

THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY

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Department of Philosophy

November 11

Dear José,

I very much appreciated your letter and we were both unusually pleased with the gift for the baby. Francoise (by all means let's use first names) has written separately to thank your wife (whose first name I don't know). I believe that Jaime and I can talk freely to each other, and I hope that this will be of some use to him. We chatted for an hour or so on Sunday evening, and he will be dining with us on the 17th. In addition, I have invited him to watch football with me on TV on Sundays when and if he is in town. But my main task will be to put him into touch with people of his own age and interests, which it seems to me is his primary need. He is essentially "European" in his formation, and this makes it difficult for him to find his place among young Americans. But obviously the problem is not insoluble, and I trust that he will make good progress both in understanding himself and adjusting to local necessities.

Your letter also reminds me how much you and I have in common, philosophically. Since I myself am essentially a European and contingently an American, I suffer to some degree from a kind of "schizophrenia," which takes its sharpest form in bafflement as to my "place" in American philosophical life, or as to whether there is such a life. I hope that we shall see more of each other and get to know one another better. Needless to say, I am extremely interested to see *Being and Death*. May I also congratulate you on getting it published by an American Press! I may be consulting you about such practical matters in the near future. Princeton University Press, after soliciting my half-finished mss. on Plato's *Symposium* and expressing great interest, returned it with a curt "we are no longer interested." They told me only that they had acted on the basis of one report from a "well known" reader, but would not tell me what he said, except that his remarks were "general rather than line by line." I don't quite know where I shall send it next, but there are one or two possibilities. One handicap I suffer from is that I use many of the methods of Leo Strauss (although my results are often quite different), and he is widely disliked, both because he reads books carefully and because of his "conservative" political views. If one is a theoretical radical and a political conservative, there does not seem to be much room for such a man in American universities. Or so I sometimes feel.

Rest easy about Jaime, and do write again. Please remember our invitation if you want to spend a weekend in State College.

As ever,

Stanley

18-XI-64