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May 25, 1953 ~~25~~

Dear Loyd:

It was thoughtful of you to write me under date of May 7 in reply to my letter of December 29 and I am glad that what I said has been of interest to you. I have taken careful note of the news of yourself and I am very much interested that you are going to Bonn as Director of Political Affairs in our establishment there. It is, as you say, a challenging and important assignment not only with respect to the importance of the problems which Germany represents in our relations, but in the whole big picture. You might bear in mind in Bonn that Dr. Adenauer, for whom I have the greatest admiration and respect, is an old friend. He was Oberbürgermeister of Cologne when I was Consul General in Berlin and if it had not been for the Nazis coming in, in 1933, I think it is almost certain that Dr. Adenauer would have been the successor of Dr. Brüning, who is also a very close friend of mine. I may say, however, that I have more regard for the judgment and capacity of Dr. Adenauer, which does not mean that I do not have the highest regard and respect for Dr. Brüning. Dr. Adenauer is more realistic and is a man of greater stature and understanding. He has done a great job and I hope that he will be in a position to continue to do so, for his remaining in the position in which he is means a great deal not only for Germany but for the rest of the world.

I have seen my good friend Jack McCloy since he is back and of course he is now busily occupied with his duties as Chairman of the Board of the Chase.

My work in the company keeps me very busy and during these 5 years that I have been with it I have unfortunately not been able to write the books which I should like to write and which a good many of my friends think I should have written instead of doing this job that I am doing in the electricity field. I feel, nevertheless, that private enterprise and initiative are the bases of the strength of our country, and of any country. Fortunately the tendencies which developed during the last years of the Truman administration are now eliminated and

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the new administration is working in the direction of the complete reestablishment of private enterprise and initiative. This will have a great influence in Latin America and in some other countries as well. As the electricity business is the basis of the industrial economy of all of the Latin countries as they have no other form of power, it is important to maintain the position of private enterprise in this industry, as the needs for capital are so great if the economies are to develop, and these countries simply do not have the money themselves to do the job which they have to do in this field. If private enterprise is to do the job as it has in the past in the electricity field, private enterprise will have to get a better deal than it has been getting during a good many years in these countries. By doing what I am for this company in Mexico, or at least trying to do what I can, I think I am making as concrete a contribution as is in my power to the maintenance of the economies of these countries, and that is the basis of any political stability.

I have not kept in close touch with German affairs but I try to follow the whole picture. The present Secretary of State is a very good friend of mine of long standing and he is really a great man. He has a tremendous task before him and he needs the best help that he can get, not only in Washington but in the field.

I travel a great deal for my company as it is essential and I have just returned to my desk this morning from a weeks trip to New York and Washington, and it is unfortunately the third in less than two months. I shall have to be making another in a few weeks or less and I hope to spend a good part of the month of June in the United States, as I need a little rest. I can always be reached at this address in Mexico City which you have, as any mail will be forwarded to me wherever I may be.

This is a hurried letter but I did want to tell you how much I am pleased that you have been given this assignment. You will find that it will take all that you have and I am sure that you are prepared to give it. I shall be glad to hear from you again and any time that you think that I can give you any background which may be useful I will be glad to have you write me.

With all good wishes to you and your family from my wife and myself,

Cordially and faithfully yours,

George S. Messersmith

GSM/cbc