

SECTION C

LA MISSION MILITAIRE AUPRÈS DE LA COMMISSION ALLIÉE
DE CONTRÔLE EN ALLEMAGNE
MILITARY MISSION TO THE ALLIED CONTROL
COMMISSION, GERMANY

11.

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*Extrait d'une lettre du chef, la mission militaire
auprès de la Commission alliée de contrôle en Allemagne
au sous-secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures*

*Extract from Letter from Head, Military Mission
to the Allied Control Commission, Germany
to Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs*

PERSONAL AND MOST CONFIDENTIAL

Berlin, March 10, 1947

My Dear Mike [Pearson],

Your letter of the 19th of February, which mark you, only reached me on the 8th of March, ordering the civilianization of this Mission has pretty well disembowelled me.

...

As for your general plan of administration, I shall write you a 'Dear Mr. Pearson' letter to go out by the bag at the end of the week. The only irksome thing about it is that you have imposed upon me the obligation to write a book which nobody will read. Take heart, however, because at the moment I plan to give it a succinct conclusion, which perhaps might catch somebody's eye.

In the first place, let me say that whereas a large measure of civilianization in this outfit is quite feasible, our circumstances are such that the retention of some military people is essential, and this beyond question, and in spite of what the Army at home may think about it. This is a view with which I am sure Mr. Brooke Claxton will eventually agree. There is a qualification to this for so long as I can retain some of my present helpers in military guise the end result will be the same.

For my part, having suffered crucifixion during the '30s on Slater Street at the hands of External, I am at a loss to understand your pusillanimity in this Year of Grace 1947, two years nearly after the cessation of hostilities. I am afraid the old Department ain't what she used to be, for long since should you have been able to regain your former authoritarian position which, while usually beneficently exercised, was sometimes unfortunately mis-directed.

...

I said earlier that this Mission cannot be completely civilianized. Its Head could well be any one of your Foreign Service Officers, provided he have slapped on him some fictitious military rank. But it so happens that we live in and by the military machine which no one but a soldier can work. I have with me at the moment