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December 20, 1939.

Hon. Sumner Welles,
The Department of State,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Welles:

I was much impressed with your important speech last night at the Cuban American dinner. I do not consider myself old enough to indulge in reminiscing. However, I was reminded of my former connection with the firm of Speyer & Co. and the time when we launched the first Cuban American Loan under the Platt Amendment, in 1904. Ever since that time I have followed Cuban matters in the papers and I have watched what you call "the ups and downs in our relationships". The present improved situation is not alone due to the activities of the State Department and the expressions emanating from you with the authority of your office, but also to the weight and importance of your own personality, and in our world relationships, particularly with South America, the personal equation will always be one of the important intangibles.

Perhaps I may take this occasion to say a word about the attitude of the Joint Distribution Committee in connection with the developments arising from the expulsion of the Jews from Germany and their arrival in Central and South America. We have realized from the start that we should do whatever we can to prevent this influx from becoming a source of difficulty in those Central and South American countries. We have tried as best we could to take care of the new arrivals and we are continually making efforts to facilitate their absorption and their own endeavor to become useful citizens. I have persistently urged such a course, even though I knew that whatever we could do was only an attempt, but I felt that the preventive work, namely, the effort to avoid situations arising which would irritate the general population, would be most desirable. We knew that if these new arrivals were not properly taken care of there was the danger of dissatisfaction if not despair, and that this might result in creating a nucleus of social unrest. We hope that our activities can prevent this and can thus become a positive factor.

We are grateful for the support and the cooperation which we have had from the Department in so many directions.

With my very deep assurance of my high regard, believe me,

Faithfully yours,

(Signed) Paul Baerwald