Wrightwood Calif

August fifth 1946

Dear Hiss Baum,

Owing to heavy pressure of work, I have only recently had time to read Dr Merrell-Wolff's book, which you kind by sent me last April. I was much interested by is subtle analysis of a personal experience and by the phils ophical reflections, most of which I agree with --- though I wish I could share the author's conviction that power politics ON'S on the decline and that the technician is somminiment many without with a force opposed to power politics. Some men of science --- particularly those concerned with pure science and abstract mathematical problems --are extreme cerebrotonics (to use the phraseology of Dr William H. Sheldon, whose 'Varieties of Human Physique' and 'Varieties of Temperament' contain by far the most comprehensive, accurate andr ealistic analysis of human differences. But many technicians are extraverts of the somatotonic type --extraverts who turn outwards through love of power, through desire to make things and persons conform to their will --- not extraverts of the viscerotonic type, whose outward-turning is motivated by an indiscriminate love for human beings as such, by a desire for company and a longing to showexxx spill the emotional beatonin easy confidences. And as a matter of historical fact, the technic ans, whatever their psycho-physical make-up, have uniformly put themselves at the service of the power politicisms, so that Tolstoy's statement, made fifty years ago, to the effect that, in a society where a few dominate the many, every scientific and technical advance increases the power of the few at the expense of the many has been proved by all the events of the present century to be absolutely true.

In his discussion of the heat generated by many contemplatives, Dr Wolff does not mention the Western examples of this phenomenon. Of the major Christian saints at least two exhibited this tummo, as the Tibetans call it, in a marked degree throughout their lives --- St Catherine of fix Siena, Who was practically burnt up by it, and St Philip Neri, who developed it when he was in the twenties and lived with. it till over eighty. It was so powerful in his cases (and he had not developed methods of regulating it) that he had to ask for a special dispensation to celebrate mass in fewer than he regulation number of vestments, since the heat became intolerable if he was too heavily clothed. Another interesting point --- among the Alumbrados, or Illuminati, in Spain during the sixteenth century the phenomenon of contemplative heat was so common that the Spanish Inquisition used its occurrence as a criterion of heresy, and imprisoned or burned those who had it. From experience and enquiry I should say that the phenomenon is