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Maria Feodorovna to his son Michael.

Fredensborg, 12/25th September 1900

My dear darling Misha !

George and Minny will be leaving to-morrow and they will remit these few lines to you. I thank you with all my heart for your dear, interesting, last letter which made terribly happy and deeply touched me. I am waiting for you with the greatest impatience and am full of joy with the idea to, at last, seeyou again, my dear Mishkin. This time, our separation lasted longer than ever. I understand how much sadness you feel, being at our dear Spala the first time without darling Daddy and Georgie ! As to me, Spala just appeals to me, Spala, where we selected the place, build the house, etc. and were so happy !

However, there is something that upsets me terribly, i.e. that a stupid new house has been built just in front of the other one ! I can't understand why ! Nicky himself wrote that he received a "shock" when he saw it and thinks that this was an invention of Marquis, who wasn't our administrator anymore at that time.

My opinion is that you should arrive earlier, four days in the Islands are too much, it seems to me, especially if you have in mind to pass through Petersburg.

Lomen insists very much on having another officer appointed as aide to Astachev as he would have it very difficult if alone, so that for the moment Baschkirov will be on the Stella Polaris. He already left and is waiting for you there. Schtabelberg has a very high opinion of him and I am sure that you will be very pleased and as kind and charming to him as to everybody. I only hope that the sea will be calm and the crossing as marvellous as ours was. I wish, with all my heart, a happy voyage to you and everybody. Christ be with you, my dear Mishkin. My tenderest kisses to you.

With my warmest love.

Your Mummy.

I am very glad that Nicky is travelling with you.