

McQueen⁶ and Clabon,⁷ the former my Deputy, the latter my Administrative Officer. If I must reduce, let me hasten to say that reduction is possible. Of my own volition in the interests of due economy, I sent five soldiers home last month, and I can cut down some more. The job of Military Deputy and Administrative Officer might in one way or another be combined. Again it might not, in which case I could repatriate my Sergeant-Major. McQueen has been here 18 months, and believe me, the Quadripartite machinery of Berlin is very complicated. A stranger wouldn't get it in 6 months, nor would the Archangel Gabriel. So much that we do must be on the 'old boy' basis, and to do this one must be an 'old boy'. And so I know that the continued service of McQueen is essential for the well-being of this outfit, and to prevent it from developing creaks in every joint. For myself, I have passed the age, nor, if you will bear with me, would it be fitting for me to run my legs off in garages, supply depots, the offices of third secretaries and the like.

You have intimated that you wish to send me Hurley,⁸ and I gather that McQueen and Clabon should disappear. Let me come back at you and earnestly recommend that McQueen be retained and Hurley be posted elsewhere. I have yet to hear that you have a superfluity of officers (unless perhaps it be Ambassadors, with whom at the moment I am not concerned). But let me repeat, you cannot completely civilianize this Mission with success. If you do this with new blood I can guarantee that the weepings and wailings that you will get from whoever may be trying to run it at the time will outdo the lamentations of Jeremiah at the service of Tenebrae during Holy Week. Believe it or not, they will fully measure up to those that were emanating from 72, Avenue Foch, some eighteen months ago.

All this from the heart. The laboriously compiled book will be dispatched to Mr. Pearson by the next bag.

Sincerely,

MAURICE POPE

⁶Le colonel/Col. J.G. McQueen.

⁷Le capitaine/Capt. A.W. Clabon.

⁸Le colonel/Colonel J.J. Hurley.