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S O F I N A
Bruxelles

Bruxelles, 1e November 26th , 1951.

CONFIDENTIAL

Mr. George S. Messersmith
Mexico

Sec. AD.Sof.cfl. 3430

Dear George,

I must apologise for not having written you earlier to thank you for your kind letter of November 5th regarding Petrofina. I very much appreciate your taking the trouble to write me so fully on this situation.

As you probably know, Vicomte Van de Vyvere is Chairman of the Board of Petrofina, and he has spoken to me about the affairs of this Company from time to time. He tells me that shortly after Mr. Pauley abandoned his interest in the Cima Company - which was formed to develop new oil fields for PEMEX - the Cima Company struck oil, with the consequence that the prospects are now much more favourable than they were when Pauley stepped out. For your personal information, I should add that Vicomte Van de Vyvere and, independently of him, a high official in Belgium had spoken to me of the possibility of Sofina taking an interest in Petrofina. At the moment, the prospects of this occurring are quite remote. Petrofina is also participating, I understand successfully, in developments in Canada; it is building, jointly with Anglo-Iranian, a large refinery in Antwerp, which will be going into production very soon, and it has a useful tanker fleet and sales outlets on the Continent and in England.

If there should be any developments along the lines I have indicated above, I shall, of course, keep you posted and, as you request, I shall keep the information you have given me for my personal background only and without any attribution to you.

Again my sincere thanks for your interest and help.

With every good wish to you and your wife,

Yours very sincerely,

(signed) Charles.