

Copy

Letter from Mr. Addington  
to Mr Pitt Sept. 18<sup>th</sup>  
1803Rec<sup>d</sup> Sept 20<sup>th</sup> 1/2 past 9 P.M.

No 6

Downing Street Sept. 18<sup>th</sup> 1803

I am sorry that it has not been possible  
to turn an earlier answer to your letter  
which arrived late on Friday night. You must forgive  
me saying that if you had not discouraged my  
return to Bromley Hill on Thursday, you  
might perhaps have been saved the trouble of writing  
it. You have however I find been since inform'd that  
there had been no misunderstanding on the points to  
which you particularly refer, & that the communication  
was made to my colleagues in the manner you wish'd  
& were intitled to expect.

You say that "you do not consider  
yourself as having made to me any proposition  
on the subject & that our interview at Bromley Hill  
originated as you conceive in a strong wish expressed  
by me that you might be induced to return to your  
former situation in the King's service." It is certainly  
true that you originated no proposition, but some  
expressions which dropp'd from yourself at the close of  
our last conversation in January, & some information  
which reach'd me through a most respectable channel  
led me to believe that your view of the state of public  
affairs might induce you to conquer your personal  
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Pitt to Add  
Copy

Dorring Street Apt. 18<sup>th</sup> 1803

My Dear Sir

I am sorry that it has not been possible for me to return an earlier answer to your letter which I received late on Friday night. You must forgive me in saying that if you had not discouraged my proposed visit to Bromley Hill on Thursday, you might perhaps have been saved the trouble of writing it. You have however I find been since inform'd that there had been no misunderstanding on the points to which you particularly refer, & that the communication was made to my Colleague in the manner you wish'd & were intitled to expect.

You say that "you do not consider yourself as having made to me any proposition on the subject & that our interview at Bromley Hill originated as you conceive in a strong wish expressed by me that you might be induced to return to your former situation in the King's service." It is certainly true that you originated no proposition, but some expressions which dropp'd from yourself at the close of our last conversation in January, & some information which reach'd me through a most respectable channel led me to believe that your view of the state of public affairs might induce you to conquer your personal unwillingness to return to an official situation, provided you understood that such was the wish entertain'd in

the highest quarter & by His Majesty's confidential  
 servants. I accordingly determin'd to endeavour to  
 ascertain your sentiments upon the Subject as soon as  
 possible, & it cannot be necessary for me to say that  
 there never has been a moment in which I should not  
 have been ready & anxious to promote to the utmost  
 of my power the accomplishment of such an object.  
 you were however unexpectedly & unavoidably -  
 detain'd at Walmer, & till I learn'd that Lord Melville  
 was on the point of paying you a visit there, no favourable  
 opportunity occur'd of making the communication.  
 His Lordship inform'd me by a letter from Walmer, that  
 it was your opinion that you would not be of essential  
 service but by returning to your former situation in  
 the King's Government & that "nothing would induce  
 " you to come forwards but a distinct knowledge that  
 " your services / such as they may be / are wish'd, &  
 " thought essential both in the highest quarter, & by  
 " all those with whom in consequence of any arrangement  
 " that might be form'd on that ground you might be to  
 " act confidentially," and His Lordship afterwards,  
 stated in conversation that you had no wish for any  
 material change but such as might be necessary for  
 an arrangement which was mention'd by His Lordship,  
 and as I understood at your suggestion respecting myself,  
 and this with His Majesty's approbation, I had no  
 reason to believe might be carried into effect consistently  
 with the consideration that was due from me to my

Colleagues. I told His Lordship that to an arrangement of the description & on the footing which He had stated there should be no obstacle on my part, that I had not a wish for any official situation whatever, & I added in consequence of something which had fallen from Lord Melville that I could not accept of any provision,

You state that in the event of being called by the highest quarter you should expect to be authorized to form for His Majesty's consideration a Plan of arrangement in any manner you thought best for His service as well out of those who are in the present Government, & in another part of your letter you apprised me in the strongest manner of your intention to include in any Plan of arrangement which you might submit to His Majesty former colleagues of yours in case they consented, to whose opinion on the measures of Government my letter of the 14<sup>th</sup> undoubtedly refers. Upon this I have only to remark that His Majesty's servants did not think it proper or justifiable under the present circumstances to promote a course of proceeding which had for its object to new model, reconstruct, and in fact to change the Government instead of strengthening it as had been suggested by the union of those who had concurred in opinion respecting the leading measures; and that considering what had been the declared opinions & the conduct in Parliament of some of those whom it was proposed to comprehend in the

intended Plan of Arrangement, They could not consistently with what appears to them to be due to the Interest of the Public & to their own Characters, give their advice that Steps should be taken towards carrying it into effect. You repeat what you distinctly stated at Bromley Hill "that nothing could in any instance be so address'd to your sense of Duty & propriety as to press for a moment any point that might not be consistent with His Majesty's Opinion & Inclination," But the reservation with which this declaration was accompanied appear'd to the King's servants to lead to possible consequences to say the least, which they did not think it consistent with their Duty to have any share in incurring the hazard of producing.

I will only add that I am unwilling to advert particularly to the words "in case they consent" which you introduced towards the concluding part of your letter, but I am sure you will recollect the opinion which you fairly express'd to me on this point, though you certainly did not state whether or not that opinion was founded upon any communication with the Persons in question.

I have thought it right to say thus much in consequence of your letter, and I have really found it difficult to avoid troubling more at length

I. Sign'd / Henry Addington

The Right Hon<sup>ble</sup>. W. Pitt.