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Mexico, D.F., June 27, 1944.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I appreciate very much indeed your having written me under date of June 24 in reply to my letter of May 30 in which I expressed to you my preoccupation concerning certain developments in the internal situation in Mexico. I wrote you my long letter of May 30 because this preoccupation with respect to certain aspects of the internal situation in Mexico is shared with me by so many responsible Mexicans and Americans.

I am sure that you appreciate the purpose of my letter was solely to inform you of this situation so that you might be adequately in touch with the present situation here. It was not my intention to infer in the slightest that we have any responsibility for the situation here or that we have not done everything we could to help in this situation.

As you very properly pointed out in your letter of June 24 and as I tried to say in my letter to you of May 30, these problems are Mexican problems, which to a large extent they must solve themselves, and I endeavored to point out in my letter of May 30 the reasons why it is so difficult for the Mexicans to solve some of these problems and why, in consequence, we must have ~~more~~ patience and understanding.

So much

What you say in your letter of June 24 with respect to what we have done in the way of foodstuffs, equipment, and materials in general for Mexico is entirely justified by the facts. There is no doubt that we have given Mexico very generous treatment with regard to all kinds of materials, so many of which are in critical supply. There is no doubt that in spite of the exigencies of the war and the extraordinary demands upon us, the Department particularly, and other agencies in government, have been very helpful in the Mexican situation. I have just had prepared a report in a most careful way, showing what we have done in the way of materials of all kinds for Mexico since our entry into the war, and it is indeed a very imposing and impressive document. I gave a copy of it to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Padilla, the other day, in

order

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington, D. C.

order that he may be able to answer some of those critics who say that we have been unmindful of Mexico's interests.

I have taken the liberty of pressing before the Department and before you, and, through the Department, before some of the other agencies of our government, some of these minimum needs of Mexico, particularly in the way of foodstuffs, because of the important part the maintenance of economic and political stability play for us in Mexico, completely aside from other considerations. I want to go on record as saying that I think the Department has been most understanding and most helpful, and has done everything that could possibly be done under the circumstances to help the Mexicans to solve such of their problems as they could not solve and could not be expected to solve by themselves.

I know how much of a burden this has been on a good many of the officers of the Department and I know with what understanding and with what patience and energy they have gone into these matters, and also with what success. I think I should tell you that in the high circles of the Mexican Government, from the President on down, the attitude of the Department of State toward these problems of Mexico has caused a deep impression here. There are of course many thoughtless people in Mexico, as there are in every country, and there are those who act as though they were unconscious that there is a great war on, in which Mexico is fundamentally as interested as we are. I would like to say that this does not apply to the President of Mexico, to the Foreign Minister, and to high officials of the Mexican Government, and to a very considerable number of the thoughtful and constructive people in this country. They know that we have gone a very great way, in times of great strain, to give the most considered attention to the problems of this country. It is something which I am sure they know how to appreciate, even if they have not given very adequate expression to it in some ways.

As symptomatic, just today in one of the weekly publications of wide circulation which, while not unfriendly, is not always very understanding of us, there is a front-page article showing what we have done in the way of foodstuffs and other materials and saying that Mexico is not helping herself by trying to place upon the United States the responsibilities for her own shortcomings when as a matter of fact we have been more than generous and understanding in our help.

I think it has been a wise policy for us not to cry from the housetops what we are doing in Mexico. I think this wise policy is bearing fruit in ever wider sectors of the Mexican population.

I am very appreciative of your having taken the trouble to make this reply of June 24 to my letter of May 30.

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I wrote my letter of May 30 out of a deep sense of responsibility that you should know that the situation here is not a very happy one but that no political disorder of any kind is in the offing. I am sorry to say that the conditions set forth in my letter of May 30 to a very large extent still prevail, but I can still assure you that anything like political disorder in Mexico is most unlikely. At the same time I think it is fair to say that had it not been for the help which we have given in the way of foodstuffs and materials, there is no doubt that the situation in Mexico would infinitely worse, not only from the economic point of view, but from the political point of view, and either would be most unhappy for us, as you so well point out in the closing paragraph of your letter of June 24.

May I again express my appreciation of your very understanding letter and take this opportunity to express to you personally and to the officers of the Department, and particularly to those of the Mexican Division, my very sincere appreciation of the extraordinarily constructive help which they have given to me and this Embassy in the difficult matters which we have to bring before the Department.

Believe me, with all good wishes,

Cordially and faithfully yours,

GSM/aw

C. B. MESSERSMITH