

Habana, Cuba, August 24, 1940.

Dear Warren:

I am very glad indeed to have your generous letter of August 19, and I am glad to know that you had a few days vacation after the strenuous days of the Conference in Habana. My own plans for a holiday have gone wrong, and I see no opportunity of getting away in the near future. Mrs. Messersmith left on the AMERICA on August 19, and has gone to Cape Cod where we have a camp. I had hoped to join her later, but according to present prospects I will not be able to do so. There are some pending matters here which I cannot leave in suspense but which I hope to get settled in the near future. There is still a possibility that I may be able to get away for a few weeks, and in that case I look forward to seeing you in the Department. As I have to be back here, in any event, by October 10 for the inauguration of the new President, the prospects of my getting away are slim.

It is good of you to say what you do concerning our part here in the Conference. Ralph Miller did really a very good job in making the physical arrangements at the hotel. We wanted everything to be in good shape when you arrived. Of course we were tremendously helped in making these physical arrangements by the fact that we had available this really first class hotel, the Nacional, and we were able to get good cooperation from the American firms here who had to supply equipment. It was a real effort, however, that Miller made before and during the Conference.

Our personnel that we detailed from the Embassy and the Consulate put their heart into their work, and they are all appreciative of the generous letters which were addressed to them by the Secretary.

I

Warren Kelchner, Esquire,
Chief of the Division of International Conferences,
Department of State,
Washington, D. C.

I think all of us who had anything to do with the Conference feel more than gratified that we were able to participate in a small measure in this important meeting. I am confident that history will record it as the most important and constructive of the inter-American conferences so far. What little part I was able to play gives me much satisfaction, and I only wish that I had been able to do more.

I have tried to learn from the Foreign Office when the certified texts of the Final Act and the Conference will be sent. I have tried to get this information for two days, but have no satisfactory response as yet, but it is quite obvious that they have not yet been sent. I am doing everything I can to facilitate the forwarding of these, as I know that you want them and have wanted them, and I hope to hurry them up a bit. I shall keep at it and see that you get these texts as soon as possible.

With every good wish,

Cordially and sincerely yours,

George S. Messersmith

GSM/mw