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CONFIDENTIAL

November 29, 1961.

Thank you for your letter of November 21 about Sir Winston's proposed cruise with Mr. Onassis.

Although old friendships count for little with the present régime, we do not think that the Saudis would make difficulties and, as important Saudis rarely go to the Red Sea ports, no questions of protocol are likely to arise.

It may take us a little time to find out what the Saudi regulations are about passengers landing from ships; we will write to you again about this, but there is a good chance that they would not be applied in this case.

We think that the Sudanese would be very pleased by a visit to Port Sudan.

Assuming that our relations with the U.A.R. remain much as they are at present, we do not think that there would be any question of hostile demonstrations in the Suez Canal. What is possible is that some U.A.R. official might try to pay his respects to Sir Winston. You say that he would not wish to meet any Egyptian dignitaries, and we therefore suggest that the opportunities for any such visit should be reduced to a minimum, and that Sir Winston should, if necessary, plead illness. I imagine there is no question of his

/wishing

Anthony Montague Browne, Esq., O.B.E., D.F.C.

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- 2 -

● wishing to go ashore, and the yacht might therefore spend as little time as possible in the Canal area.

It is also possible that if Nasser heard in advance of the proposed passage through the Canal, as I suppose he will, he might send somebody to pay his respects to Sir Winston. This is unlikely but not out of the question, even though Sir Winston is known to be pro-Zionist. A U.A.R. official under orders from Nasser might try to board the yacht, even in the roadstead, and it would hardly be possible to stop him. If this happened we assume that Sir Winston would not refuse to receive the emissary.

No doubt you will let us have details of dates nearer the time so that we can inform the Missions concerned. You are presumably telling the Colonial Office about Aden. I am sending a copy of this letter to Philip de Zulueta.

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Private and Confidential

21 November, 1961

My dear Ian,

Sir Winston is proposing to go on a cruise with Mr. Onassis some time during the next two months. This time, instead of going to the West Indies as before, Mr. Onassis is contemplating going down through the Suez Canal and spending some time in the Red Sea and possibly at Aden.

I should be grateful if you could let me know if you foresee any difficulties or objections to what is proposed. We should probably touch at some Saudi port and probably at Port Sudan, as well as Aden, and of course would be in Egyptian territory while going through the Canal.

Knowing Sir Winston's feelings about the Egyptians I do not think he would be willing to meet any of their dignitaries, even if they on their side proposed to send any aboard. Moreover, it is widely known in the Arab world that Sir Winston has always been pro-Zionist. On the other hand he had agreeable relations with the

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- 2 -

Saudis because of his connection with the late Ibn Saud, and also with the Sudanese through his friendship with The Mahdi. So perhaps it would all balance out.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Philip de Zulueta.

ANTHONY MONTAGUE BROWNE

A.C.I. Samuel, Esq., C.M.G.

Copy to P.F. de Zulueta Esq.