

GRACE

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July 9, 1979

Mr P. Dalrymple,
3336 Lockheed Blvd., #204,
Alexandria, Virginia 22304,
U.S.A.

Dear Paul,

Very many thanks for your most interesting letter. I am afraid I cannot reply in such detail for the moment but may perhaps get the opportunity to see you before too long as I shall probably be in New York later this year and possibly also next year. I shall certainly let you know and will take the opportunity to telephone you.

As regards your question re Hillary and Fuchs at the Pole: there was certainly no feud. There is no doubt that Fuchs would have preferred our party to have remained at Depot 700 as originally planned until he arrived, but he did not, as overall leader, give us a direct instruction. He did, however, suggest obliquely by radio that he would prefer us not to push on to the South Pole. On Hillary's part, there was never any intention other than to go to the Pole. He deliberately took extra fuel and also carefully planned the radio messages that I sent in such a way that should we receive an instruction either from Fuchs or the Ross Sea Committee not to proceed, it would be too late as we would have passed the point of no return. Once we reached the Pole, followed by Fuchs, he and Hillary had a fairly cordial meeting, as Fuchs was sufficient of a realist to know that the deed was done and that, providing he maintained progress and reached Scott Base around the date planned, he would hopefully emerge victorious, probably be knighted and push Hillary's rather spectacular "dash to the Pole" into the background.

Ed published a very interesting book which you may or may not have seen "No Latitude for Error". This gives a fairly plain account of the incident. The thing that caused Fuchs more concern was Hillary's suggestion published world-wide that, because of slow progress, Fuchs should abandon the programme for the year at the Pole, return to the UK for the winter and come back the following year to complete the crossing. This idea in no

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way turned Fuchs on and, in fact, made him more determined than ever to reach Scott Base on the day predicted. I believe, in fact, he was within two days of his target date.

I would be interested to have anything that may have been published concerning our period at the South Pole and in Antarctica and would, therefore, much appreciate your forwarding anything that you can find.

In the meantime, Paul, thanks for all the information. Perhaps I shall see you before too long.

Kindest regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Peter D. Mulgrew', written in a cursive style.

Peter D. Mulgrew.