



OCCIDENTAL COLLEGE
1600 CAMPUS ROAD
LOS ANGELES, CA 90041-3314

August 26, 1993

Dear Bill,

I assume that you had a good time on your vacation. From the news reports, you and the family certainly seemed to be having fun.

Our trip to Australia went very well. It was not too strenuous for Ruth. We were treated as honored guests by our host, the Committee for the Economic Development of Australia--a bi-partisan, mainline business group--which meant that we had car and driver at hand, so Ruth didn't have to do too much walking. She's now back to three-quarter strength, and going into her office for some of the day.

While in Australia, I spoke at the business-sponsored conference on the economic future of the country. I also spoke off-the-record at luncheons with the heads of Australia's major countries, and I did some public talks with government folks--one with the new Australian Ambassador to the U.S., economist Don Russell and one with the Prime Minister's chief advisor and speech writer Don Watson (I sent you the clips on these events, along with a stack of Australian mysteries). In addition, I met with the Minister for Industrial Relations, and other economic staffers. And because of the interest in your new administration, I did television and radio appearances on the major public affairs shows.

Under separate cover, I'll send you an issues memo on Australia and a book of Prime Minister Keating's speeches. Keating is scheduled to visit you in mid-September, and I think that you'll find him interesting. He's almost the same age as you, and according to his aides, he was inspired by JFK. Keating comes from a working class Irish family, and supposedly when Kennedy became President, Keating told his friends, "If that Mick can get the top spot, so can I." It will probably be a thrill for him to see your JFK desk (and if you're thinking of a gift for him, something Kennedy-related would be appropriate). Keating is not as populist in his tastes now; he collects French clocks and likes to listen to classical music on CDs. I think that the two of you will get on well, and I think that there's a lot of potential as I said in my talks down under for a US-Australian partnership in Asia, and with such initiatives as APEC (which was originally a proposal of the previous Australian labor PM Bob Hawke; Keating was Treasurer under Hawke). More on these matters in my forthcoming memo.

I think that I performed quite well in public and private on this trip. I enjoyed the work, and the experience convinced me that I definitely would like for you to name me as an ambassador. I know that I would do a good job and the experience would give me the background and credibility for the future, so that I might serve back in D.C. during your second term, if you so chose.

Emerson and Bruce ~~had~~ let me know what countries are still available and might be possible. Of these, my preferences (in order of priority) are:



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- (1) Singapore
- (2) New Zealand
- (3) Finland

My first choice is Singapore because I could put to use my knowledge of Asia, and I could play a role in helping to make APEC a reality. In fact, I would be happy to serve this fall as a consultant for you on APEC, and accompany you to the APEC meeting in Seattle, if you'd find it useful.

I learned a great deal about South Pacific issues while in Australia which are also relevant to New Zealand, and APEC questions also affect that country.

Re: Finland, I do have a background in Russian matters, and I've visited and lectured at universities in Norway and Sweden and met with government officials there, so I'm fairly up-to-date on Northern European issues.

I would be happy with any of these, but I think that I could be most useful to your administration as ambassador to Singapore. (There are also human rights issues there, and I'm strong enough to stand up on those if those are my official instructions.)

I've spoken to Wendy Sherman, Assistant Secretary of State for Legislative Affairs who handles confirmations of ambassadors. She's a longtime friend, and she assures me that I would not be a political problem for the administration. In addition, I am good friends with John Rich, staff director of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and he would work closely with Biden to see that my confirmation went smoothly. I will also, when appropriate, solicit letters of support from former Republican ambassadors like Mort Abramowitz, who's now head of Carnegie (I served on Carnegie's recent study group on US-Japan relations) and Richard Solomon, a longtime family friend, who was Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian Affairs under Bush and also ambassador to the Philippines. I'm currently an associate fellow of the Economic Strategy Institute, headed by Clyde Prestowitz (another Republican). ESI is solely funded by business, mainly by large companies like Ford, GM, Motorola, etc. My most recent public appearances have been sponsored by conservative groups, the Konrad Adenauer Foundation for my visit to Frankfurt, and the Committee for Economic Development of Australia, funded by major corporations.

The upshot is that I don't think that nominating me to be ambassador to a small country will cause you a political problem.

Ruth and I have talked at length about this, and this is the way that we'd like to be part of your administration. At this stage of the game, I don't seem to fit into your White House economic team nor into any other agency. I know that I contributed significantly to your election--and I've enclosed a memo that describes, from my point of view,



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much of what I did in the campaign and after as I tried to be a team player and go where I was put in Commerce. But, as you know, Ron treated me badly--as he did Sheila Anthony--and when Ruth got ill, it was not difficult to decide to return to LA.

There's no point in rehashing exactly what happened and why. We'd like to move on and be part of your administration abroad. I know that I have the ability to be a good ambassador--and I know that in the future, I will be a valuable friend and advisor to you, perhaps back in Washington. And frankly, in addition to our friendship of more than twenty years, I feel strongly that there's a political debt here that is owed.

I think that being named an ambassador is a good solution for now--what I call the Galbraith solution (Ken didn't fit into JFK's domestic scene, so the President made him ambassador to India). I hope that you're in agreement that this makes sense for both of us, and that you'll take the necessary steps to make it a reality. I get on with Chris, Tony, and Sandy--I worked with all of them during the campaign and they know that I played a role in promoting key foreign policy speeches and in working on your Japan policy), so I would hope that they would be supportive of this decision as well.

I hope that we get a chance to talk in person sometime in September. Perhaps, if you're planning a state dinner in honor of Keating's visit, Ruth and I can be invited. I'll know a lot of the people in his traveling party, and I recently had lunch with the new Australian ambassador when we were in D.C. for a wedding last week.

In any event, I'll check with Nancy about your schedule once I know when I might be visiting--and please let me know, if I can be a part of the planning for the APEC meeting in November.

I look forward to hearing from you or Bruce about the ambassadorship.

Give Chelsea our regards (Casey is now taller than I am!), and a hug to Hillary. Ruth greatly appreciated the handwritten note from the two of you, the flowers while she was in hospital, and especially the personal visit from Hillary while she was convalescing.

Warmest Regards,


Derek

enclosure- campaign activity memo

coming under separate cover: memo on Australian issues.

also a new mystery set in India.