

Buenos Aires, Argentina
February 5, 1951

Gustav Maryssael, Esquire
Mexican Light & Power Company, Ltd.
20 Gante
Mexico City

Dear Maryssael:

I am sending you herewith a copy of a letter which I have written to Mr. Heineman, which is self-explanatory and which gives you some of the news from here. I am also sending you a copy of a letter which I have written to Graydon, which is self-explanatory.

The trip down here was very restful as I am sure the trip back will be but I am doubtful whether I will have very much real leisure while I am here if I can judge from the week which we have already had. The Mexican authorities should be eternally grateful to all concerned for the action which the company and others took in connection with the electricity needs of the country for here in the Argentine, in spite of the endeavors of the CADE, the country is really standing naked before the electricity situation and it is difficult to buy that kind of a suit of clothes in these times even if one has the money and you know how hard money is to get. From every point of view, I hope that it may be possible to do something while I am here. We are definitely sailing on the "Uruguay" on March 2nd for New York and I will return to Mexico City as soon as possible thereafter but I will have to spend a few days in New York and Washington and Graydon has mentioned the possibility that I may have to go there for a Board meeting.

I have not had any news from Mexico City since I left except for a brief letter written by Jimmy on the day he came back and the letters which I get from Mrs. Hall concerning my personal affairs. I think you know that my brother-in-law and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Caleb Layton are spending some weeks in the house in Mexico City and Cuernavaca as he has not been well and had to take a holiday. One of their daughters, Virginia, and her husband should be arriving in a few days, also to stay at our house. The latest news I have from Mrs. Hughes is that she is arriving with her daughter early in February and she will be staying at the house.

I thank you for your telegram telling me that the copy of the brief which we presented to the Export-Import Bank or International Bank has been forwarded to Brozens here. It will be indispensable for the CADE to get a credit from either the Export-Import Bank or the World Bank and I told Brozens that I thought it would be advisable for his people

to begin the preparation of their brief as soon as possible and our brief may be a guide for them. That is why I asked for it. There is no time to lose and the preparation of a brief will take at least a month although most of the basic material is of course available in the CADE.

I have a copy of the letter which you wrote on January 30th to Le Paige regarding Mr. Cardel. It looks to me as though he may be too much interested in one side of the problem but if he is a man of adequate adaptability and capacity and flexibility and if he is really willing to do the kind of work that we need, it may be that we can consider him. I think one of the principal factors you may wish to keep in mind is whether he is not only willing to think of our problem in the broad terms that such an engineer has to consider it, but also whether he has the flexibility and adaptability to do this even if he wants to. If he is purely dedicated to the research work and has only that kind of mind he is not, I should think, the kind of person we would want. I leave this matter entirely to your judgment. I have always felt that we stand as good a chance of getting the right kind of a man in the United States as we do in Europe.

I am naturally deeply interested in developments in our picture in Mexlight and I would appreciate your writing me or having someone write me concerning developments. I am very much interested in how things are going with regard to Lecheria and Patla in the various aspects and also as to how the contracting firm or Patla is coming along. I am very much interested in how the negotiations with the Syndicate with respect to the Commercial Department are going on. I notice from the papers that the Power Commission is giving itself a lot of publicity. I note in a letter from Graydon that the Mexican Government has reduced the rate of interest on government bonds from 6% to 5%. I think I can see some of the reasons why that has been done. I am very much interested in this, however, and if Genachte will talk with Randall in the Embassy I think he can get some information and background on this. A great many of the things in which I am interested will be covered by the reports of the staff meetings and there is no reason why they should not be sent to me in the mail here but if you prefer not to send them to me directly to the Plaza Hotel, you can send them to Mr. Laurie who will have a means of getting them to me. I know that you are very occupied so that if you want Jimmy, Martinez, Bernier or Nikiforf to write me, you can have them do so. Although I am on this holiday and have some other things I am thinking of here for the time being, I need not tell you that my primary thought is with Mexlight.

I am sure that Mrs. Maryssael and the children were glad to see you back and in so many ways you were glad to get back even though it means this constant application to the many problems of the company. I can assure you that life in Mexico City is as pleasant in so many ways as we know it to be.

Mrs. Messersmith and I are both well and enjoying our stay. I will appreciate your giving my good wishes to the members of the staff at the next staff meeting and telling them that my thoughts are very much and often with them.

My wife joins me in very good wishes to you, Mrs. Maryssael, and the children.

Cordially and faithfully yours,

George S. Messersmith