



BRITISH CONSULATE GENERAL  
CLEVELAND, OHIO 44113

29 February, 1968

*Dear Mr. Meadows,*

I am enclosing the text of a message which the Secretary of State for Wales, the Right Honourable Cledwyn Hughes, M.P., who visited America last Fall, wishes to send to the Welsh Societies of America on the occasion of St. David's Day. I should be most grateful if the message could be brought to the attention of your members.

You may feel that some local publicity might usefully be given to the Secretary of State's message, if so, please consider yourself free to make such arrangements as you deem suitable.

*Yours sincerely,*  
*E. W. Cook*

E. W. Cook  
H. M. Consul

Mr. Jack Meadows,  
St. David's Society,  
████████ Southern Blvd.,  
Youngstown,  
OHIO.

MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
TO WELSH SOCIETIES OF AMERICA  
ST. DAVID'S DAY, 1968

---

It gives me particular pleasure to send St. David's Day greeting to the Welsh Societies of America.

Just how strong are the links existing between Welsh-Americans and the "old country" was brought home to me on my visit to the United States in October. It was a moving and humbling experience to see how even third and fourth generation Welsh-Americans retained their love of Wales and its ancient culture.

My most pleasant memories of this visit are those associated with the meetings I had with officers and members of the Welsh Societies in New York, Philadelphia, Washington, Pittsburgh, Scranton and Wilkes-Barre. The warmth and spontaneity of the welcome I received at each of these places was heart-warming in its sincerity. It was like meeting, not strangers, not friends even - but kinsmen.

This is the secret of the great Welsh family, scattered throughout the world - the fact that it remains a family with a family's sense of unity and inheritance.

The Welsh inheritance is a rich one and wherever Welshmen have settled, they have passed on some of this wealth. In the national struggle for freedom, the dispensation of justice, in social reforms, literature and art - including the 20th Century art of the cinema - and in industry Welsh-Americans have contributed to the remarkable development of their adopted country and enriched the reputation of the "Land of Their Fathers".

One of the things that impressed me most in my contacts with Welsh-Americans was the efforts being made to preserve and foster their sense of inheritance among the younger generation. The St. David's Society of New York, which did me the honour of making me an honorary life member, is one Society which has embarked on a campaign in this respect and I commend the initiative of its President, Mr. H. Lloyd Jones, and the Officers of the Society.

It would be wrong, however, for me to give the impression that Wales is a land obsessed with the past; we have a tradition and we are proud of it but we also have an exciting present and, I believe, a hopeful future.

The main purpose of my visit to the United States was to tell your businessmen and industrialists of the British Government's policy for regional development, and I was encouraged to discover that Wales is regarded in America as an excellent springboard for European and British markets.

The development of Welsh communications and industrial

It gives me particular pleasure to send St. David's Day greeting to the Welsh Societies of America.

Just how strong are the links existing between Welsh-Americans and the "old country" was brought home to me on my visit to the United States in October. It was a moving and humbling experience to see how even third and fourth generation Welsh-Americans retained their love of Wales and its ancient culture.

My most pleasant memories of this visit are those associated with the meetings I had with officers and members of the Welsh Societies in New York, Philadelphia, Washington, Pittsburgh, Scranton and Wilkes-Barre. The warmth and spontaneity of the welcome I received at each of these places was heart-warming in its sincerity. It was like meeting, not strangers, not friends even - but kinsmen.

This is the secret of the great Welsh family, scattered throughout the world - the fact that it remains a family with a family's sense of unity and inheritance.

The Welsh inheritance is a rich one and wherever Welshmen have settled, they have passed on some of this wealth. In the national struggle for freedom, the dispensation of justice, in social reforms, literature and art - including the 20th Century art of the cinema - and in industry Welsh-Americans have contributed to the remarkable development of their adopted country and enriched the reputation of the "Land of Their Fathers".

One of the things that impressed me most in my contacts with Welsh-Americans was the efforts being made to preserve and foster their sense of inheritance among the younger generation. The St. David's Society of New York, which did me the honour of making me an honorary life member, is one Society which has embarked on a campaign in this respect and I commend the initiative of its President, Mr. H. Lloyd Jones, and the Officers of the Society.

It would be wrong, however, for me to give the impression that Wales is a land obsessed with the past; we have a tradition and we are proud of it but we also have an exciting present and, I believe, a hopeful future.

The main purpose of my visit to the United States was to tell your businessmen and industrialists of the British Government's policy for regional development, and I was encouraged to discover that Wales is regarded in America as an excellent springboard for European and British markets.

The development of Welsh communications and industrial sites - practically the whole of the Principality is zoned as a Development Area offering special facilities and favourable investment terms for industrialists - has ensured that Wales is poised to take full advantage of this growing interest.

St. David's Day 1968 demonstrates once again the close ties that bind Wales and America, ties of blood, of culture, of religion and of affection. May it also augur a new and expanding economic relationship.

With this hope and in the spirit of St. David, I send you affectionate greetings on behalf of the people of Wales and assure you that our thoughts will be with you, not only today, but also throughout the coming year.

*C. B. Jones Hughes*