Dear Dannie,

This is a holiday here, the anniversary of the defeat of Maximilian at Puebla. Marlon and I are leaving for Cuernavaca this afternoon to stay until Monday. The weather has become normal again and we have beautiful sunny days but still rather cold nights.

Our last week-ends we have seen a good deal of Anthony Eden and his wife. He is really not well, but their stay in Cuernavaca has helped him. We have had interesting times talking about the past and present. He is a charming man. He is revising the second volume of his memoirs, he says the first will be more difficult to write. I doubt if they will be in Cuernavaca this week-end, as he wants to make another short stay in Acapulco before returning to England. When he left the house last Sunday he said "If Winston and you and I were together, I doubt if we could find anything to disagree about. Lady Eden cannot be more than 36 or 37 and is a real Churchill and very good looking.

As you have read, Ike is coming here Feb. 19 at 10 am (that isn't Acapulco) and leaving the evening of the 20th at 10:30 pm for Augusta. The visit doesn't really make much sense, but what does these days. It will be purely a stag party - no women wanted. I was asked to go but after careful thought I decided not to go.

The situation here is very confused and it will take months before we know what the real course of the Government will be. The high authorities say they know the importance of electricity in the Mexican economy, but arbitrarily the President cut an adjustment for wage increases in March last, by 1/2 ! And the papers carried articles, certainly with the approval of the Government, making Mexlight appear to be a foreign monster. The act of President was pure demagogy.

Draper has left for a two weeks trip for Japan and Korea, but I feel pretty sure he will be on Ike's plane arriving in Mexico on Feb. 19 so as to be able to inform him about his trip on the plane.

We will have quite a number of people at the house in Cuernavaca this week-end. A close friend of Dulles will be with us and Dave Ricardson (?) of World Report will be with us on Sunday. He is here to write several articles for World Report on Mexico. The Katz returned to Mexico yesterday and will be with us over the week-end. Sam fortunately has sold most, if not all, of his interests here.

Marion is well. I'm about the same. I don't gain in weight or lose, thin as a rake and I've given up hope of gaining so got the tailor yesterday to measure me for new evening suits. I was hoping to grow back into my old ones. I am a little stronger but can't make much physical effort. I walk around the block here in Mexico City, and in Cuernavaca take turns in the garden, but otherwise I am a lizard. It was the dysentery that ruined me.
I have been wanting to write you, but I have a good many chores to do, and when I really have leisure, I feel like lying down.

I sleep badly and I think that is partly due to seeing so many things go wrong -- and not being able to do anything about it.

I shall be glad when we ever have a real visit and talk over a lot of things. Dulles is really a sick man again, very brave, and all that. I hope we don't make any mistakes over Berlin - if we can hold on a while, we shall not make any mistake there.

It was sickening to see the way some of our people home fell for Mikoyan - they saw a few dollars! Some one asked me last evening when we would really grow up - and I could only answer that I hoped we would in time. Have you read "The ugly American". It is of course a caricature and a gross exaggeration, but it has basic truths in the book. I learned last evening to my horror that Juan Trippe has engaged the two men who wrote it as their public relations people in the Far East!

I hope this finds you all well, we think of you all every day. It was just like you to telephone me when I had the grippe.

With affectionate good wishes to you all,

Faithfully,

/ George /

Have you heard the story going around: "When we look back over history we see Roosevelt showed a man could stay President as long as he wanted, Truman showed any man could be President - and Eisenhower showed we don't really need a President at all." A vicious sort of story.