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Valley Club of Montecito,
Santa Barbara, California.

January 5, 1942.

Mr. James Bryce, Supt.,
Dumbarton Oaks,
3245 "S" Street,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Bryce:

Your letter of the 26th of December came just before an appointment made with Mrs. Bliss for a talk regarding certain phases of the Dumbarton Oaks situation. A letter also came from Mr. Thacher giving practically the same news as to the probability of the "heads" asking a complete closing of the greenhouses and making it necessary to transfer all plants, which it is hoped to save, to the Orangery near the house. The Madame was more disturbed by this suggestion than I have seen her in a long time, as she felt that the pressure was being made increasingly on Mr. Thacher to sacrifice the plants and the outdoor aspect of the place. Mrs. Bliss appreciates the difficulty of Mr. Thacher's position but she evidently deeply resents the idea of closing all the greenhouses, unless a government order or request is forthcoming. Both Mrs. Bliss and I realize that the plants, if moved to the Orangery, will not only be crowded and difficult to keep in anything like good condition, but that they will also completely block any work of Miss Sweeney's classes, as every inch of space in the Orangery would have to be used even to keep the minimum number of plants, which should be retained.

In order that I may have the heating problem clearly in mind so that intelligent suggestions can be made as to which further houses could be rightly closed, I am sending you a separate sheet on which you could just initial the source of heat of the individual house. For example, the garage heating plant obviously must be run in order to warm the apartment. Perhaps it will be possible to reduce the fuel consumption on the garage furnace plant

