

May 21st, 1940.

My dear Butler,

Perhaps I ought to pass on to you the following. A friend of mine tells me that he had lunch with the Italian Naval Attache last Friday, and that the Attache, who is very pro-English, told him "that the Fascist Government is 'waiting for a gesture' from the Allies, as it feels that it cannot take the initiative itself. I know Count Capponi well and he told me this as if it were inside information. He begged me to make it known to anyone who would be able to pass it on to the right quarters."

The above does not sound to me very solid, but perhaps I should send it to you.

Things have moved regrettably far since we talked about possible conditions of negotiation. I hope they may return, and that we can have another talk of the same kind in due time.



FOREIGN OFFICE,  
S.W.1.

22nd May, 1940.

Mr Noel Buxton

Many thanks for your letter, telling me of your friend's message from the Italian Naval Attaché. It is difficult to know how much weight can be given to the statement, but it is interesting. It was very good of you to pass it on to me, and I shall see that it reaches those concerned here.

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Yrs sincerely

R. Butler

I shall be very glad to

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you explain.

The Right Hon. Lord Noel-Buxton.

R A Butler

Board of Education,  
14, Belgrave Square,  
London, S. W. 1.

28th August, 1943.

Lord Noel Buxton

Many thanks for your letter of the 12th which was awaiting me on my return from a short holiday.

It is most kind of you to write as you do about the way in which my education proposals have been received and I greatly appreciate your congratulations.

As yet, of course, I have not been able to read your article in the "Contemporary" on Germany and the Hitlerite State but I hope to get an early opportunity of doing so.

Yours sincerely  
R A Butler

The Rt. Hon.  
Lord Noel-Buxton,  
Crosslee Hotel,  
Woking.

THE MASTER'S LODGE,  
TRINITY COLLEGE,  
CAMBRIDGE.  
TELEPHONE 58201.

20 May 1968

From Professor Fieldhouse

By all means get in touch with me when you arrive in England. I must reserve my position about a negotiated peace.

I am in London quite often in the middle of the week and here the rest of the time. It is better to communicate with this address than the London address.

John  
Butler

7.10.

Professor H.N. Fieldhouse

Cambridge. 10 am June 3<sup>rd</sup> - night -

NB did appreciate R.A.B.

R.A.B. Control - Thought it was of R.A.B. Control - & Churchill would have  
known of F.O. when (1) W.C. was P.M. (2) to get rid  
of Halifax to bankruptcy.

from the  
from R.A.B.

The NB pt. was sent received since 9th Oct. in statement - g.v.

Churchill The Cont. man to agree w. NB & Co. Feb. 1941 but  
gone, it did mean a provision of our own mind.  
Halifax more thoughtful

The time - W.C. was P.M. in May - Feb. end for N.B.

R.A.B. says was kept working in 1941 - did contribute  
to fuggle matter & long time. From W.C. same then.

R.A.B. thought has 'Munich' reports changed her course as  
Comms. M.

*[Large handwritten signature]*

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