

Field Marshal Lord Harding of Petherton (1896-1989)

Lord Harding prepared the following autobiographical notes in instalments in 1974, which he sent to Hanna Nicholas

ASSORTED ARTICLES, LETTERS, EXTRACTS:

LETTER FROM THE PRIME MINISTER AT THE END OF LORD HARDING'S GOVERNORSHIP:

10 Downing Street

Whitehall

October 17

My Dear Field Marshal

I cannot allow the announcement of your impending departure from Cyprus to pass without letting you know personally of my feelings. Your tenure of office as Governor of Cyprus has been an extraordinary example of public service and devotion. When my predecessor asked you in 1955 to undertake this task we all admired the way in which you so readily put aside what would have been a very understandable desire to enjoy a well earned retirement. I cannot imagine a tougher assignment being given to any man nor can I think of any man who could have discharged it with greater distinction.

During the whole of your tenure of office Cyprus has been the centre of political and international controversies. This has made your task doubly hard but you have steered your course with such courage, fairness and skill that I feel no doubt that your Governorship will long be remembered with pride even by those who have not agreed with our policies.

We have all been filled with admiration at the way in which Lady Harding has so nobly shared in your arduous task. I do hope that you will both now enjoy to the full your delayed retirement. In sending you my good wishes I hope I have been able to express to you something of the great debt which the country owes you for you have done.

Yours very sincerely

Harold Macmillan