47 Highpoint, North Hill, Highgate, LONDON, N.6.

24 January 1952.

Dear Bennett,

I've been abread for 3 weeks on a skiing holiday, and there doesn't seem to be anything which warrants inflicting another Work Note on you all. As well, the more obvious features of the Pylos tablets seem to have rather exhausted themselves. I haven't heard from you for some time, but I hope that you are pressing on your own Minoan studies and getting ready with some fundamental stuff

I have been sketching out the more revised dtate of the "Syllabic Grid" from Note 15, with the alterations to Vowel 3 based on the ending - H which I discussed in Note 16. I'd like to just think aloud in recapping the criteria I've so far used in deciding which vowel a particular sign contains, and would be interested to know if it tallies at all with the lines you have been working on.

Criteria for vowel-equations in Linear B.

In the most typical form of the inflexion pointed out by Kober, where the addition of $-\frac{7}{-\frac{1}{2}}$ alters the value of the connecting vowel, the nominative ends in Vowel 2 ($+\frac{7}{2}$) and the oblique cases end in Vowel 1 ($+\frac{7}{2}$). In the less typical form of the same inflexion, the nominative

2. may end in any of Vowels 3,4,5, reverting to Vowel 1 in the oblique case (2 - A, 1 - A, 1 - Y, 5 - 7 oblique case (?

Certain other occurrences of the ending - ? / - follow 3. Vowel 3 instead of Vowel 1. This applies to some of the names introducing the Pylos Aa-Ad tablets. Eg: 图目 一甲目

The vowel preceding the endings - 7 and - , when they are 4. the nominatives of masculine and feminine personal names respect-in origin to the inflexion discussed under (1)-(3).

5. Signs with vowel 1 do not occur before the sign The signs preceding the edding - # consist almost exclusively of Wowel 3. Eg: - ZF, - = F, - | F, - -OF -- TOAF

There is no absolutely hard-and-fast distinction between masculine 7. and feminine in the personal name-endings and in words which vary for gender, but there is a tendency for Vowel 1 (-A - a -

8.

9. The genitive ending after Vowel 5 is more frequently in - [5] 10.

(一目它一分巴,一甲巴)), but there are some instances of

11. It is not absolutely clear whether Vowel 4 and Vowel 5 are to be kept distinct, but the size of the syllabary seems to suggest 5 vowels. $A - F - C - \pi^3 - H$ is so far, only series of 5 to be filled up, and I believe you have some objections to including H

Yours sincerely,

Michael Ventris

* SYLLABIC GRID

Notes for 3rd state 24.1.52.

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? These are either vowel 1 or 3:-

MV