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Mexico, D. F., August 29, 1945.

Dear friend:

Your letter of August 12 reached me a few days ago and I need not tell you what a pleasure it was to Marion and me to have this news. I had been wondering what your plans were and particularly had we been wondering and concerned with regard to the news we had had from you about Mme. Lupescu. Your letter is not too reassuring for I was hoping that in the lower altitude of Rio in spite of the higher temperature, that she would feel much better than she did in Mexico City. I am quite sure that once she is back in Europe and the surroundings to which she has been accustomed and with some aspects of life more tranquil and settled, it should go far towards bringing about complete recovery of her health, which I know has been of such concern to you and to her friends.

I am very much interested in knowing that you are going to Lisbon and from there to France, and when the circumstances are propitious, to Rumania. You will probably not be wishing to stay too long in Lisbon as you will be more comfortable in the home you have in France. From the reports I get, however, life is still very difficult in France, but as you would be at the chateau in the country, living of course would be very much easier.

I also do not have very much news from Rumania, but somehow or other I feel that the situation is improving there. I was very glad to see the recent action of your son King Michael the King, who obviously is not satisfied with the type of election which was being planned. I was more than gratified to see the statements made by my Government and that of Great Britain in the sense that we would not be able to recognize the results of any election that was not carried on under conditions

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His Majesty
King Carol of Rumania,
c/o American Embassy
Lisbon, Portugal.

which represented an expression of the real will of the people. The danger which you have so consistently perceived of the possibility that at the end of the military hostilities, small but vocal and violent minorities would make themselves felt was more than realized, not only in your country but in others. The whole problem is one which is exceedingly difficult to deal with, and I think some people have been improperly impatient with my Government because it has not taken certain drastic and determined attitudes at times. Perhaps its attitude has been more determined even and more drastic in fact than may have appeared on the surface. In all of these particular problems we have had to keep in mind not only the individual problem but so many factors in the major problem, and it was only if the big picture was kept in order that it would be possible to carry through policy all along the line. I think the pattern of things is beginning to develop and it has begun to be more apparent when the Government of my country made it clear that it could not be disinterested in what happened in any part of the world. This was a difficult decision for us to come to but we have been preaching that peace and order are indivisible. We have learned through the bitter lessons of the war that peace and order are indivisible. Out of this there can grow only one policy, which has to be clearly defined, even though its outlines may not always be apparent on the surface.

I think one of the most encouraging things for all of us must be the recent developments in China, where there is now common agreement that there must be no intervention by an outside power in the internal affairs of China, and there seems to be very clear understanding between the Government of Soviet Russia and my own country on this matter. I feel that the danger is over of civil war in China, at least on the scope that we had to possibly foresee it. Of course in China, as in so many countries, lawless elements give themselves labels under which they think they can work more freely, and so-called Communist factions in China are not necessarily Communists, but may be only bandits. Unfortunately some of those on the Government side are not very much better. The thing is that we have arrived at the principle that in this big country like China, as in smaller countries, the principle of self-determination without outside influence or imposition shall be carried through.

How difficult it will be to carry this through, you know as well as I, for you have such profound knowledge

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of these political problems. The important thing, however, is that we are on the right path. Not everything is going to happen along the way that we wanted to happen, nor as fast as we should like it to happen, but we are on the right way.

I quite agree with you that from what I have read of the obligations which are placed upon the economy of Rumania, it would mean that if carried through strictly it would be very difficult for Rumania to establish any kind of sound economic life, which means that it would be extremely difficult for her to reach political tranquility. I am, however, of the opinion that these economic obligations which have been placed upon Rumania and which today may be carried through with a good deal of severity, will gradually be eased.

Here in Mexico many things have been happening since you left, but as I live so close to events here, you will forgive me if I do not comment on developments in this country. My one hope is, as it is the hope of all thoughtful people in my country, that Mexico will continue to have a government which is stable and understanding and which will carry on in such a way that Mexico can go forward in the path of economic and political development in which she has made such progress in the last few years. It is very probable that the presidential elections in July 1946 will determine whether Mexico will go forward along the path she is now following and whether her agriculture and industry will develop, or whether her development will remain more or less stationary, and there is, of course, always a possibility of retrograde movement. I myself however remain optimistic as to the course of developments in this country, for as you learned to know during your stay here, although democratic forms have not developed to any considerable degree, the democratic feeling is increasingly getting strong among the masses, and it is bound to find expression.

My own life continues a very busy one. The operation which I had in May in Washington was quite successful but it was a rather delicate one and I still have some minor inconveniences so that I shall, the next time I go home, go to either the Army Hospital at San Antonio, or the Naval Hospital at Washington for some treatment. I feel very much better since the operation, and I am sure that it did me good.

I am planning to go to Washington probably in the

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latter part of September, but I do not plan to remain there for more than a week or ten days, as there is so much for me to do here. I am only making the trip because I wish very much to talk over some matters with President Truman and also with the new Secretary of State, Mr. Byrnes, who is, I can assure you, one of the really best men my country has produced in recent years. He has not had very much experience in matters of foreign affairs, but he is a man of very broad experience and knowledge and of wide interests, and a man of great understanding. What is most important is that he is a man of keen sense of perception and of very great capacities. I think it is a very great fortune for my country, and I should like to think for the rest of the world also, that men of the character and temperament and capacity of President Truman and Secretary Byrnes are carrying the burden of the foreign relations of the United States at a time when she must assume this position of leadership for her own security and for that of the rest of the world.

This letter is already too long, but I did want to send you these lines to tell you how much Marion and I appreciated hearing from you. We hope that you will be comfortable in Lisbon and I am sending this letter in care of our Embassy there, with the request that it be delivered to you. In case you may not have left Rio by this time, I am also sending a copy to our Embassy in Rio with the request that it be delivered to you if you are still there.

You were good enough to inquire concerning Mrs. Mustard. I am sorry to say that she is not any better, although fortunately she is not worse. She is now with her son at Wellesley. The most one can say is that she is no longer suffering the way she did for so many months. She is able to be about a little and is able to play a game of bridge or some gin rummy on most days. I shall not fail to let her know that you made inquiries concerning her. It is a pitiful thing to see a woman who has led so active and fine a life and so useful a one in every way possible pass through lingering months of pain before release.

Undoubtedly Marion will be writing to Mme. Lupescu. Please tell her how often and how much we think of her and how earnestly we hope that she will soon be feeling entirely fit. I particularly appreciate the message which she was so kind as to write at the end of your letter, and it is characteristic of her.

With

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With affectionate good wishes to you and Mme.
Lupescu, and hoping to hear from you in due course
believe me,

Cordially and sincerely yours,

GSM/eer

G. S. Messersmith