



Candaferð forsætisráðherrahjónanna í september 1964, bréf

Bjarni Benediktsson – Stjórn­mál – Forsætisráð­herra – Vestur-Íslendingar – E. J. McGaw – Einar B. Guðmundsson – Frank Morris – Grettir Eggertsson – Hannes Kjartanson – K. G. Gunnarsson – Lester B. Pearson – Pétur Eggerz – J. Ragnar Johnson – S. Clerk Thorarinson(?)

Tekið af vef Borgarskjalasafnsins

bjarnibenediktsson.is

Einkaskjalasafn nr. 360
Stjórn­málamaðurinn
Askja 2-31, Örk 2

©Borgarskjalasafn Reykjavíkur

ÍSLENDINGADAGURINN

"THE ICELANDIC NATIONAL DAY"

Established 1889



Office of the Secretary, 246 Montgomery Ave., Winnipeg 13, GL 3-3454

WINNIPEG, MANITOBA

2nd Flr. 364 Main St.,
Winnipeg 1, Manitoba,
October 6th, 1964.

Prime Minister Bjarni Benediktsson,
Reykjavik, Iceland.

Dear Sir:

I wish to thank you for your letter dated September 22nd, and also to apologize for not writing sooner. As is the case with most lawyers, my personal work seems to get behind, and I feel guilty that it has been delayed so long.

I would like to extend to you, your wife and your son a most sincere and heartfelt thanks for your visit with us this summer. Your presence with us was directly responsible for making the Icelandic Day and the following activities a huge success and we are most grateful.

I of course can never repay the honor which was bestowed upon me, and merely wish to state that it was very deeply appreciated.

Some two weeks ago Mr. Kobbi Kristjansson, the Secretary of our Committee, and myself attended at the Office of Lieutenant-Governor Errick F. Willis to thank him personally for his many courtesies during the momentous week in August, and to present to him a silver rose bowl from our Committee. Mr. Kristjansson and myself were very appreciative of some of his remarks - particularly concerning his delight in having you, your wife and son staying at Government House. One remark he made was that "he had seldom encountered as fine goodwill ambassadors as yourselves" - also that "Iceland although a small country could set international examples to the rest of the world in manners and diplomacy".

No doubt the Lieutenant-Governor has expressed his thanks to you prior to this, and it is certainly not my place to mention what he has said; however, I was more than impressed

with his remarks and wish to convey in this letter not only our thanks from the Icelandic Celebration Committee but also the tremendously favorable reaction which you left behind with the head of our Manitoba Government.

With kind personal regards to you and your family and again many thanks.

Yours sincerely,

S. Aleck Thomson

sat:mm

Pétur Eggecz

Permanent Representative of Iceland
to the International Atomic Energy
Agency, Vienna

Ostende 12. september 1964.

Hr. forsætisráðherra Bjarni Benediktsson,
Reykjavík.

Einkamál.

Góði vinur,

Við Ingibjörg höfum fylgst með áhuga með hinni árangursríku ferð þinni og konu þinnar til Kanada og Bandaríkjanna.

Eftirfarandi upplýsingar sendi ég þér varðandi mál það sem við höfum skrifað á um:

Ég skýrði þér frá því 10. júlí, að ég skrifaði utanríkisráðherra. Þakkaði ég honum ambassadorstílinn, spurðist fyrir um hvort honum fylgdi launahækkun, og kvaðst vonast til að hann ^{gæfi mér} tækifæri til þess að verða forstöðumaður sendiráðs eins og jafnöldrum mínum sem þegar eru orðnir það. Utanríkisráðherra svaraði mér um hæl, eða 17 júlí, og var það vingjarnlega orðað bréf, og er ég þakklátur fyrir það. Hinsvegar kom þetta þrennt fram í bréfinu: 1) Mér er einungis heimilt að nota þennann titil í sambandi við Evrópuráðið, og þá ekki í sambandi við Alþjóðakjarnorkumálastofnunina. 2) Launahækkun telur hann ekki réttlætunlega. 3) Ósk minni um að verða forstöðumaður svarar hann ekki. - Þetta er ekki fullnægjandi lausn.

Það er rétt í mínum augum að Henrik, Hans, Magnús og Pétur skuli vera orðnir forstöðumenn. Það er ekki rétt í mínum augum, ef mér einum er hvorki gefinn kostur á að verða forstöðumaður, eða boðin bráðabirgðalausn sem er fast að því eins góð eins og að vera forstöðumaður.

Það er rétt í þessu sambandi að renna augunum yfir þróun

utanríkisþjónustunnar. Þar sem ekki hefur verið horfið að því ráði að láta ráðuneytisstjórarstarfið í íslenska utanríkisráðuneytinu "rotera" ört eins og víða annarsstaðar, svo að þeir sem býða erlendið eigi þess kost að verða um tíma ráðuneytisstjórar, þá hefur farið svo að ég hef verið látinn starfa erlendis í 19 ár. Dóttir mín var 2ja ára þegar við fórum til London, og sonur minn er fæddur í Washington. Þannig hefur þetta starf mótað örlög og mentun fjölskyldu minnar ekki síður en mín eigin örlög. Skiptir því miklu máli að vinnuskilyrðin erlendis séu eins gleðileg og hægt er að láta þau vera. Ég hafði ekki upprunalega hugsað mér að dvelja svona lengi erlendis, enda þótt það hafi verið mér ánægja að vinna að hagsmunum Íslands þar. Hinu er svo ekki að neita að þessi langa dvöl erlendis hefur orðið til þess að skapa þær aðstæður fyrir mig og fjölskyldu mína að ég óska ekki eins og sakir standa að hverfa heim.

Góði vinur,

Ég kem til dyranna eins og ég er klæddur. Þetta ristir allt miklu dýpra heldur en ambassadortitlar og launakjör. Réttlætiskend mín hefur verið særð djúpu sári. Það hriktir í flestum þeim verðmætum sem ég hef lagt mest upp úr í lífinu, og sem ég hef grundvallað lífsskoðun mína á. 40 ára gömul vinátta okkar Henriks hefur orðið fyrir þungu áfalli vegna afstöðu hans til þessara mála. Sjálfur hef ég legið tvisvar fyrir dauðanum, 1959 og svo aftur nú fyrir nokkrum mánuðum. Ég rís hinsvegar fljótt upp undan hverju höggi, því að ég er frá náttúrunnar hendi stálhraustur og bý yfir miklu starfsþreki. Ég þakka þér fyrir það sem þú hefur fyrir mig gert, og bið þig að ~~hlada~~ halda áfram að veita mér liðsinni þegar tímabært og hentugt er til þess að koma málum mínum þannig fyrir að ég geti við unað.

Með bestu kveðjum til þín og þinna,

Þinn einlægur

P.S.: Ef það væri undir mig borið, hvað ég teldi viðunandi

bráðabirgðalausn, þá væru þetta óskir mínar:

1) Húsaleiga mín greidd á sama hátt eins og gert er fyrir hina fastafulltrúana tvo. Ambassadorstitill einnig fyrir hina alþjóðastofnunina sem ég vinn við, á sama hátt og Evrópuráðið. Þessa titla myndi ég ekki nota í Bonn, og ekki tilkynna þýska utanríkisráðuneytinu þá með tilliti til Magnúsar.

2) Mér gefin von um að vera gerður að forstöðumann eins fljótt og unnt er.

3) Að ég fái að halda þeim launum, sem greidd haf^a verið mér í mörg ár vegna Alþjóðakjarnorkumálastofnunarinnar, DM 300 á mánuði, en sem tekin voru af mér 1. janúar 1964.

584 Briar Hill Avenue
Toronto 12, Ontario

July 25th, 1964.

Keri frændi -

Our mutual friend Grettur
Johannson of Winnipeg has
just advised me that your
itinerary provides for a
stop-over in Toronto on
Saturday, August 1st.

Marion and I would

very much like to see you
and Sigríður and Björn,
and we will be at the
Toronto airport. I hope
we may have a few minutes'
visit.

Með sérstakri kveðju og
bestu óskum.

finn einlægur þrandi

- Ragnar Johnson.



CONSULATE OF ICELAND
TORONTO, ONTARIO

SUITE 2005, VICTORY BUILDING
80 RICHMOND STREET WEST
TEL: EMPIRE 3-0289

August 4th, 1964.

Hon. Bjarni Benediktsson,
c/o Hon. Errick F. Willis,
Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba,
Government House,
10 Kennedy Street,
Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Dear Bjarni:

Marion and I enjoyed very much seeing you and Sigríður again and to make the acquaintance of Björn, whom we think is a fine and personable young man. We hope you all enjoy your North American visit.

While you were here I forgot to tell you that I am well acquainted with your host Mr. Willis. We first became acquainted when he was a young lawyer and I was in the Law School. Please remember me to him.

On your return to Iceland please give our best regards to the President and Mrs. Asgeirsson and to our mutual relatives and friends.

With kindest regards,

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ragnar J.".

J. Ragnar Johnson Q.C.,
Consul.

JRJ:db

Maj. Gen. E. J. McGaw
1610 1/4 Northfield St.
Pacific Palisades, Calif.
USA



The Honorable Bjarni Benediktsson
Prime Minister of Iceland
Blonduhlid 35
Reykjavik, Iceland

FIRST FOLD

SECOND FOLD

AÉROGRAMME • PAR AVION

DO NOT USE TAPE OR STICKERS TO SEAL
NO ENCLOSURES PERMITTED

16104 Northfield St.
Pacific Palisades, Calif.
July 15, 1964

Hon. Bjarni Benediktsson
Prime Minister of Iceland
Blonduhlid 35
Reykjavik, Iceland

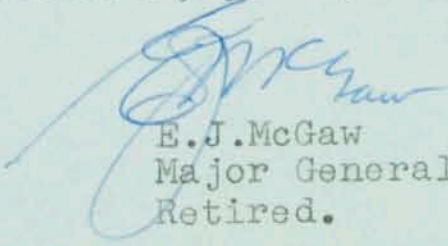
Dear Mr. Benediktsson:

Your letter of July 8th has just arrived and I hasten to confirm our plans. Mrs McGaw and I will come to the Ambassador Hotel as soon after 6PM on Aug. 15th as my earlier engagement will permit. Because it is an hour's drive to our home from the hotel we do not think it wise to have dinner at home that evening. Therefore we want you to have dinner with us as our guests at your hotel. Then on the following night we will meet at a pre-arranged time and proceed to our house for a buffet supper on the patio. If I have misinterpreted your letter and the latter arrangement is not compatible with your plans, they can be changed when we have dinner on the 15th.

I have not corresponded with many former members of the Defense Iceland/Force and of those whose whereabouts I know none live close enough to invite. It would be nice to have a larger reunion.

I am not sure this will reach Iceland before you depart but I am taking that chance. A reply is really unnecessary. As I said earlier we can make any modifications that you wish at dinner on the 15th. We are looking forward to your arrival.

Sincerely yours,


E. J. McGaw
Major General US Army
Retired.

FOLD SIDES OVER AND THEN FOLD BOTTOM UP
MOISTEN FLAP WELL AND APPLY PRESSURE TO SEAL

GRETTIR EGGERTSON
WINNIPEG, CANADA

123 Princess Street,
Winnipeg 2, Manitoba.
October 7, 1964.

Dear Einar:

This will acknowledge and thank you for your letter of October 1, 1964, which I received on October 3.

I am most pleased that Dr. Bjarni Benediktsson has consulted with you, Mr. Kjaran, and Mr. Ottarr Moller about establishing a University Fund.

At present I am endeavouring to place my ideas in writing and also wish to confer with some others to see if it is possible to have them also take part. I realize the first step is, of course, to establish this Fund and later invite others to join.

As soon as I have gone into the matter further, I shall write you more definitely and let you know when it is possible for me to visit Iceland and establish this project.

With kindest personal regards to your wife and yourself, Messrs Kjaran and Moller.

Sincerely yours,

Grettir Eggertsson (sign.)
Grettir Eggertsson.

Mr. Einar B. Guðmundsson,
Reykjavík, Iceland.

EINAR B. GUÐMUNDSSON

HÆSTARÉTTARLÖGMAÐUR

GUÐLAUGUR ÞORLÁKSSON

LÖGGILTUR FASTEIGNASALI

GUÐMUNDUR PÉTURSSON

HÆSTARÉTTARLÖGMAÐUR

SÍMAR: 12002, 13202 OG 13602

SÍMNEFNI:

TELEGRAMS:

} I S B J Ö R N

EBG/MS

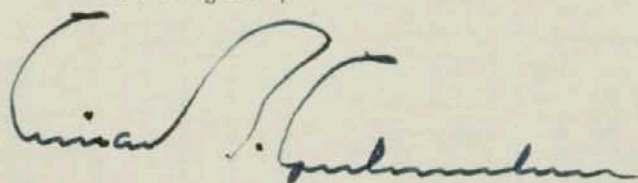
REYKJAVÍK, 12. okt. 1964.
ADALSTRÆTI 6, III. HÆÐ

Hr. forsætisráðherra Bjarni Benediktsson,
R e y k j a v í k.

Góði vinur:

Ég sendi þér hér með afrit af bréfi Grettis
Eggertssonar til mín, dags. 7. þ.m.

Kveðjur,



HANNES KJARTANSSON

551 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

MURRAY HILL 2-5433

August 7, 1964

Dear Bjarni:

I am sorry that I was not at the office when Bjorn called yesterday morning, and that I had not arrived at home when he tried to get me there last night. It is of course perfectly all right that the time of the dinner be changed from Monday until Tuesday night.

Yesterday I talked to Harald Faaberg. He now advises me that the Bruarfoss will not be leaving until the afternoon or evening of Thursday, August 20th. It therefore appears as if you will have two days in New York City.

Unfortunately I had planned a long time ago to leave for Iceland on August 19th. Because of definite arrangements which I have made in Iceland for the 20th and the 21st, it will be very difficult for me to delay my departure; but if for any reason you would rather I did that, I shall of course do so.

Harald Faaberg or his office will be able to supply you with a car and a chauffeur and take you wherever you wish during Wednesday and Thursday, and of course will arrange to take all of you to the Bruarfoss when she leaves.

On Wednesday, Mr. Ramsey of the Security Division of the State Department, called me and asked for your plans while in New York. At that time I did not know that the Bruarfoss would be delayed, but he told me that he or somebody from the State Department will meet you at Kennedy Airport at 4:50 on Monday afternoon. I shall of course be there also.

I ask you please to advise me whether you would like to go to the World's Fair, either on Wednesday or Thursday, and in that case I shall make some arrangements for you.

(continued)

HANNES KJARTANSSON

551 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

MURRAY HILL 2-5433

August 7, 1954
Please drop me a line or call me as soon as you can, after you have received this letter.

I hope you are enjoying your trip, and Elin and I send our very best regards to all of you.

*Rinnur
Hannes*

H.E. the Prime Minister of Iceland
Mr. Bjarni Benediktsson
c/o Banff Springs Hotel
Banff, Alta.

Yesterday I talked to Harald Fasding who advises me that the Bruarfoss will be there the afternoon or evening of the 10th and therefore appears as if you will have to leave New York City.

Unfortunately I had planned to leave for Iceland on August 11th. I have made arrangements which I have made in Iceland for the 10th and 11th. It will be very difficult for me to delay my departure. I would rather I supply you with a car and a chauffeur and have you wherever you wish during Wednesday and Thursday, and of course will arrange to take all of you to the Bruarfoss when you return.

On Wednesday, Mr. Kennedy of the Security Division of the State Department, called me and asked for your plans while in New York. At that time I did not know that the Bruarfoss would be delayed, but he told me that he or somebody from the State Department will meet you at Kennedy Airport at 4:55 on Monday afternoon. I shall of course be there also.

I ask you please to advise me whether you would like to go to the World's Fair, either on Wednesday or Thursday, and in that case I shall make other arrangements for you.

(continued)

1964 AUG 13 PM 4:39

*
BAYSHORE VCR

ICEFILLET SCDL

PLEASE GIVE THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO HON. BJARNI BENEDIKTSSON
WHEN HE ARRIVES:

Q13.AUGUST 1964

HEFDI VILJAD GERA RADSTAFANIR TIL AD SYNA THJER EDA YKKUR
VERKSMIDJU COLDWATER I MARYLANDN EF TIMI YKKAR LEYFIR.
EF FARID YRDI FRA NEW YORK AD MORGNI, IVAERI HAEGT AD
VERA KOMINN AFTUR UM KL 5 UM DAGINN.

VAR AD FA UPPLYSINGAR FRA STYRIMANNI A BRUARFOSSI, SEM ER AD
AFHLADA I CAMBRIDGE, AD HANN VERDI SENNILEGA FERDBUINN FRA
NEW YORK A FIMMTUDAG 20. AGUST.

MUN REYNA AD HRINGJA TIL THIN ANNADHVORT THARNA EDA A NAESTA
VIDKOMUSTAD THINUM.

KAER KVEDJA TIL YKKAR ALLRA. VONA AD FERD YKKAR GANGI VEL.

THORSTEINN GISLASON

*
BAYSHORE VCR

FEATURING ICELANDIC QUALITY SEAFOODS



COLDWATER SEAFOOD CORPORATION

SEAFOOD PROCESSING PLANT

NANTICOKE, MARYLAND

TRinity 3-2520

HOME OFFICE
666 THIRD AVENUE
NEW YORK, 17, N. Y.

August 28, 1964

Dr. Bjarni Benediktsson
Prime Minister
Reykjavik, Iceland

Dear Dr. Benediktsson:

Enclosed is a letter from Mr. Frank Morris, Mayor of the City of Salisbury. Mr. Morris was on vacation at the time of your visit and regrets that he missed the opportunity of personally welcoming you to Salisbury.

On behalf of all of the employees here in Nanticoke we wish to thank you for your visit. It was a great honor to have you here.

With best regards.

Sincerely,

COLDWATER SEAFOOD CORP.

G. K. Gunnarsson

GKG:bh
Encl.

The best fish come from Coldwater

City of Salisbury



MARYLAND

FRANCIS H. MORRIS
MAYOR
CHARLES E. LEYDECKER
EXEC. SECY.

August 27, 1964

Mr. G. K. Gunnarsson
COLDWATER SEAFOOD CORPORATION
Nanticoke, Maryland

Dear Kris:

I am very sorry I was unable to personally welcome the Prime Minister of Iceland, Bjarni Benediktsson, to Salisbury on the occasion of his visit to your plant last Thursday. My family and I were out of town on vacation and I was, therefore, unable to join the other County and City officials in properly extending an invitation to visit us again.

May I ask you to convey this invitation to him along with my regrets for missing the opportunity to meet and talk with him?

Sincerely yours,

Frank Morris
24.

Frank Morris
MAYOR, CITY OF SALISBURY, MD.

FM/flt



CANADA

PRIME MINISTER - PREMIER MINISTRE

Ottawa, July 28, 1964

My dear Prime Minister:

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you and Mrs. Benediktsson and your son to Canada on the occasion of your visit to Winnipeg to attend the Seventy-Fifth anniversary celebrations of "Islendingadagurinn" the National Icelandic Day in Canada.

I wish I could have accepted the invitation of the organizing committee to participate in these happy celebrations, but very much to my regret, parliamentary commitments in Ottawa have made this impossible.

I am nevertheless particularly pleased that the Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys, the Honourable W. M. Benidickson, one of our most distinguished Canadians of Icelandic origin has been able to represent me on this occasion. This is especially fitting in view of the close ties which link our two countries. The presence in Canada of so many citizens of Icelandic origin, and our common membership in the Atlantic coalition give these ties added significance and strength.

Please accept my warmest personal greetings and best wishes for a pleasant and successful visit to our country.

Yours sincerely,

H. E. Dr. Bjarni Benediktsson,
Prime Minister of Iceland.

FORSÆTISRÁÐHERRA

September 16th, 1964.

His Honor
Errick Willis
Lt. Governor of Manitoba,

Winnipeg.

Your Honor,

I repeat again my thanks to you and your wife for your gracious hospitality during our stay in Winnipeg. Our whole tour in Canada was very successful, at least from our point of view, and we will always remember both the magnificent country we saw and all the fine people we met. Since I came home I have been rather busy as was to be expected. Now we have suffered the loss of the highly esteemed wife of our President, who died a few days ago and was bur/ied yesterday.

As I promised I have got a miniature of the Grand Cross of the Falcon and the corresponding button which are enclosed in the envelope, as also are the stamps that my son promised to send.

Again our best thanks for all your kindness and regards to your wife and son from all of us,

Sincerely yours,