

Sierra Paracaima 1285  
México, D. F.  
April 18, 1955

Purely Personal

Dear Jimmy:

I got the copy of the telegram which Nat Samuels sent to Sofina about my having been asked to make a short statement with regard to how the financial position of Mexlight had been improved. I have since received from Draper, who has returned to Mexico City, a copy in French of the understanding reached by Cade with the Argentine government. I am going to give it some further reading and study tomorrow. It looks to me good in some ways but in other ways it seems quite inadequate. I doubt, if I were the Bank, that I would want to lend on that basis. I know the World Bank would not lend on that basis. I don't think Cade wants to take any money unless it knows it can pay it back. It won't help in the end.

I have prepared the statement which I was asked to prepare and have forwarded it. I am not certain yet that I can make a copy available to you all. The circumstances are such that I was asked to do this in a purely personal way and in a friendly way and of course there is no compensation or anything like that involved for me. It is a very personal thing. Under the old setup in Sofina, I would have felt entirely free to let Brosens have a copy of it, and of course above all your father and you. I now feel that anything that I should give to Brosens inevitably goes into the hands of other people. I don't know whether I should put you in the embarrassing position of sending you a copy for your personal use, because if I do send you a copy it would have to be for your personal use and not for anyone else. I would be breaking faith with those who asked me to prepare the statement should it get into other hands. What I am trying to say is that I would be very happy to have you have a copy of the memorandum, and of course for your father to read it if he should wish to, but I fear that I would have to ask you not to show it to anyone and that might place you in an embarrassing position. In any event, what you may be sure of is that I would like to see this electricity situation in the Argentine settled and that I would like to see the Cade get a loan from the Export-Import Bank, but I think it should be under circumstances and in conditions under which it guarantees that the Cade can work and get the treatment it deserves, and pay back the loan. Although Peron is starting on a new path, and I am sure he is starting on a new path, he can only stay on that path if he is obliged to stay on it. He has too many people around him who still want to do things the other way, and Peron himself is not too strong a man. When I was there in February 1951 he already wanted to go ahead with this Export-Import Bank loan and proper treatment to the Cade, etc., and everything was really set, it was a lot of people around him who bitched the thing up. The chances of their being able to bitch up anything now are less than they were in 1951, but when any transaction is made and when any arrangements are made they should be on such a basis that there are definite obligations by the government which their not carrying through will cause trouble for them. If they know that they don't carry

James H. Heineman, Esq.,  
Amitas,  
Suite 1700,  
50 Broadway,  
New York 4, N. Y.

through on the electricity thing in a sound way and according to the promises that they give, that they will have trouble on the steel mill project with-drawals -- then there won't be any trouble about getting proper treatment for the electricity situation. These governments only act when they are forced to do things. They don't necessarily act in their own interest. They act on their prejudices and for any number of reasons, but the good things that they do they are usually obliged to do in order to get other things.

We have been in Cuernavaca now for over a week. I am not going up to Mexico City until the middle of the week, and this letter will not reach you until the end of the week as I will not be able to give it to my secretary until Wednesday to write. We will be coming back here again on Friday afternoon as I am expecting Consolo and his wife and Alderwereld and his wife on Friday evening. Alderwereld is coming on a holiday, I understand, with his wife, and will be staying here at the house at Cuernavaca. Consolo's wife will be staying with us. He, I think, will be going around the country with some Mexican officials.

I am making tremendous progress on the notes which I am writing for ultimate publication as memoirs or in some form. I have only been at it for two months, but I must have dictated about 800 printed pages already. It is going very well, much better than I expected. For your personal information and that of your father I am sending herewith a copy of a letter which I have written to my friend Owen Sypherd at the University of Delaware, which gives you an idea of what I am doing and of what I am thinking. It is for your and your father's personal information only. I may never publish anything. The more I write of this stuff, however, the more I am convinced that something should be done with it, and that is not because I happen to be writing it or happen to be connected with it, or because I happen to be connected with the things I am writing about.

I am, of course, very disturbed and unhappy because I know so little of what has happened. You have been very good in keeping me informed. It is useless to try to write about a thing of this kind. You know my feelings and I think some of my fears. It all seems so incredible. You know I have been obliged to face the realities of life for a good many years, so that I saw the possibilities of what might happen but I didn't think we would see it in this crude and in many ways outrageous way. I think it is very difficult to look into the future.

I know that you are in a difficult position in many ways and don't know what decision to reach, and I wish I could help you in reaching a decision. I can't really give you anything in the way of a categorical opinion because I don't know enough of the facts. You know so much more, but as I told you over the phone, I have learned one thing and that is that one can do more from the inside than from the outside. As I see it and from what I know, I think you ought to go on the Board. I repeat, however, that I can quite understand your hesitations and there may be very controlling factors which I do not know. I do think you ought not to act on the basis of sentiment. Maryssael feels very strongly that you should take this opportunity to go on the Board. Draper says the same thing, but you know it doesn't mean quite the same thing as when Maryssael says it. I am glad to know that your father thinks that you should do it. That means more to me than anything else and influences me to think that

the opinion which I have expressed on what I do know may be right.

I am dictating this while the others are in the next room playing bridge and I shall have to get to bed early tonight, as we have had some late nights here at the house. It has been really magnificent and wonderful here. I am looking forward to when we see you all here. I have been so sorely tempted to go north just to see your father and you and the family, but for reasons I will tell you when I see you, I have to stick to my plans to leave on May 15.

This is a disjointed note but I wanted to write you before I turn in for the night. Marion joins in love and good wishes to you and June. Do give our best to your father and mother and to Edna and Yvonne, and tell your father how much my thoughts are constantly with him. I am looking forward so much to seeing him.

All the best to you all,

Cordially and faithfully,

GSM/cbc

about 13.  
I suggested to Marygrand  
he call you while he was north  
+ he told me fully about  
his interesting talk with you.  
I could describe a good part  
of it. What he wanted further  
from -  
GSM