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Valley Club of Montecito,
Santa Barbara, California.

January 5, 1942.

Mr. James Bryce, Supt.,
Dumbarton Oaks,
3245 "S" Street,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Bryce:

Your letter of the 26th of December came just before an appointment made with Mrs. Bliss for a talk regarding certain phases of the Dumbarton Oaks situation. A letter also came from Mr. Thacher giving practically the same news as to the probability of the "heads" asking a complete closing of the greenhouses and making it necessary to transfer all plants, which it is hoped to save, to the Orangery near the house. The Madame was more disturbed by this suggestion than I have seen her in a long time, as she felt that the pressure was being made increasingly on Mr. Thacher to sacrifice the plants and the outdoor aspect of the place. Mrs. Bliss appreciates the difficulty of Mr. Thacher's position but she evidently deeply resents the idea of closing all the greenhouses, unless a government order or request is forthcoming. Both Mrs. Bliss and I realize that the plants, if moved to the Orangery, will not only be crowded and difficult to keep in anything like good condition, but that they will also completely block any work of Miss Sweeney's classes, as every inch of space in the Orangery would have to be used even to keep the minimum number of plants, which should be retained.

In order that I may have the heating problem clearly in mind so that intelligent suggestions can be made as to which further houses could be rightly closed, I am sending you a separate sheet on which you could just initial the source of heat of the individual house. For example, the garage heating plant obviously must be run in order to warm the apartment. Perhaps it will be possible to reduce the fuel consumption on the garage furnace plant

by closing one more house: four have already been closed and this would leave only two houses to be heated from the garage plant - the orchid house and the upper house immediately above it. Would there be any way of eliminating the storage house fire and putting the plants for storage into the now closed cool house on the west side of the garage court and heating this house, thus keeping all of the heating on one boiler?

The Madame realizes what special care must be given to some of the plants she considers almost indispensable for the decoration of the house, and she also realizes how many years it would take to replace many of them, which are in a way as much a part of the furnishing of the rooms as the chairs and tables and the objects of art.

The Madame was so disturbed about the suggestions that she told me she could not speak of them, and I could see that she was making a great effort to keep her self-control.

In this morning's mail a letter has come from Professor Sachs, from which the following paragraph is quoted to you:

"In view of the uncertainty of these times, it seems to me that, we must review with care and thought each time the question of new planting of flowers comes up. It is naturally my hope that as few changes as possible will have to be made, but until this emergency is over we may have to curtail our activities in many ways which we do not like."

It would seem as though Professor Sachs suggests that all the garden annuals be made subjects of individual review and thought. This suggestion also is bound to disturb Mrs. Bliss profoundly.

A nice letter has just come from Mr. Russell, giving us his good wishes for the New Year and telling me that he had just seen Miss Sweeney, who seems active and keen on her job. I am distressed to hear from him that Ralph is being taken from your group and made one of the Library staff members. Is this likely to mean a reduction

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in his salary and eventual dismissal? I cannot imagine how Dumbarton would get through these difficult days without you, your good sense, balance and constant willingness to help the project which you know lies so deep in the hearts of the Ambassador and the Madame.

Please send me the answer to the sheaf of questions as soon as possible, and with best wishes, I am

Yours sincerely,

QUESTIONS.

Please put the initial "G" after the buildings normally heated by the garage heating plant and "S" after the buildings normally heated by the storage plant.

1. Garage and living quarters.
2. Cool house on west side of service court.
3. Two upper level greenhouses and potting shed.
4. Two lower level greenhouses (orchids and cool growing house).
5. Northern small cool growing houses. (2)
6. Old woodshed and toolhouse. (Is any heat necessary?)
7. Workshop and working garage. (Is any heat necessary?)
8. Storage house.
9. Gardeners' cottage.
(As I remember it, the quarters is heated from a separate furnace.)