Dear Mr. President:

It was very good of you to write me on November 16 saying that you were sorry you could not see me while I was home in October, but you may be sure that I thoroughly understood. There is an important matter affecting our relationships with Mexico which Secretary Hull has asked me to discuss with you and which I should have an opportunity of discussing with you in the near future, and for this reason I am planning a trip to Washington in December, if this may fit in with your plans. I can thoroughly appreciate that your own plans are uncertain, and I have therefore written to Pa Watson to ask him to give me any such information as he can as to the possibilities of seeing you in December if I make a trip up, as I do not wish to make the trip unless I could be sure to see you, as that would be the only object of the trip.

I saw President Avila Camacho the other afternoon for one of our long and always very helpful talks in his home here in Mexico City. I told the President that you would be replying to his letter in the very near future, and the President said he thoroughly understood why you had not been able to reply.

The principal

The President,
The White House,
Washington, D. C.
The principal purpose of this letter is to tell you once again what you so well know—what an understanding friend our country has in the President of Mexico and what deep admiration and friendship he has for us.

We had a long talk the other afternoon, and the major part of it was taken up with his expressions of satisfaction and happiness that you had been re-elected. The President said that a number of people had talked to him about how closely fought an election it would be, and some had expressed doubts as to whether you would be re-elected, but he himself had an intuitive sense, as well as a firm conviction, that you would be re-elected, and in this confidence he had never faltered. He went on to speak at great length about what he considered the importance of your reelection, not only for the United States, but for Mexico and this hemisphere and for the world. He is really a very unusual man and has an extraordinary and at times quite unexpected knowledge with regard to major problems with which we have to deal these days, not only in this hemisphere but in the world picture. He feels that if you had not been re-elected it would have been a very dark day for the future. I will not go into detail to express the reasons on which the President based these convictions and expressions, but will only say that he spoke with extraordinary understanding and knowledge, as well as with conviction.

So far as his personal affection and esteem for you are concerned there is no doubt whatever. He said that he wished to tell me in strict confidence that shortly before the elections an American friend came to see him from the United States to bring him a message at the request of Mr. Dewey. He said that this American friend told him that Mr. Dewey wished him to know that if he were elected there would be no change in the attitude of the United States toward Mexico and in our policy with respect to the other American Republics. President Avila Camacho said that he thought this message was not in the best of taste but that he had confined himself to receiving this American friend, listening briefly to what
to what he had to say, and to remarking that he was
taking note of it. He said that under the circum-
cstances he thought he should not say what was really
on his soul, but I could see that the President was
annoyed by this visit and this message when his own
feelings are so well known.

The President spoke at great length concerning
what he considered the absolute necessity for the
most complete unity in the Americas in the political
and economic field. He referred to the tendency of
some to talk about regional blocs in the Americas,
and he spoke of what folly such an idea was. He
spoke about the Argentine situation, and he has, of
course, absolutely no use for this military dicta-
torial regime which has fastened itself on that coun-
try, and realizes the necessity of the Argentine
getting rid of that government in order that she can
reincorporate herself into the concert of the American
nations on a proper basis.

The President spoke at considerable length of
the necessity of the other countries of the Americas
collaborating with the United States, not only in
their own interest, but in the common interest of
this hemisphere. He said that in his opinion the
United States was the only country which stood for
political and economic principles which represented
just and equitable treatment among the nations. He
said that of the three great powers, Russia, England
and ourselves, we were the only one who could be
delected upon to follow a line of equitable and
understanding treatment, and it was therefore nec-
essary for our voice to be as strong as possible,
and it should be the voice of this hemisphere, and
not only of the United States, speaking in these
international councils. For this reason, as the
United States was the only real friend of the other
American Republics, their path lay in the most com-
plete collaboration with the United States, from
which they could always expect equitable treatment,
which they could not expect from anyone else.

The President expressed his great interest in
the water treaty which will come before the Senate
Committee for discussion in early January, and ex-
pressed his conviction that the approval of this

water treaty
water treaty between the United States and Mexico was of more fundamental importance than the settlement of the petroleum appropriations and of the agrarian and general claims. He said that the approval of the treaty would not only consolidate Mexican-American relationships on the sound basis on which they should be but that it would have widespread repercussions in all of the Americas that so difficult a problem could be settled in so equitable and so understanding a way. In this connection I may only observe that I believe that the President is really in this connection right, and as this water treaty is a just and equitable arrangement, failure by us to approve it promptly would, I believe, be a very serious matter, not only for our relationships with Mexico in the political and economic field, but it would have a very bad effect throughout the hemisphere. I only mention this water treaty because I do not see the President but what he mentions it, and I thought you would be interested to know that I believe he does not place any exaggerated importance upon the approval of this in our relationships with Mexico and our position in this hemisphere.

I have wished to give you the substance of this recent conversation with the President of Mexico as he devoted most of it to his understanding expressions of friendship and admiration for you and the coincidence of the principles for which we stand, and his attitude showed how clearly it is the intention of Mexico to continue its collaboration with us in the American and in the world picture.

With all good wishes,

Cordially and faithfully yours,

GEORGE S. MESSERSMITH

GSM: hmb