

a

TELEPHONE:

2841 }  
1506 } HUDDERSFIELD.

3

28, WESTFIELD AVENUE,  
OAKES,

HUDDERSFIELD.

John

Feb 24/25

Dear Noel

I do not come to London  
until Thursday morning  
I cannot therefore accept  
your invitation for lunch  
on Tuesday.

97 I should be glad to come  
on Thursday if that will  
suit you or I could see  
97 you on Friday morning if  
convenient to you. I  
return to Huddersfield  
on Friday night

Yours  
Ben Riley

Hankey. Genl. Feb '35.

Australia. wrongly related to  
favours corruption. is sea power  
Hank of Japs. Don't <sup>us</sup> man.  
They must defend selves.

Balkans. No! I'd pull it off.

Wiminter. Yes. Baldwin / most Lib.  
to all Lib now. Voters  
compel them even Neville.

Dir part. no plans poss.  
to us pd.

Collective Sec? Disturb 0<sup>2</sup>.  
esp France.

Simon. get him to country,  
& ed must play croquet  
bef d + backgammon after d  
w thy S!

HODDERZLIETD

OVKER

DE MERIETS VANDOE

Ideal-Say Col. Offawa  
28 Westfield Avenue  
Huddersfield  
Nov 27/39

Dear Noel

I have read very carefully  
your letter in the "Manchester  
Guardian" to day. I am  
afraid, however, I am still  
unconvinced that we  
could get any satisfaction  
out of Hitler by a Conference  
now. What undertaking  
either to abandon aggression  
or be prepared to see a  
restored independent Greece-  
Slovakia and Poland and  
agree that Austria shall  
exercise self-determination.  
will he give? And if he  
were prepared to give such  
an undertaking, as his  
word cannot be trusted  
what guarantees would he  
be willing to accept?.

If Hitler were prepared  
to declare that he would

Deniable

Go into a Conference organised  
by the big neutral governments  
with an agenda including  
the issues which drove us  
into the war then, I think  
there would be a great deal  
to be said in favour of  
such a conference. But  
is there any prospect of  
Hitler agreeing to a conference  
with such an agenda?

I am in favour of the  
idea being pushed, but  
we want some sign from  
Germany if anything is  
likely to develop.

What do you think  
of P. M. Chamberlain's  
broadcast? He seems  
to have made a real  
effort to meet the demand  
for a statement of "peace  
aims". Personally I felt  
his statement was convincing

Faithfully yours,  
Ben Riley

28 Westfield Avenue  
Huddersfield

Oct 29/39

Dear Noel.

I wrote to Boyle about  
6 weeks ago when the  
announcement was made  
that the Yugo-Slavs and  
Croatians had come to a  
final agreement to form a  
coalition government and  
I suggested the ~~Public~~ ~~Public~~  
Balkan Committee might  
appropriately send a letter  
to Belgrade and Zagreb  
conveying our congratulations.

Boyle replied that he  
would do so as soon as  
he had official knowledge.

I fully agree that we  
ought to be on the alert  
to give a lead if possible  
for a sound Balkan policy.

I am writing Boyle today  
suggesting a meeting

Yours  
P. Riley

a



28 Westfield Avenue  
Huddersfield.

Aug 26/44

Balkan

Dear Noel I presume you will have seen the Press reports regarding the Agreement which has been reached between Dr Subasic as the Prime Minister of the Royal Yugoslav Government and Marshall Tito as representing the Anti-Fascist and Liberation Committee. Dr Preece has sent me the details of this agreement which sets forth that both the Government and Marshall Tito as Commander of the Liberation forces are to work for the duration of the war in close co-operation to defeat the Germans and the two satellite Governments under Pavlovich & Nedice.

The Agreement is ratified by two declarations which were ratified and made public on Aug. 8th. These declarations — one by Dr Subasic and the other by Tito — pledge the respective parties to the Agreement to co-operate on the defeat of the common enemy; to pool all their resources; to work in close collaboration with the allied forces & allied governments;

to recognize Marshall Tito  
as the Commander of all the Yugo-  
Slav Liberation Forces; to call  
upon all Yugo-Slavs and parties  
to rally to the work under Tito's Command;  
to undertake that at the end of the war  
all the nationalities in Yugo Slavia  
shall have an equal & democratic  
right to decide on the ~~the~~ kind of  
Government to be set up at the end of the  
war; and to leave the question of the  
Monarchy to be decided by the people.

This means that ~~Mateo~~ Mihailovic is  
definitely repudiated and the Matchek and  
the Croat & other leaders are invited to  
decide upon lining up with the Liberation  
movement.

I have written Poole suggesting  
that when Parliament meets we ought to  
have a Balkan Committee meeting to  
decide whether we should as a Committee  
express our congratulations on the achievement  
of this measure of unity in Yugo Slavia  
what do you think?

I send you a copy of the Freedom of  
the Borough proceedings at Dewsbury on  
Thursday August 31. If it had were convenient  
to you I should be glad if you could come.  
Do not however put yourself out.

Faithfully yours  
Ben Riley

BC

28 Westfield Avenue  
Huddersfield  
Sept. 17/46

Dear Noel

You will I suppose have received a notice from Boyle summoning a meeting of the Balkan "Inner Committee" at Brown's Hotel on Tuesday Sept 26 at 4.30.

I hope you will be able to attend.

I wrote Boyle a few days ago asking whether he had in mind any statements we could make on behalf of the Committee regarding the future set-up of Yugo-Slavia and Bulgaria.

I understand there are two lines of approach. (1) a Federal Yugo-Slavia recognising equal rights for Serbia, Croatia, Slovenia, Bosnia, Herzegovina, Montenegro and that part of Macedonia which was in Yugo-Slavia until 1941.

(2) There is the idea of a Balkan Federation including Yugo-Slavia, Bulgaria and Greece.

From a document which reached me from Yugo-Slavia in America I gather that Dr Smolarka, who I believe is now Foreign Minister in the new Yugo-Slav Government is advocating the Balkan Federation — Yugo-Slavia, Bulgaria + Greece

My wife  
as feasible  
+ w/ offending  
Greece.  
It wd lead  
to (2)



Personally I cannot see Greece joining  
a political Federation of the 3 countries.  
An economic Federation is much more  
possible.

I had a letter a few days ago from  
General Velebit who asks me to see  
him and also Dr Subasic when  
Parliament re-assembles. I think that you  
and Boyle ought also to see them. You  
might get some guidance as to the line  
we ought to take.

Dr Bricanis has gone to Montreal  
as the delegate of the Yugo-Slav Government  
to the U.R.K.R.A. Conference.

I hope to see you on the 26<sup>th</sup>  
at Brown Hotel.

Yours

Ben Riley



House of Commons  
Oct 10/44

Dear Noel <sup>x</sup> I dep<sup>n</sup> <sup>uniformity</sup> <sup>re kind</sup> <sup>of</sup> <sup>republic</sup>  
It imposes

I have received Boyer's  
draft and on the whole I  
think it is quite suitable.

I have written to him  
suggesting an additional  
paragraph emphasising  
the necessity of the  
Allies abstaining from  
trying to impose the  
constitutional <sup>form of</sup> government  
on any of the Balkan Peoples.

It I think is most  
important that each Balkan  
country must be absolutely  
free to settle the question  
of monarchy or Republic.

In the case of Yugoslavia  
there is also the question

of the component parts  
of the Federal State. My  
own opinion is that provision  
must be made for a measure  
of autonomy for each of  
the national minorities  
within the United States.

Of course this means that  
the ~~respective~~ functions of the  
respective local diets and  
the Central Government would  
have to be settled by  
agreement among the respective  
nationalities.

Faithfully yours  
Ben Riley