

Pitt to Robinson
Copy
Bromley Hill Apr. 15th 1803

My Dear Sir

On receiving your letter yesterday I abstain'd
from doing more than acknowledging it, because I
felt unwilling to make any observations on the Subject,
which I considered / as I still do / as brought to a decided
issue. But on reflecting on some passages in that Letter
I am not sure whether they do not give reason to think
that you have in some respects understood what has
pass'd between us in a different light from that in
which I view'd it & in which I hoped it had been
distinctly plac'd by the whole tenor of the
conversation. I regret to those expressions which seem
to imply that you considered yourself as Authoriz'd
to state to your Colleague as specific & positive
propositions as made by me & as containing the
outline of a Plan of arrangement which it was for
them to consider whether they ought to recommend
to His Majesty to carry into effect. I certainly
did not consider myself as having made to you
any proposition on the Subject, but interview
originated as I conceive in a strong wish express'd
by yourself, that I might be induc'd to return to my
former situation in The King's Service. In that point
I stated that the only ground on which I could think
myself call'd upon to give any positive answer to
such a proposition, or to say anything which could

be in any degree binding with respect to the detail
 of any arrangement connected with it, was that of
 receiving some direct previous intimation of His Majesty's
 wish to that effect, with full authority to form for His
 Majesty's consideration a Plan of arrangement - in
any manner I thought best for His Service, as well
out of those that were in the former, as those who are
in the present Government. I added that the whole
& any part of such Plan when submitted to His
 Majesty, must of course depend on His approbation
 or rejection. That nothing would in any instance
 be so adverse to my sense of Duty & propriety, as to
 press for a moment any point that might not be
 consistent with His Majesty's opinion & Inclination,
 but that in case of any such objection, it must be
 open to me to Judge whether it did not in my
 opinion render it impossible for me to engage in
 His Majesty's Service. With respect to my Colleagues
 in the former Government, I also stated, that until
 I was enabled in consequence of such previous
 authority from His Majesty to make them a distinct
 proposal, I could neither be authorized to state, nor
 could in fact expect to know what would be their
 determination upon it. In all our subsequent
 conversation that had any reference to detail, I
 wished you to understand that I could only state
 to you the outline of my present Ideas of such an
 arrangement as the circumstances appeared to me

to require, in order to enable you to Judge how far in your present Situation you felt it to be your Duty to recommend to His Majesty to honor me with the intimation of His pleasure in which any proceeding must be founded, & finally in proceeding to explain these Ideas, I certainly apprized you in the strongest manner of my intention to include in any Plan of arrangement which I might submit to His Majesty former colleagues of mine, in case they consented, to whose opinion in the measures of Government, your Letter immediately refers. You will perceive therefore from this explanation that it does not in the smallest degree tend to vary the ground on which the objections of yourself & your colleagues to the Ideas I entertain appear from your Letter to be formed. Indeed no consideration would have induced me to trouble you with it, if I thought it calculated to produce such an effect, much less if it could lead to the possibility of reviving between us a discussion with respect to the object which was in view, which I consider as now finally & absolutely closed. My only motive has been the desire of endeavouring to prevent any possible misunderstanding with respect to what has passed in case it should ever become necessary hereafter to refer to any part of the transaction

I am
My Dear Sir

Yours sincerely

Sign'd / W. Pitt

Right Hon^{ble} Henry Addington.