My dear friend:

We have been lacking in news of you and have missed hearing from you. It had been my hope that Marion and I would be able to go home for at least a few weeks before this and that we would have the pleasure of seeing you. My work here, however, is so arduous and keeps me so tied that any thought of a trip home has been out of the question and it now looks as though we would not be able to go even for a few weeks before the fall. Whether we will be able to do it then is too far in the future for me to determine. There are many reasons why I should like to spend a few weeks at home, but we have so many pressing questions here every day that I feel I must remain.

We are now living in the Embassy Residence and as a result of the repairs which have been made it is on the whole comfortable and attractive. We have completed the Residence except for the draperies at the windows and the installation of the central heating plant. As to the latter, believe it or not, we already need it in this month of July, as on account of the rains the houses are very damp and cold in the mornings and evenings.

I do hope that you and Mrs. Heineman can come down and see us and make us a visit here. We can make you most comfortable in the house and I think you would enjoy it, and the change would be a good one. You have not been here for so long that I am sure you would enjoy a few weeks here. The trip by train is not bad -- in fact, quite comfortable. The trip by air is of course much quicker, but on account of the heavy traffic it is difficult to get seats on the plane for Mexico City.

The situation on the whole in Mexico is developing very
very satisfactorily and there are many people here who have spent most of their lives in Mexico who are of the opinion that the situation here has never been so good internally and that the present government is perhaps the best that Mexico has had in the memory of our generation. The Government is cooperating with us in a very wholehearted way and the Mexican people are becoming constantly more sensitive to and understanding of the war and all its implications.

There is so much that I would like to write to you about that I cannot even begin. These are dark days through which we are living, but I have every confidence that we shall win the war. The struggle will be somewhat longer and more difficult than I had expected, but these temporary successes of our enemies, while disconcerting and increasingly difficult to our task, are I believe no reason for pessimism whatever.

I recently received a letter from the Department stating that Mr. DeStoop, Mr. Praet, Mr. Vidal y Guardiola, and Mr. Blanchart of the Sofina organization had applied for visas and that you were a sponsor. I was asked to give an expression of my opinion in the matter. I informed the Department that I knew Vidal y Guardiola and had every reason to believe that this visa should be granted. I said that I had known Mr. Praet in Belgium, and was sure there was no reason why a visa should not be granted. I said that I did not know Mr. DeStoop and Mr. Blanchart, but the fact that you desired them to come to the United States and sponsored their applications for a visa was adequate reason for the granting thereof, as you would not sponsor the application of any person whose visit to the United States would be against our public interest. I gave the Department as full information as I could in the matter and I hope that by this time or very shortly the appropriate authorization for the visas will have been granted.

Mrs. Mustard is at present in Wellesley Hills and is planning to return here in September. My sister-in-law Louise Fraser and her husband passed through here on their way to Rio de Janeiro some days ago, where he is going as engineer for the I T & T. Our life here is a very busy one in many ways. We are both relatively well. I do hope that you will think seriously of coming down here and making us a visit. Marion joins in affectionate regard to you and Mrs. Heineman and to the family. When you write me, do tell me where James is now.

Faithfully yours,