

Pitt to Mad

Copy

Miss Weycomb's Apr. 21<sup>st</sup> 1803

My Dear Sir

Having taken the first moment in my power to state to you by my letter of the 15<sup>th</sup> my views of what had passed between us, & to recapitulate the substance of the sentiments I wished to convey, little more can remain for me on any occasion than to refer to that statement. There are however two or three points in your letter of the 18<sup>th</sup> (which only reached me last night) on which I wish to make some remark. I am hardly aware for what purpose you refer to the short conversation which passed between us in January, but I am confident that you cannot consider any part of it as in any degree weakening the statement, that no proposition on the subject lately in question was ever made by me. That conversation was itself begun on your part, & I understood you to express in it an earnest wish (tho' certainly a vague & indefinite one) that if circumstances should appear to require it, I might be induced again to accept my former situation. The substance of what I said in answer, was, I believe, that I considered any thing of that sort out of the question at that moment; but that I by no means wished you to suppose that I had determined at all events to decline such a proposal, if any crisis of

difficulty should arise in which I might be called upon by His Majesty, & be satisfied that my services were thought necessary both by His Majesty & by His principal servants. With respect to the very unexpected proposal which I afterwards received thro' Lord Melville on his coming to Walmer, His letter from thence speaks for itself, & contains the whole of the sentiments I wished to be stated to you on my part in answer. I have very little occasion to observe on the reasons which you assign as having operated on the minds of your colleagues in forming their opinion in consequence of what had passed between us, further than to observe that I certainly never had any Idea of forming an objection to strengthen the present Government, but accepted (as I have repeatedly explained) to be called upon to form for His Majesty's consideration a new Plan of Arrangement, in which I undoubtedly wished it to be understood that a very large proportion of His present servants would be included. With respect to other Persons with whom I had formerly acted & whom I equally express'd my wish to include, I can only repeat to you that whatever opinion you might understand me to have form'd of the probability of their consenting to take part in such an Arrangement, I certainly stated to you in distinct terms "that  
"untill I should be enabled in consequence of —

Deu

"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" Having stated  
thus much on these points, I have only now to express  
my strong wish that if you should have thought or  
should think proper (as I imagine must unavoidably  
be the case) to lay before His Majesty an account  
of what has passed on this occasion, you may think  
it right also to submit to Him, both this Letter,  
and my former of the 15<sup>th</sup>. If you should feel any  
objection to doing so, I hope in that case you will  
have the goodness to apprise me, that I may  
consider in what other mode I may endeavour most  
respectfully to bring under His Majesty's observation  
what I am assured should be considered as containing  
my view of the transaction

I am  
Signed / W. Pitt /

Right Hon<sup>ble</sup> Henry Addington