The Hague - high ceilings, long windows, chintz, brass, Victorian books, a balcony overlooking Tree Tops - It is very livable and centrally located and you must see it for yourself. We have come a long way in the brief weeks I have been here. ^{sounds for us} The big have been Mr Schaffners exit, changing the "Netherlands" ^{desk} picture so drastically - The entrance of the "Netherlands Mission" idea, which is so disconcertingly urgent, and Mr Roosevelt's death - To begin at the end, Washington's reaction has been very revealing to me - for the first day or two I felt apprehension and foreboding everywhere to an alarming degree - Then there was a miraculous revival of optimism caused, I think, (a) by the stirring appropriateness of Roosevelt dying at his peak (b) by the compelling sincerity of Trumans voice and acts (c) no apologies - no arrogance + (c) by the power of our Country which seemed to emerge overwhelmingly - dwarfing all and any individuals. I wish we had more time

To decide about The "Mission" - Every day we have discovered new angles - Lunch To day with Dutch friends who gave inside Dope about The Dutch Economic Mission + conflict + some points in London. Cocktails To-day with Dutch people contributing information about occupied Netherlands reactions. Tea yesterday with The Stimson's - Mrs Stimson - Touchingly interested in Arthur - Telling The story To Mr Stimson when he came in from riding - He plied me eagerly for details which I was giving with equal eagerness when Mr Osmania (Sp?) The new President of The Phillipines came in. Much interesting Talk of extent of destruction There + his wife adventures in The mountains with The Igorots - but no more personal angle. I'm sorry because I believe The extent of cooperation possible with SHAEF is important + could so easily be checked, Through The right channels. Yesterday morning at The Netherlands Embassy, bearing from Betty London what an unusually good impression Arthur has made on her husband + what cooperation is possible between them - Stanley Hudson ^{was} here The day before for Tea, on his way To San

Francisco, feeling International Court may 'hold its own' but has little chance of expanding as hoped. And so it goes - ^(all this since Arthur went to N.Y.) All extremely valuable - interesting roads leading in all directions - With time I feel sure that we could find the place where Arthurs valuable assets would have the scope they deserve - The response to him + to his ability has been very marked and heart warming + almost universal. [Incidentally, to be very personal for a moment, Arthur + I have done some analysing of his past mistakes and their causes which has been extremely constructive - He is showing, I think, far more patience and responsiveness with other people and a deeper philosophy in his thinking - I wonder if you saw any change?] But there is no time - The decision must be made at once and I feel there is a good chance that Arthur can do an almost impossibly difficult job, which is crying to be done for Holland. If nothing, or too little, can be accomplished he can come back knowing he has tried and been thwarted by things beyond his control - Of course any small or partial success would be its own reward -

Your interest in us and Nell is very sustaining! This has turned out to be a rambling and very personal letter for you alone and not notes at all - and my fire has gone out and I must go to bed -

Keep well + come to Washington if you can soon, affectionately always,
Linda.

Thursday Evening.