

April 12, 1951



Dear Ike:

I certainly appreciated your good letter of the seventh of April and I want you to understand that the President of the United States in his capacity as President and Commander in Chief is wholeheartedly behind what you are trying to do.

I am most happy that you are keeping in touch with Averell Harriman and the Secretary of Defense. I have absolute confidence in General Marshall, Bob Lovett and Averell. You can also absolutely depend on Dean Acheson, who is one of the most loyal public servants I have ever had any association with.

I was sorry to have to reach a parting of the way with the big man in Asia but he asked for it and I had to give it to him.

You are doing a wonderful job and anything I can do to make it easier I'll certainly be glad to do.

Sincerely yours,

HARRY S. TRUMAN

General Dwight D. Eisenhower
Supreme Headquarters
Allied Powers Europe



DDE



Supreme Headquarters
Allied Powers Europe
7 April 1951

Dear Mr. President:

Thank you very much for your understanding letter, commenting on the Malta affair. In expressing to Averell my own feelings about that particular incident, I did not mean to exaggerate its importance - I merely was citing it as one type of difficulty that is always irritating because it is normally unnecessary.

Only recently, Belgium enacted a two-year military service law. On the continent itself, this makes Belgium the first nation to take this forward-looking step. It is very pleasing to us in this headquarters where we follow with greatest concern every new piece of evidence that Europe will act vigorously in its own defense. While, in certain cases, I think it is politically impossible for some of the individual nations immediately to follow Belgium's example, I do hope that, in order to encourage emulation, there can be some expression in Washington of general satisfaction concerning this event.

As you can well imagine, we keep busy. This coming week I shall spend inspecting Allied troops in Germany.

With best wishes to you and yours,

Respectfully,

The President
The White House
Washington 25, D. C.