

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

December 30, 1944

Dear Amon:

I received your telegram of December twenty-first concerning the situation of our prisoners of war in Germany and more particularly the possibility of the President's seeing Colonel Thomas D. Drake about this problem.

My friends in the War Department who are familiar with such matters tell me that Colonel Drake has presented his views on numerous occasions to the War Department General Staff, the American Red Cross and representatives of the State Department. As a result of your telegram to me, these same officials have taken under consideration the present conditions in Oflag 64 and have discussed this particular subject with Colonel Drake. I have also learned that as a result of your recent communication to the Red Cross, that organization has requested Geneva for a detailed break-down of supply deliveries to Oflag 64 during October and November. The Red Cross representatives state that when the facts with regard to these deliveries are received, they will let you know as well as the War and State Departments.

Of course, I realize your interest and anxiety over the welfare of our people who are held by the enemy. However, from what I have learned, I am convinced that the State and War Departments and the Red Cross are thoroughly familiar with the conditions in the German prisoner of war camps and are doing everything possible to improve the situation. I assure you, as I said, the government through all of its agencies concerned, is doing all it can to help the men in German prison camps. Its efforts are continuous. Nothing is being overlooked.

You may have heard that for a while the Red Cross and the other agencies were not able to get these food supplies in because of unavoidable operational interruptions particularly as affecting transportation and distribution. I am assured that this condition no longer exists. I know this will be good news to you.

I am advised also that the Secretary of War personally provided a fleet of trucks and these trucks are being used now to take food, clothing and medical supplies to our prisoners of war

in German hands. These supplies are reaching the men in the camps and are being distributed generally among them in all the camps. The men, therefore, are receiving far more than the Germans provide.

Very sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. Early', written in a cursive style.

STEPHEN EARLY
Secretary to the President

Mr. Amon G. Carter,
Star-Telegram Building,
Fort Worth, Texas.