

THORNHILL 248.

Pennine
1 Propaganda
2 Public Opinion
3 Fort Speeches

5¹ Febr. 40

DRUMLANRIG CASTLE,
THORNHILL,
DUMFRIESSHIRE.

Dear Noel Bunton

Very many apologies for not getting off a reply before. I did not mean to give you the impression that I wanted to avoid taking an unpopular line because of its unpopularity, or because of the effect against myself hereafter; but rather that whereas one can privately take this line direct with those in higher places, one only therefore say O! seems to increase resentment and reaction against what I consider essential, & matters become worse.

The English without wishing to sift accurate information from false rumours and without

endeavouring to ascertain the facts, seem to be convinced that Hitler's one & only object is, & has been, to destroy Britain, & that every effort now & for months past towards peace must be regarded as a trap to be avoided at all costs. Every statement from the Government seems to be more of a challenge and to put mediation and peace further away. The Gross broadcast indicating our intention to starve and strangle by economic warfare sounded like a challenge to Hitler to avoid this by invading other neutral countries, and an argument for obtaining their supplies by this method. Unless the war with Germany is closed, the end of Finland seems certain some day, & others too. Hope to see you this week. you wrote from Humble. What are Poliwalt's views?

W
Buccleuch.

Memo
Sorry I can't
come Weds

DRUMLANRIG CASTLE,
THORNHILL,
DUMFRIES-SHIRE.

WV

6th March, 1940.

Dear Noel Buxton

You will be disappointed with me for not answering your letter sooner and for not complying with your request to add my name. I am not at all pleased with my refusal, but there it is. I have done and will continue to do what I can direct with our political rulers and others above me. In common with a number of other peers who support you on parallel rather than on exactly similar lines and who are also doing what they can in their own ways, I hope our combined efforts may have some influence in the right direction, but the present situation and outlook are very disquieting.

I may just possibly come south early next week, but I do not think I can manage another visit till the beginning of April.

yours sincerely
Buccleuch

Lord Noel-Buxton,
18, Cowley Street, S.W.1.

15th Aug 40

Disownage (Dominion)
Ed in clerical
DRUMLANRIG CASTLE,
THORNHILL,
DUMFRIES-SHIRE.

Dear Noel. Blackton

Your appreciation of the position
is excellent. I enclose my last
note to Halifax & his reply, which should
be treated as private. I would like
to say more, but those with power are
adamant. The natural sequel is
that Germany will be forced into a
bloody attack on this island with
a consequential situation far worse
for each of us. Will they try it?

Preparations seem to be well advanced.
Till now our political rulers have
consistently underrated their striking
power or been surprised by innovations,
and have imagined ourselves to be more
prepared than we were. This time
they should know the comparative
strengths. Are we helping Europe by
our policy? However successful in
our own defence, how are we to turn
the tables on Germany without appalling
tragedies in Europe first. This is true
now as last September. yours
Please return the two letters. Bueclinch.

A to Sec.

CPM
pl ret

DRUMLANRIG CASTLE,
THORNHILL,
DUMFRIES-SHIRE.

24th May, 1941.

Dear Lord Noel-Buxton

(Lushin)

I have read your interesting Memorandum and feel a considerable measure of agreement with your sound expression of opinion.

It is almost impossible to forecast sudden changes in the war situation which might bring us any real advantage and the military triumph that so many hope to see. An indefinite prolongation of hostilities may lead to a decisive result in our favour, but there is insufficient reason to anticipate that this would result in a happier and more lasting peace and it does not justify the cost in life, destruction, and permanent damage of different kinds, as well as the extension of misery and suffering for many nations in Europe. It always seems wiser to seek a means of putting an

yes!
real ph.

end to the struggle before the British and German people weaken and destroy one another to the advantage of other nations. Some day the German people will themselves destroy Hitler and his unscrupulous gangsters. Meanwhile (any independent expression of opinion is dangerous, and people driven, as they are now, to extreme hatred are not likely to give any sympathetic attention to what you have written.

X for us or
to cause.

I hope someone in your position will be allowed some confidential indication of the information disclosed by Hess, and whether he has hinted at any ways in which the war might be brought to an end.

Thank you for your letter and for sending me a copy of the Memorandum.

yours Sincerely
Bacchus

The Lord Noel-Buxton.