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Sierra Paracaima 1285
Mexico, D. F.
August 18, 1955

Dear Wilbur:

I returned about ten days ago from a brief trip to the Lahey Clinic in Boston as I was fearing a return of an ulcer which has been bothering me for several years. I got a good bill of health from the hospital and feel much more fit since my return. The trip north which I made to Boston was a very brief one and on my return I stopped for a night in Greenwich and I saw Jimmy Heineman, who is the son of one of my oldest and best friends. Jimmy tells me that he has been talking with several of the people in Pan American in New York with regard to a possible connection with Pan American, and I told him that on my return to Mexico City I would write you.

On my return here I learned that you would be passing through Mexico City on your way to Guadalajara for a meeting of the Mexican-American Committee of businessmen, and I hoped to have the opportunity of seeing you. I am sorry we did not have that opportunity but I understand that you may be here again around the 28th of August and I am hoping then that I may have the opportunity of a little visit with you, as I should like to talk with you about Heineman.

The facts briefly are these. I have known Jimmy Heineman since he was a little boy. His father happens to be one of my oldest and best friends. His father, Dannie Heineman, has probably done more to increase the supply of electric power in many countries of the world than any other one person. He is now retired and lives in Greenwich. When I joined Mexlight at the end of 1947 I asked that young Jimmy Heineman join me as my assistant, and he was with me until about a year and a half ago. During the time that he was with me here in Mexico he was my principal personal assistant and had of course an opportunity to learn a great deal of the work which I was endeavoring to do to improve the position of the company and of the private electricity industry in the country. Besides that, he got, as my personal assistant, a full picture of the operations of Mexlight, which as you know are very extensive as it is the largest private company in Mexico. Jimmy felt that he wanted to bring up his children in the United States and wished to have his family live in the United States, and I thought he was quite correct in this and therefore could not do anything to endeavor to change his decision to return to the United States to live. I have seldom had anyone leave me who worked with me so closely whom I saw leave with more regret and whom I miss more. He did an excellent job with us during his stay in Mexlight.

When he returned to the United States he became associated with Amintas, which is an American company and related with Sofina in Brussels, which is the largest shareholder of Mexlight. On his father's retirement

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from Sofina early this year Jimmy decided to sever his connection with Amitas, which he has done, and he is now looking around to determine what he wishes to do.

I am not in this letter going into any detail with regard to him, but you know me so well that I would not be writing you in any way about him unless I felt that it would be interesting for you to have a conversation with him. I will confine myself to saying that Jimmy has very broad qualifications. He is a man of good education and excellent perception. He has unusual knowledge of foreign languages. He has had a great deal of experience with people and his judgment of people is excellent. He knows how to get on with people, as he showed not only in Mexico but during the years preceding that. He has an extraordinary facility for getting on with people.

Naturally, when he makes his next connection he wishes to do something which would be on a permanent basis or which from his point of view would be something he would want to stick by. I do not think that it will be difficult for him to find an employment or connection which will be interesting to him and in which he can be useful and happy. He is, however, particularly anxious to make the right kind of decision. I know that there are certain important interests which are desirous of securing his services. He is interested in making a connection with Pan American. I have not had the opportunity to discuss with him at adequate length the reasons why he has this interest in a connection with Pan American. I told him when I saw him briefly about ten days ago in Greenwich that if he did form a connection with Pan American it would have to be one which offered adequate opportunities at the outset for real usefulness. I found that he had been in touch with several persons in the Pan American organization in New York whose names I do not for the present recall, and I told him that I thought he should by all means talk with you, as you had this full knowledge of the whole field of Pan American operations and would talk with him frankly. The address of young Heineman is James H. Heineman, Wooddale Road, Greenwich, Connecticut. If you are in New York I am sure he would be glad to come in to see you at any time. I would appreciate very much your seeing him at your convenience when you are in New York. If you would prefer that he fly down to Miami to see you, if this is more convenient for you I am sure that Jimmy would be very glad to do that.

I feel that any kind of a letter in a matter of this kind is inadequate and is bound to be inadequate and I therefore do not go into any further details in this letter. I am hoping that I will have the opportunity of seeing you when you come to Mexico City on August 28.

Looking forward to seeing you and with all good wishes, believe me,

Cordially and sincerely yours,

George S. Messersmith