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To Professor P. M. S. Blackett,  
Pitcullen,  
Pinner Hill, Middlesex.

28th October, 1941

My dear Patrick

I am much worried by the hostile tone of your talk to me today. We have always disagreed, yet maintained an entirely genuine link of sympathy. I begin to doubt whether you still believe in this un-Marxist distinction.

I have gone to some trouble to find out the truth about Soviet Russia in the past and will be equally interested to recognise it in the future. All I have ever published on the subject is contained in the enclosed little book, which shares with few others the claim of withstanding the test of the last 5-6 years. Colin Clark has gone with a tooth comb ("four times", he wrote to me) through my paper "Soviet Economics" in 1935 and found its internal evidence right. Then a few years later in his Critique of Russian Statistics he discovered some errors now pointed out in the reprinted form contained in the book.

At the same time Clark wrote to me as follows:

"You may be interested to hear how the book was written. It began as a few notes designed to controvert your conclusions. I largely devoted the time on the ship between England and Australia to writing up my Russian material and the more I went into it the more I found myself in agreement with your Conclusions. The quotation on the front page was from Hugh Dalton. He said it in 1932 after his return from Russia but would not let his name be attached to the quotation. Perhaps now he would not mind if it had been. As it is, you were rather a lone prophet."

You will note, incidentally, that I wrote p. 90 that "U.S.S.R. might soon become a very powerful country."

I dare say if you and your friends had been as insistent an finding out the truth concerning the Soviet experiment, as I have been myself, we would now all face the future in a different world of mutual confidence. As it is, there seems to be little tradition left of sober and considerate agreement, and only the desire left to deal a blow. Such is my profoundly sad impression today.

Love to you and Pat,