

NOV 20 1950

November 16, 1950

Thomas Mann, Esq.,
Department of State,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Tom :

I am delighted to have the news of your advancement in the Department and of this new responsible position to which I understand you have been appointed. I am happy for you and am happy for the Department, and I am happy for all of us. It is not always these days that designations are made with such understanding and at the same time with such recognition of real capacity for the position. You know what high regard I have for you personally and for your capacities, and I believe I have a very real understanding of the useful service which you have been rendering. I am particularly happy that this personal recognition of your capacities and service has been given, and it must and should be a source of real satisfaction to you.

You know that, although I have no connection whatever with the Department, I am deeply interested in the adequate functioning of it, because I believe that it is so important to us and so vital in the times in which we live. The development of an adequate and sound policy in connection with our relations with the other American Republics is almost a religion with me, because even in our time there are too few of our thoughtful people at home who realize of what really fundamental importance our relations with our Latin neighbors are. You have had a very real understanding of this, and I am happy that it is in this field that you are working and now with increased responsibilities and opportunities.

I have not been north since September and it is not likely that I will be in New York or Washington again before the end of January or perhaps February of 1951, unless some unexpected circumstances should make it necessary. I must say that, while I am happy

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to be able to remain more quietly here and not to be obliged to do so much traveling, I nevertheless miss the opportunities which I had to see friends in Washington and New York, and I shall look forward to my next trip north. The next time you come down here, which I hope may be in a not too distant future, we look forward to seeing you in the new home which I have bought in Cuernavaca, and where I am trying to spend my weekends. My occupations are not really any less, but I have found it necessary to take things a little more easily in some ways, and these weekends in Cuernavaca are very relaxing. I shall be pretty busy for the next few months, as Maryssael, who is President and General Manager, of the Company, is making a long delayed trip to Belgium.

Ambassador O'Dwyer has arrived and I am hoping that he will have a pleasant and fruitful tour of duty here. I will call on him as soon as he is more settled, and I need not tell you that, if I can be of any service to him here whatever, it will be a pleasure for me. The Randallas are giving a reception for him at the University Club this afternoon, and I will have the opportunity of seeing him for a few moments. The press has received him very kindly here.

Wishing you all success in your new duties and with very good wishes to you and Mrs. Mann, in which my wife joins,

Cordially and faithfully yours,

George S. Messersmith.

GSM/go