

12th November, 1951.

My dear Mac,

Thanks for your long and most interesting letter. It is not difficult to recognise the resurgence of the old Asiatic pattern:- the semi-divine supreme and exclusive potentate surrounded by a dense web of intrigue impermeable to truth or justice. If old Europe had possessed "all the answers" she could by now have levered the East out of this, for good (i.e. permanently); but the real progress that had been made has been jettisoned and I fear that "democratic India" is nearly as much a facade of make believe as is democratic Russia.

I like the Americans, whose most dangerous fault is that they seldom give themselves time to think - and some things are best thought slowly. They are not "souless" but they are prone as a "thought substitute" to turn on a jet, or gush, of ready-made and therefore somewhat trite emotion. In exchange, however, their capacity to "get going" in an enterprise is impressive, and half-jealously, half-enviably, they love Europe too.

I am greatly delighted at your enterprise in taking up the cholera group. Of course, you are right, a very large amount of constructional work is required; but to commit yourself for ten years does not seem so serious when you see so many people who have accomplished just about nothing in the

last ten years or so; and such work as you propose is of very solid and permanent value. Good luck to it.

Please do not ever hesitate to write, when you feel in the mood for it. It is a great pleasure to me.

With kindest wishes to your wife and family.

Sincerely yours,