

May 25 1945

Dear Ones,

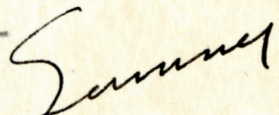
The weather is wonderful - a cooling breeze is blowing off the ocean and although assorted papers are flying all around the office and we ^{need} about six more hand grenade paper weights, it is pleasant and comfortable. The nights are cool enough for a blanket or two. Last night we played poker - I took a nap early in the evening for a couple of hours and I read a little. Today is just moderately busy in the office, and tonight Hal will probably come over and we will go to services. (Lest you worry, Daddy, I won again in the poker game, and that puts me well ahead for this month!) With this perfect weather (of course it still manages to rain around midnight every night!) we are looking forward to the end of the current airmail shortage - I hope that it is more than mere wishful thinking. It is good volleyball weather, too - but again we played a very poor game last night; for ~~me~~ reason I felt as though I had a ton of lead on each foot - maybe I'm putting on weight again.

I enjoyed your letter on the nature and importance of San Francisco, Daddy. I agree with you that few nations can afford to throw stones since all of us live in glass houses of our international morality. Last night one of the radio newscasts told that France had garrisoned troops in Syria and Lebanon in apparent contradiction of her recognition of their independence; I am a little in the dark on the progress and results of the current discussions on mandates and trusteeships and independences - is a distinction being made between military and naval territories and predominantly political territories. In other words, will the Marianas be under the same blanket agreement as Palestine? I hope not. With the exception of the Pacific islands which are not in themselves of large political or social significance or world dispute, it seems to me that there are few "mandate" areas which do not deserve separate and individual consideration from either the conference or a conference committee. As for the French action, it would certainly seem to be a wedge for Zionist leaders to use: it is a rebuff to the Arab leaders, it is an inference that the French (and British?) can not trust the military and political security of the Levant to the Arab powers, and it brings up the entire question of the revision of mandates.

I see that the discussion over military service is still going on in the columns of the Times, but there seems to be little action on it elsewhere. I still feel that for many reasons, it is an idea that should be adopted: we are committing ourselves to the enforcement of peace - to prepare ourselves for that is not be warlike or to be preparing to fight our allies or to be sowing the seeds of mistrust. From the other approach, private education is not being imposed upon, and I know from my own experience that one year in the Army gave my education a finish which I never could have achieved in a college. But I have gone over all these arguments before - perhaps with the end of the war in Europe, Truman will sponsor this legislation and settle the current dispute by clearing the ground for a Congressional decision.

I don't quite comprehend your reaction to the idea of Europe's going left, Daddy; it would seem to me that that would throw you into the greatest consternation. The reconstructed Europeans are seemingly going to build on the basis of nationalized industries and services and when the reconstruction is over, there is no reason to assume that they will not continue with economies which call for national industrial and social planning. A question: does this fact deny to them the possibility that they can develop functioning political and economic democracies on a broad basis: does the fact that they will have planning mean that they are doomed to evolve into dictatorships or can they retain their effective democratic and popular controls over their governmental activities?

OK for now - all my love to you all -



Regards to Doris.