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GENOVA 44
MEXICO CITY
MEXICO, D. F.

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December 18, 1952							
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Dear Dannie:

I have been sending you some copies of letters I have written recently which I thought would be of interest to you. I would like to write you at length and I had planned to do so before the week is out, but things have come up which make it impossible, so I am sending just this brief word on a few things.

First of all, I wish that Marion and I could be spending Christmas with you all but that is out of the question. We will be thinking of you. May the New Year bring you and Hettie and all the family a very full measure of happiness and all good things.

Brosens mentioned to me while he was here that during a conversation which you and he and André Mayer had there was a suggestion by Mayer that Arthur Dean might be helpful in certain things, especially in getting points of view to Dulles. I told Brosens that this would be a very bad and a very improper move and it is just the sort of ill advised thing that Mayer would suggest. Even in this personal letter I cannot write as I would like, but I told you over the phone the other day that I hoped nothing whatever of this kind would be done or attempted, because it would be very bad indeed, and I was comforted to hear you say over the phone that you appreciated this. André Mayer has lived in the United States for some time and he is an American citizen, I understand, but in my opinion he knows nothing about the United States or the American people and is no more really an American citizen than I am a citizen of China. Dulles and Dean are men of the highest integrity and their services as a law firm could be had when the client is acceptable, but I know of no firm that has been more meticulous in the clients that it has taken on than their's. Dean is a highly intelligent man and of great perception and if Sofina has any legal matter in which it might wish to retain Sullivan and Cromwell, that is something that could be considered, but it would have to be on a specific matter and the connection would serve no other purpose except just that. I wish I could write you in clear language about all this, but I cannot do it, but I do want to say to you that I know both these men so thoroughly that

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I would advise against any move of any kind. So far as Dulles is concerned, if there is anything to be said to him at any time that can be done properly, I can do it.

Just a word about Dr. Frank. Last Friday while Brosens was out visiting the plants in Mexico City a young man called up the house from the Hotel del Prado and asked if Brosens was there. I told him that Brosens would not be back at the house until 5 and we would be leaving at 6 for Cuernavaca, but that Dr. Frank could call Brosens at Cuernavaca on Saturday. Frank did call Brosens at Cuernavaca on last Saturday morning and Brosens agreed to see him at my house on this last Monday afternoon.

Dr. Frank and his wife came to the house at 6 on Monday afternoon. Brosens and Frank had a talk for almost an hour and then they joined us in the library and we had further conversation for almost an hour, when they left for their hotel. Frank says that he is going to be in Mexico all of January and I understand that Mrs. Frank will be with him during that time. I gather after that he plans to return to Germany, but I do not know more concerning his plans than the above and I understand he will be staying at the Hotel del Prado.

I do not know enough about Dr. Frank to have any opinion as to what he knows about Germany and things in Germany, but I do know that he knows little or nothing about Mexico. In conversation with Brosens and me on Monday afternoon he made some statements about coal and iron and related matters in Mexico which I know are not correct and some of his ideas are completely unrealistic. I don't go into detail but he made some statements about the coal and iron deposits here and possibilities of using them, etc., that were completely fantastic. He does not even thoroughly know the geography of the country. I just confine myself to saying that he made the statement that some of the iron ore in the state of Oaxaca was as good as the Swedish ore. American and English mining companies which have been working in the country for years know the mining situation here, because it is their business, and if there were deposits here as good as the "best Swedish ore", you can be sure that something would have been done about it long ago. He admitted also to Brosens that the low oven process still needed a lot of perfecting before it could be used. During the conversation Frank said that he wanted to come in to see me about "machinery" and I gathered what he had in mind was German machinery for us. He said he would get in touch with me and wanted to come in to see me. I said of course that if he would get in touch with me after the first of

the year I would be glad to see him.

I told Brosens and I have told Jimmy, and I am telling you now, that so far as I am concerned I want just as little to do with Frank while he is in Mexico as possible. I stick to my last and that is Mexlight, and I don't get mixed up in other things. I have to do that for the good of Mexlight. Frank is working for the Mexican government and now that I have seen him and have heard some of the statements which he has made, I am more sure than ever that some of the things he is saying to the Mexicans are completely screwy. For that reason I don't want to be associated in any way with Frank, because so far as the Mexican end of his operations is concerned, I am sure that it will lead to disillusionment. If the Mexicans want to employ Frank, that is their business, and if Frank wants to work for them and get a good fee, that is his business.

I think I should tell you and I told Brosens so, that so far as Sofina having any interest in anything connected with mining or coal and iron here is concerned, I think it should not consider it. This is something I cannot write about, but it would be a disillusionment. There is no doubt that the Mexican government has in mind developing some mines on its own account and it will try to get some foreign capital to work with them. A partnership with government in Latin America does not work out and certainly not in the mining business.

What I have said about Mexico has no bearing whatever on Germany, because Frank may know his own country and may be sound so far as things there are concerned. I only want to make it clear that in my opinion so far as anything here is concerned that Frank is doing, I would strongly advise not having anything to do with it. I gather from what Brosens says that you have no interest in what he is doing here and that your interest is confined to Germany.

It is difficult to write about a thing like this because the only way to do it is to talk about it. I have lived in Mexico over ten years now and I have succeeded in keeping away from adventurers from my own country and others who came here with all sorts of ideas as to what they could do and who caused disillusionment to the Mexican officials and others who had confidence in them. After this first contact with Frank and hearing him talk about Mexico, I will of course be courteous to him if he wants to see me but I will make it clear that I have nothing whatever to do with things of this kind which lie out of my province.

I have written you very frankly because I think you

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should know my impressions.

The conversations with Brosens while he was here were most useful and I am very happy that he came. I think he was interested. He is a man on whose loyalty and capacity you can depend completely. There is no doubt concerning his personal loyalty to you. We learned to know his wife better during the week that they were here than we had all the time we knew them in Buenos Aires, and she is really a charming, intelligent and very nice person.

Maryssael will be writing you about Patla where we are on the point of reaching decisions which are indispensable. We will send you shortly a memorandum of the conversations with regard to the service fee and contract.

Marion joins in love and good wishes to you all and I hope it may not be long before we see each other. There is a possibility that I may have to make a trip to New York around the middle of January on matters which have nothing to do with Mexlight. If I do it will be for only a stay of two or three days there. Brosens said he might be returning to Europe via New York around that time and if I do make this trip, I will advise him in B.A. as it is altogether possible that the two of us might be there about the same time. This plan, however, of spending a few days in New York in the middle of January is a very vague one still and it is entirely a personal trip, and I will not make it if I do not have to and there are any number of reasons why I do not want to leave here.

Cordially and faithfully yours,

GSM/cbc

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'GSM', written over a horizontal line.