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Monday, July 20, 59

Dear Dannie,

I have been wanting to write you ever since we returned to Mexico, but we had been away so long that there was a lot to do, and when we are in Cuernavaca, there is really no time to write with the house full of people. This week-end, we had four couples staying with us - the Katz's, the Stevens, the Sollenbergers, and Joe and Marguerite Gray. Joe Gray whom I first knew in the Consulate General in Buenos Aires and who has been a sort of protégé of mine, is retiring the end of this year. He is only 61 and has been Minister Counselor of the Embassy here for 2 years, but has made up his mind to quit. He is one of the old type foreign service officers, and can't stand the way things are being done. He has very kind and grateful remembrances of you and yesterday was speaking of an evening when you took him to the "Rat Mort" when he was on holiday in Paris and you happened to be there - I think in the early 30ties. We had a big party for Joe and Marguerite yesterday and aside from our house guests, we had about 90 people from Mexico City who drove down for lunch. Fortunately we had a beautiful day, warm and sunshiny all day. Bob Hill, the Ambassador and his wife were, and most of the guests were Americans. (?) Bill Draper and his wife came down. He says he is leaving end August or September, and that Taylor will arrive ten days before he leaves.

The telephone connection Saturday was not good but I gathered you had talked with Allan Graydon, and Arthur Dean about me, and found them pretty cold. I have few illusions today, Dannie, about people. Few people can think much of anything outside themselves, and do not see things in perspective. Allan and Arthur are both good men, but they are looking at what they consider their interest. They know who is running the show in Brussels now, and they are not going to do anything that is not agreeable to these few - and you know how close Arthur is to André M. It was very good of you to talk with them - but that is like you. Age has few compensations - sometimes it brings wisdom like it has with you, but it also brings many inconveniences mostly physical. It doesn't really matter what they do. Thanks to you, for the rest of the years that are left to Marion and me, we ought to be comfortable and you must not worry about us, but I do appreciate the trouble you have gone to. Perhaps it may pay dividends in spite of certain people being cold fish - and not too wise. People like Bunny Graydon, Guest, Maryssael, Martinez etc. know the real situation, but they really don't have anything to influence the opinion of those who make the decisions.

We are staying here in Cuernavaca until this evening, to get a good quiet day. I have been at the Company a good (time) since I came back as there are many problems, there are at least some signs that the Government will see reason. We will know soon.

I have had to see a good deal of Bob Hill since we are back as I try to help him in any way I can. What a strange world we live in. We have a crazy man in Cuba who is doing damage that it will be difficult to repair. In Mexico and all over Latin America they talk about "dictatorships" when they have them at home. We in Washington are so preoccupied with Geneva, that we forget our own back door. The soon Herter comes back from Geneva, the better for all of us.

Did you read the front page article last week by Herbert Mathews on Cuba in the N.Y. Times. It was simply awful, and is a tragedy to think that a man like Mathews, who really doesn't know Latin America, should be the man who runs Times' policy. I've been doing all I can, but Arthur Sulzberger cannot be well or else these things wouldn't happen.

I have been busy too with the Institute on Cultural Relations since we are back and that is in the right track.

I'm sorry your health, or rather strength, is coming back so slowly, but it can't be otherwise. I still have not got back much strength since the bout with dysentery the second half of last year. The important thing is that you are getting it back - and do not over do.

We had really quite a day yesterday with about 100 people for lunch, so Marion and I are taking it easily here today. I'm really feeling very much better.

Marion joins in much love to you all.

Faithfully,

/ George /