Dear Danny:

I have to refer to my personal letter dated November 1st in which I called your attention to certain parts of Jesse Jones' book, and I gather from one of our conversations over the telephone that you already have noticed these interesting parts to which I had made reference.

While I have no direct information from the State Department, I would not be surprised if some of the things which I have said to certain persons while I was last in Washington, with regard to the arrangements which can be made with a man like Franco or his government, have had some effect. Certainly there has been a change in the attitude of the Department and of the military and of our government in general recently, and I think our attitude has stiffened and is much more realistic. The principal change I think has been in the Pentagon where I think the reports of our military missions which had been in Spain, have been completely disillusioning, and in the press dispatches which I see, I find increasingly a note which indicates that the military have lost their illusions and are taking a realistic attitude. Whether my memorandum, which you know, had any effect I do not know, but certainly I think we can take it that it did not do any harm.

Naturally the more realistic attitude of the military has helped to strengthen the position of the State Department which has always been understanding and correct in this matter, except so far as some of its representatives in Spain are concerned. I have reason to believe that Griffith has had some warnings that he has to be more careful in what he says and that he has to bear in mind some fundamental principles to which we are attached. I see in the papers this morning, indications that it may be very difficult for the Spaniards to extract the hundred million or any part of it, which was included in an act of Com-
D. N. Heineman, Esq.,
Brussels
November 16, 1952
Page 2.

gress, but where ation is subject to the discretion of the Pre-
sident. Whatever Truman's failings may be, he has certainly been un-
derstanding of the Spanish situation so far as the Franco Go-
vernment is concerned, and its acts and irresponsibility. Given
the attitude of Gaston which you know and the fact that Truman
was never interested in doing anything for the Franco Government,
but was forced into this situation by Congress, I think the Spanish
régime is going to have some hard sledding.

All this should have its helpful repercussions on the Spanish régime,
the problems of which will not grow less, and in view of the already
changed attitude of the British Government and of the
even stronger attitude which may reasonably be expected from the
Conservative Government, these will have reflections in the Bar-
celona matter. The changed British attitude will certainly be
helpful to the Canadian Government as well as to the Belgian.

This is just a hurried note to give you a few observations. I hope
that you will have had a good trip over with Colinet and
Yvonne and that you are not going to overdo things. I am not a
good person to give counsel about a thing like that but we
should both know better, and as you have a few years on me,
you should be wiser than I about it.

With affectionate good wishes,

Cordially and faithfully yours,

George S. Messersmith.

GSM/go