

January 30, 1953

Mr. George S. Messersmith,  
44, Calle Genova,  
Mexico City 6.

Dear George:

I thank you for sending me copy of your letter to James Dunn of January 27th. I have known him for about 30 years. I first met him when he was Secretary of the American Embassy in Brussels and I saw him occasionally when he was Assistant Secretary of State. I recall that Secretary Hull appreciated him very much. I have not seen Mr. Dunn since he became Ambassador, first in Rome, then in Paris.

You will be interested to learn that Gen. S, our new Under-Secretary of State, lunched with Brosens and me in Washington on January 24th. We had a long talk about B.A. S. is in search of someone with ambassadorial qualities and knowledge of the language for that post. Casually he inquired how you were getting on. I replied that you did a splendid job and that despite the unavoidable ups and downs you liked it there. Perhaps one day you may receive a request to go to B.A. on a short mission. At all events, S. seemed to have great respect for you.

Brosens gave him a lot of interesting information on B.A. as he is very well posted and, moreover, came fresh from an extended interview there with President P. The remarks made by S. were rather encouraging on the topic of the attitude which our country intends to adopt regarding B.A. As I understand it, the American conditions will be honorable for P, yet very business-like.

As to the B.T. affair, S. asked me to post him on our present situation, which I did, and, following up our talk, I sent him a letter and short memorandum. I am enclosing copy of both herewith. S. was very much interested and told me decidedly that he would help us. He expressed his satisfaction that the U.S. has no financial stake in the matter and that its intervention would be based entirely upon principles, i.e. international decency and respect for foreign investments.

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Mr. George S. Messersmith,  
Mexico City 6.

New York, January 30, 1953

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Anna was most helpful at this juncture. I really believe that this time we are going ahead with a good program, steadily and without paying too much attention to Great Britain. Of course, Belgium must carry the ball and I do not doubt that they will do so. Somebody from here will have to approach the top man in the country where B.T. experiences difficulties. I am confident that this will be serious business and bring results.

Brosens will be here until February 4th. I shall remain here to maintain contact and try to see this thing through. Should I be temporarily absent, then Bachrach will attend to this aspect, as Anna has full confidence in him.

In your letter to Dunn you stated your views on investments in Spain but you did not make a specific reference to B.T. Surely you know best whether it will be advisable to follow up this hint by a specific reference to the B.T. case. I would assume that Dunn will come to Washington to be briefed on his new assignment and if Gen. S. deems this advisable I shall then see Dunn.

Yesterday I met Black at the River Club. He is leaving for Europe on the 13th of February and thereafter will visit the Middle East. I told him that you had been favorably impressed by your talks with the authorities, that you are doing your best and that it is difficult to see what more anyone could do.

I am anxious to see you. Even apart from Mexican questions there are so many problems to be discussed, particularly having regard to my visit to Washington and the extended conferences I am having with Brosens and which will terminate on the 4th of February when Brosens returns to Brussels.

I am glad to know that your state of health has greatly improved. We all have from time to time recurrences of old conditions. I am not exempt from this as I sometimes still suffer from the consequences of the accident I had.

As ever yours,

encls.

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D. N. Heineman