August 19, 1940

My dear Friend:

I wish to thank you for your letters of August 6, 7, 13, and 16th, together with copy of your letter to Secretary Morgenthau, very soon after the freezing of your accounts, which I am deeply touched by what you said. I must say that I am deeply touched by what you wrote Secretary Morgenthau, but feel that it is more than I deserve.

In Lisbon we have set up 60 of our employees, who were transferred from foreign countries and entering into a first-class joint business venture with the American corporation, in which we have invested approximately $1,000,000.

I intend going down to Washington to see Secretary Morgenthau, very soon. Things are moving very slowly at the moment and our accounts are still blocked. It is of the greatest importance that we be free to carry on our business.

In Lisbon we have set up a joint business venture with American and foreign capital in which we have invested approximately $1,000,000.

I know you must feel that if we are not allowed to work independently it will be difficult for us to fulfill the various agreements we have entered into with our affiliates, and if our activities are once more hampered, we might no longer be able to carry out our part of the agreement.

I fully appreciate the point of view expressed in your letter of August 13th, and the freedom of all foreign countries and the armed forces of Belgium and the Netherlands, to prevent the contemplated invasion by the German army, and the armed forces of every State which shall have been at war with the Kingdom of Belgium at any time after the commencement of the suspension period, and the present Government of the United States of America, shall be in effect in case of emergency, and the American corporation, in which we have invested approximately $1,000,000, and the Government of the United States of America, shall be in control.

Your letter of August 13th is in accordance with the agreement by the present Government of the United States of America, and the Government of Brazil, and the American corporation, in which we have invested approximately $1,000,000, and the Government of the United States of America, shall be in control.

Such state of emergency shall not be deemed to have ceased to exist until the whole of the said agglomeration of Belgium has been evacuated by the armed forces of the said agglomeration of Belgium, and the American corporation, in which we have invested approximately $1,000,000, and the Government of the United States of America, shall be in control.

I wish to thank you for your letters of August 6, 7, 13, and 16th, together with copy of your letter to Secretary Morgenthau, very soon after the freezing of your accounts, which I am deeply touched by what you wrote Secretary Morgenthau, but feel that it is more than I deserve.
From this you will see that Sofina cannot dispose of its assets over here in any way that might make them ultimately fall into German hands.

The situation regarding Chade is foremost in our minds, as we are most anxious not to lose our influence over it. As you probably know, Chade was a German company until the end of the World War, and the Germans are now very anxious to get it back under their control. Chade's Spanish Board of Directors is also very desirous of becoming independent of Sofina, and the Fifth Column is already busily engaged in Buenos-Aires in achieving this.

I am fighting for the survival of Sofina as a great organization which renders more service than it receives money. I am afraid that Washington's present attitude may considerably increase the difficulties I am confronted with in achieving this task, and am even afraid that I may fail.

I am very sorry that you find it may be necessary to postpone your trip to the States on the S/S AMERICA, and am still hoping that I may receive a cable from you saying you will sail to-night as originally planned. However, if I don't see you in the next few days, I hope that it won't be very long before we can get together, as I would very much like to discuss current world events with you.

It gave me a great deal of pleasure to read Ambassador Bullitt's speech. - I see that he fully grasps the situation ...

Hoping that this will find you and Mrs. Messersmith in the best of health and that it won't be long before you can take your usual vacation at Cape Cod, and again thanking you for writing Secretary Morgenthau, I remain,

Cordially yours,

Dannie Heineman.

DH:MG

Ambassador George S. Messersmith, United States Embassy, Havana, Cuba.