

Rec. Feb. 21, 51
N.Y.

VIA AEREA - AIR MAIL

H. 6103

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REPL: /

FILE: Messersmith

Dear Darnie -

We have had very full and interesting days since our arrival. We have had very full and interesting days since our arrival. early morning. There wasn't much to write from the ship but I mailed you letters at Trinidad, Rio, and Montevideo which, I hope you got but letters mailed from ships seldom get to destination for either the stewards or the postal people have a rather general practice of taking off the stamps and destroying the letters.

I will be dictating some letters to you and others tomorrow here in the apartment as it is a holiday. Brown has only one good English stenographer so I will use one from the Embassy.

We have had a really full interesting and pleasant week. Brown and Orschamp were at the boat to meet us as well as Mallory, our charge d'affaires and his wife. The President very kindly sent the chief of protocol who happens to be an old friend to the boat to meet us and gave some cordial messages of greeting from the President and Mrs. Brown to both Marion and myself and said the President and Mrs. Brown would be glad to see us



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any time. Brosens and I spent almost all of Monday and Tuesday, and a good part of Wednesday & Thursday, talking over the electricity situation and Walling, the charge d'affaires, who is an old friend of mine & friend of yours gave me a good deal of time as did some of his associates, as I wished to get some economic facts squared. I feel now a good idea of the present situation and problems and certainly this electricity problem is fundamental to any maintenance of economic and political and financial stability and the supply situation is even more acute now than I thought, and steps have to be taken in the immediate future to get new equipment for the Argentine in production. This in itself will be difficult enough, and nothing can be done in that direction until there is adequate provision of credit. It is a serious situation and does not admit of further delay without creating very serious problems for the Economy and the Government.



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I'm delighted we decided to take our holiday there this time, for I hope I may be able to keep in the fundamental problem.

As you know this is Carnival, and since they don't celebrate Carnival here like in Rio, the business houses etc are very quiet in February which is the warmest month here. Announcements went to Puerto del Este for the week as there is nothing to be done during the coming week.

President Peron saw me on Friday and although it should have been merely a short courtesy call we got so interested that we chatted for almost an hour. He looks very well, is in excellent spirits, has many problems as chief of state here everywhere, but is full of optimism. It was fine to see him again and to exchange views. We talked a good deal of electricity and the Code



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and while he appreciates the importance of electricity
in the Economy, and of the Code, I have the feeling
that some of his associates in the Government have not
informed him of some of the most serious problems. This
is often the case, where subordinates do not inform
fully to cover up their own inadequacies. I told
the President I would like to have the privilege of
talking with him on Electricity and the Code very
fully and naturally with Prozeas there and the
President said we would do this at his home about 8
days from now. I suggested it would be good to have
Cereijo there also and the President was as good as
to agree. We will have ample time to talk over the
whole problem with him, and my experience is that
when the President really has been adequately in-
formed on so important a problem, he not only fully



understand it, but does the necessary. In this case of course the problem remains outside Credit - of real importance but if the Argentine will do the fundamental things, I hope our Country will provide the credit.

I haven't had a word from you since we left and you promised to write me of your health! How is the Shoulder? How is the heart and pulse? You really promised to write me a line as to how you are feeling. That is the most important thing I want to know. I had a letter from Jimmy on his return to Mexico and the family seems well. Best to Betty and Edna & Yvonne and yourself but do send me a few lines very much about yourself. Mamma & I are worrying our day. I hope & think it may be useful. We are both very well - Sincerely & fondly
 Love