My dear Friend:

I had looked forward to seeing you on a trip north from which Marion and I have practically just returned. For me it was a business trip and my time was completely taken up with business of the Company in Toronto, New York and Washington, and the days in New York that were not occupied with business I was with a doctor. I hoped every day that I could call you to see if we could have a meal together, but I simply could not do it.

While I was north, I spent a weekend with Nevil Ford at his home in the country, and as you know, Allen and Foster Dulles live close by. I did have the opportunity of having several talks with Allen and had the pleasure of seeing Foster at his home the day before we returned to Mexico City and after the nomination of Eisenhower.

I am sure that you are one of the discerning people in our country who appreciate what a magnificent and outstanding job Foster Dulles has done during the last years in so many ways and even more particularly the extraordinary and in my opinion unique task he carried through in connection with the Japanese peace treaty. When I saw him towards the middle of July at his home, I told him that I thought someone should really tell that story and tell it in such a way that it will get to the great mass of our people at home. He did not seem reluctant that the story should be told. I wish I could write it, but I cannot do it for two major reasons, the first being that I do not have all the facts that should be brought out, and the second that this job which I took here in Mexico is so time-consuming that I simply cannot do anything else no matter how much I would like to do it. When I got the owners of this Company - who are so widely scattered in so many countries - to carry through a reorganization of the Company which is so important in the economy of Mexico, I assumed a moral obligation, which I feel I must carry through, and that has meant so far that I have not been able to do anything else.

Foster Dulles is an extraordinarily capable, adept and understanding man. Whether he is going to be Secretary of State if Eisenhower is elected, I do not know. Well, I certainly hope so for our country's sake. I believe that Eisenhower will be

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elected in spite of so worthy an opponent as Stevenson, for
the same reasons that he was nominated. We will need a Se-
cretary of State of the wisdom, understanding and experience
of Foster.

I think it is desirable just for the story itself that
it should be written. An article in "Foreign Affairs" would
be an excellent thing and should in any event be written,
and there are a number of people who could write this article
adequately, but what I am thinking about more particularly
is something that would make Foster's achievement and his
capacity for achievement known to a wide number of those
people who think and read a lot, but whom a publication like
"Foreign Affairs" does not reach. I think there are very few
people in our country, really, who appreciate Foster's extra-
ordinary achievement in the formulation and carrying through
of the Japanese peace treaty I have had a certain amount of
experience in treaty-making, although relatively limited, but
a considerable amount of experience in getting treaties rati-
fied by the Senate. In its very nature, this treaty was one
of the most difficult to negotiate. I do not go into any details
in this connection. You appreciate them. He had to start from
scratch. He had a task which most people who realize the nec-
essity of a treaty, considered impossible. There were so many
countries involved and so many individual interests and factors
to be considered, aside from the tremendous task involved in
getting such a treaty ratified without delay and without dis-
cussion, once agreement had been reached and it came before the
Senate. Too much discussion could have destroyed the treaty which
was indispensable.

The way in which Foster went at this task, shows his con-
structive statesmanship. He saw the whole picture from the
point of view of the treaty itself and what was involved in
getting it done, from the outset. For months and months he
worked quietly with people at home and travelled indefatigably
in so many countries, and when one thinks of the many adverse
people he had to see in so many different countries, one begins
to see what a tremendous task he had. Had it not been for this
extraordinary ability of his and his conception of the broad
problem from the beginning, we would not have a Japanese peace
treaty, but would still be haggling about it.

Very few informed people appreciate that one of the most
important things he did is that from the very beginning he
kept in touch with the Senate Committee and with important
people who could make trouble or help in our own country. It
was not a question of writing up a treaty and then getting
people at home and in the interested countries to agree. Pract-
ically every clause of the treaty had to be considered and
reconsidered and rediscussed, and this involved indefatigable energy and travel. Incidentally, I think it was wonderful, the way Jeanette Dulles made many of these not easy trips with him to Japan and so many places. Too many people do not realize that a perfect treaty could still fail at ratification. Foster foresaw all these factors. When the treaty finally was formulated, there was complete or almost complete agreement all around and it went through the Senate and the Senate Committee just because they had been shown every deference and every consideration in this extraordinarily important matter all during the period of its formulation. If Foster had not kept in constant touch with all these people and simply had presented them with the treaty, and even if he thought it was a perfect one, the chances are that it would still be in the Senate.

These are just a few of the factors which are involved in this unique achievement in diplomacy. The history of treaty-making is a long one, but I believe that it can properly and accurately be said that the work which Foster did in connection with the Japanese treaty is unique in diplomatic history not only in our own country but in others. To accomplish this means that there was a man behind it of extremely broad understanding of the factors and interests involved.

What I have said in this letter is only a small part of what can and should be said and it can, I think, be put in a very popular way so that it will get wide reading in our country and elsewhere. If I were competent to do the job I would be tempted to neglect this work which I feel is my first responsibility, but there are others who can do it so much better than I. I have not so far mentioned this to anyone except Foster. He has of course not expressed an opinion but in our conversation he did mention a few interesting points in connection with the formulation of the treaty which I, who thought having such a broad knowledge of treaty-making, had not appreciated.

I am wondering how it strikes you that this job should be done and that it be presented as a unique an epoch-making event. I think it would be useful in so many ways. If the idea interests you, I hope that you will pursue it. You are in such an advantageous position to determine who could do the job. Why not do it yourself? You are really the one to do it. I think it would be one of the most useful things that could be done at this time and I think it would be particularly useful.
to do it now and in the next few months.

I hope some time we can get together and have a real
visit. I say again, whenever you feel you can take a holiday and visit this really interesting country, Marion and
I would be delighted to have you both make us a visit there in Mexico City and in our Cuernavaca home which is my retreat, at least weekends, from a rather busy and hurried
life.

With all good wishes, I am

Cordially and faithfully yours,

George S. Messersmith.