

While domestic political considerations unquestionably make it difficult for British Government to proceed promptly with bilateral negotiations on basis outlined by Department, implications for real interests of West in policy of "sitting tight" are too somber to warrant entertaining it as acceptable alternative.

CAFFERY

No. 1126

Presidential Correspondence, lot 66 D 204, "Churchill Correspondence with Eisenhower"

*Prime Minister Churchill to President Eisenhower*¹

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

LONDON, March 18, 1953.

MY DEAR FRIEND: I am very sorry that you do not feel that you can do much to help us about the Canal Zone. Naturally I am glad that we are broadly speaking agreed upon the merits and upon what we must get. I know that we can count on your goodwill. A month has passed since I wrote my first letter to you and I fear it will be impossible for us to keep Field Marshal Slim any longer from his task in Australia. I hope however that though you may not be able to help us positively it will not look as if the United States is taking sides against us. I am like the American who prayed "Oh Lord, if You cannot help me don't help the bear". It would be a very great pity if differences about the method of approach were represented as differences of policy between our two countries and still worse if they became public.

We are discharging an international duty and are resolved not to be bullied any further by Naguib either in the Canal Zone or in the Sudan. I have reached my limit. We are neither unable nor afraid to deal with Naguib ourselves. But even if we have to continue keeping 80,000 troops in the Canal Zone I assure you that in no circumstances will Her Majesty's Government abandon the United Nations crusade in Korea. At present we seem to be heading for a costly and indefinite stalemate both in the Middle East and the Far East instead of helping each other to reach conclusions agreeable to world peace at both ends.

Tito seems full of common-sense. He is definitely of opinion that the death of Stalin has not made the world safer, but he believes that the new regime will probably feel their way cautiously for some time and even thinks that there may be divisions among

¹ Sir Roger Makins delivered this message to the White House on Mar. 19. (Presidential Correspondence, lot 66 D 204, "Churchill Correspondence with Eisenhower, February 1953 thru March 1955")