

4519 West Fifteenth Ave.,

Vancouver, 8 B.C.

March 7, 1955

My dear ECF :

I am sorry to have delayed so long in answering your letter -- a friend of mine has been going through a pretty severe domestic crisis and needed a friendly shoulder to weep on. Indeed, don't we all? To say that I was shocked to hear of the affair at the MGH is to put it mildly. I heartily agree with you that there was no need of such harshness and that a dignified arrangement could have been made that would have spared Norena this quite unmerited and savage humiliation. What a blessing it is that you and Rae Chittick are there for her to turn to in this crisis.

I am sure that you are right in urging her to finish up the work for her degree and if this can be arranged at McGill so much the better. Do you think, however, that if she could get away from Montreal for awhile she might get over the shock more rapidly? I am venturing to throw out a hint to that effect in the accompanying letter to her. The idea I have in mind may not appeal to her at all

and if it doesn't I shan't mind a bit if she just ignores it. At least it would have one advantage -- she would be kept busy in a reasonably congenial environment and need not break any ties with Montreal and her friends there. Furthermore, she would not be too far away to be in touch with her doctor. Please give her the letter with my love and I hope she will want to talk it over with you but if she would rather not do so we shall both understand and sympathize. My own instinct in a somewhat similar situation was to go off by myself and fight it out alone and perhaps that may be best for her, too.

Freya Stark and I are pursuing our Quest in Ionia, thanks to your good offices, and now you offer me "Seven Years in Tibet." Would I like it -- of course I would, you generous soul but don't you think it ought to be on a "lease - lend" basis? Except "Lord M", with whom I am hopelessly infatuated.

Apropos of Freya and the terrain she covers in her quest -- this is the Lawrence of Arabia country -- in his twenties you will remember that he worked on the excavations at Carchemish and visited the various Crusaders' castles. The Aldington attack on him is a pretty grisly business and I was glad to see that in a recent Third

Programme BBC broadcast, Sir Ronald Storrs took Richard to the cleaners. It was a subtle and scarifying job and even Aldington's thick hide must have been removed in spots at least. Sir Winston also had a word or two to say. "The Listener" carried Storrs verbatim and you have probably seen the text. I'm wondering whether the publication of Lawrence "The Mint" may have had something to do with the timing of Aldington's vicious attack. There must be some red faces in the RAF upper echelons these days judging from the excerpts that I have happened to see.

Well, I must stop havoring and write to N. Not an easy thing to do.

Sincerely and gratefully,

E.J.