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Mexico, D. F., October 10, 1945.

My dear Friend:

Your letter of September 16 reached me on my return to Mexico City on October 5. I was under the necessity of making a brief trip to Washington, and I was away for just a little over two weeks. Marian did not accompany me as it was to be such a brief trip and necessarily made by air. Although she has overcome, to a certain measure, her reluctance to travel by air, she still does not wish to do it except under necessity. Besides that, my trip was to be such a short one that she preferred to remain in Mexico City.

I had a very interesting two weeks' stay in Washington, but unfortunately I had to leave before Secretary Byrnes returned from London as I had to be in Mexico City not later than October 6. I was very glad not to have to make a longer stay in Washington, for the weather was extremely trying. I have never been in Washington during hotter weather; and as I am now accustomed to the drier and rather cool climate here, I found it very trying, especially as I had so much to do during my brief stay.

I have been deeply distressed by your letter, and I can thoroughly appreciate your feelings under the circumstances. When I heard that you were going to France to live in your home there, I was very happy because I knew that you would, in many ways, be more comfortable and happy there; and I also knew what a great relief it would be to Madame Lupescu and what a good effect it would have on her health. When I heard afterwards, through some note in the newspaper, that your trip had been delayed, I realized that some difficulties had again arisen, but I was unaware of the

His Majesty,
King Carol of Rumania,
Hotel Copacabana,
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

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nature of them until I had your letter of September 16 under reply. I note in this letter that you received a reply to your protests over the cancellation of the trip that the British, United States, French, and Portuguese Governments considered that your presence in Europe would be a cause for trouble.

I am, frankly, unable to determine what the situation is that should have lead to such a reply. During the last few years that you have been in Cuba and in Mexico and in Brazil, you have certainly not occupied yourself with political matters. You have, I think, made it amply clear that you have at heart only the interest of your country and that your one hope is for its happiness and development; and that so far as your own person is concerned, you have no ambitions or desires being that you naturally do hope that your son, who is now on the throne, may remain there and in a position to govern in a democratic way. I think that in one way or another, I have been very familiar with your activities during the last years and certainly there is no indication whatever that you have engaged in political activities which could, in any way, be disturbing to anyone, much less to my country and France and Portugal and Britain. It is, therefore, under all these circumstances, incredible to me, and I am unable to understand why the Governments which you mention should place an obstacle in the way of your returning to France.

Completely aside from the reasons of health and comfort, there is every reason why the Governments concerned should recognize your desire to leave Brazil and live in France where you have a home and where you would be able to decrease so greatly the costs of your living which were high in Cuba and in Mexico and which must be high in Brazil. A monarch, even though he may not be on his throne, finds great difficulty to live on a reasonable and modest scale, for even though he lives on a reasonable and modest scale such as you have since you have been in this Hemisphere, everything which he does costs more than it would another person, because everyone tries to take advantage. I, therefore, have the greatest sympathy with and understanding of your desire to go to France and to live in your comfortable home, and not only for reasons of comfort and health but also

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of reducing expenditures.

It was my thought from the conversations which I had in Washington in the last few years that my Government would not place any further obstacles in the way of your returning to Portugal or Spain or France, and it is, therefore, very difficult for me to understand that once again these obstacles have been raised and that according to your letter, my Government was among the Governments which joined in making this trip to France impossible. I am, of course, totally without information from Washington, and I do not think that it would be very helpful to endeavor to explore this situation from here by mail.

Purely as a matter of justice and equity and completely aside from my sentiments of friendship for you and of my understanding of the altogether correct and proper and helpful attitudes which you have maintained before the war and during the war, I feel that it is my duty to again explore this matter in Washington.

I am planning to make another trip to Washington in the very near future, probably within the next month. Very fortunately, the Mexican Senate as well as the United States Senate have ratified the water treaty between the United States and Mexico, and we are now ready for the exchange of ratifications. This treaty is a very important one, because it settles a long standing matter between the United States and Mexico; and although it is a matter difficult in itself to solve, we arrived at a very equitable solution in this treaty. I think the way that Mexico and the United States settled this difficult problem points the way in which major difficulties and differences of this kind can be settled by negotiation if it is done in a spirit of equity and understanding. The exchange of ratifications will take place in Washington in about a month and as the treaty is really a very significant matter, I have been asked to go to Washington to be there for the exchange of ratifications.

It is, therefore, very possible that I will be in Washington some time towards the end of October or in the early part of November for the purpose above mentioned/

mentioned, and while my stay will be very short, I shall not fail to take this opportunity to discuss the matter of your trip to France having been made impossible. I feel that it is my duty as a matter of equity and simple justice to again present certain points of view, and you may be sure that I shall not fail to do so. I believe that the principal difficulties in this matter do not arise in my country but that they are raised from another source, but again I cannot have any definite opinion on this subject until I shall have explored the matter in my own Government. This, however, will be done, purely as a matter of equity and justice. I shall keep you advised as to whether I am able to do anything while I am in Washington to facilitate your trip to France.

There are many things concerning which I would like to write you, but I am very busy. Whenever I am away, even for a week or two, there is an accumulation which it takes me some time to clear away. The work at this post is not decreasing in volume but with the end of the war, it is changing somewhat in character.

I am happy to say that Marian is well. Our news from Mrs. Mustard is not good, and it would be a blessing of the good God if she were able to pass away for there is no hope of her recovery and she suffers a great deal. She is presently with her son at Wellesley, but they are bringing her to Wilmington within the course of the next week. It is only a question of time, but the sooner she finds her relief, the happier she and we all will be, for it is terrible to see a woman who has lived so long and so fine and so helpful a life suffer in her last days as she is suffering.

Our life here in Mexico City goes on much the same. I am very busy. The Peruvian Ambassador, Cisneros, has left for Rio de Janeiro, and this leaves me another position as Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, which gives me additional duties of a character which I do not particularly like because they are time consuming and without real significance.

We have had one real event in the family. Happy and Tasca are, how I do not know, proud parents of a litter of six puppies which are beautifully formed

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and colored. We naturally can't keep all of them, but we haven't the heart to give any of them away so we may end up by an increase of six in the family.

Marian received Madame Lupescu's letter to which she is replying. Please tell her how deeply grieved I am to hear that her health has not improved. I need not tell you that my thoughts are often with you and Madame Lupescu and that we cherish our friendship.

If I am able to do anything to facilitate your trip to France when I am in Washington in the next month or so, I will not fail to write you.

Believe me,

Cordially and sincerely yours,

GEORGE S. MESSERSMITH