



EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Habana, Cuba, December 12, 1940.

Mr. D. N. Heineman,
Hotel Beekman,
Park Avenue,
New York City.

Dear friend:

I received last night the copy of your letter of November 25, with which you enclose the copies of the reports and letters on Spain. Your letter reached me just a few minutes before you called me on the telephone, and as I was on the point of telegraphing you that the letter had reached me.

The original letter of November 25 which you sent me by air mail has not yet reached me.

When you called me the other morning with regard to this second letter which you had mailed by registered air mail on December 4, I had a man go to the central Post Office. He found that there were six registered letters there addressed to members of the Embassy staff which had not been delivered. The procedure here in Cuba is that when a registered letter arrives by air or regular mail a yellow card is immediately forwarded to the addressee that the letter can be claimed. Registered letters must be claimed at the Post Office and are not delivered by the carriers. In the case of all these six letters the employee had simply neglected to make out the yellow card notifying the addressee, and the letters remained in the Post Office. Among these six letters, above referred to, was the one which you mailed on December 4. The envelope shows that it was mailed at New York on December 4 and that it arrived here on December 6. It therefore lay in the Post Office from December 6 until December 11, due to the negligence of the postal clerk responsible for the sending out of the yellow card. I have carefully examined the envelope, and we are rather experienced in determining whether envelopes had been opened, and I would say that this particular envelope had not been tampered with. I am convinced that so far as the letter mailed December 4 is concerned, that it is a matter of pure negligence on the part of the postal employee.

The

The foregoing does not explain the failure of your letter of November 25 reaching me by the air mail, and this should have been delivered directly to the Chancery. It has not arrived, and there has been no loss of air mail through loss of a plane, et cetera.

I am taking the matter in a rather serious way, even though only neglect in the local Post Office may be involved, and I am making a complaint to the Chief of the Communications of the Cuban Government.

I read last evening with the greatest interest the notes on Spain, which I find most helpful to me here. There is a very strong Falange movement in Cuba, which is of course controlled and directed by the Falange in Spain. Although the membership is considerable, the Government is so carefully watching the activities of the Falange in Cuba that it has not been able to do anything which need concern us, and I doubt whether it can do anything to bother us. The Cuban officials are as much interested as we in observing the activities of the Falange. Naturally, high officials of the Cuban Government are very much interested in developments in Spain, and the information which is fed to them from Spanish sources is, of course, in complete variance with the facts. I therefore in a discreet way bring in a summary form to friends of mine in the Government the information I get from these notes you are good enough to send me, and I can assure you it is most helpful.

I am particularly occupied these days, for we have as I have told you some difficult problems which require my personal, unremitting attention. Ordinarily, this would not be a difficult task, even though it is an important one, but for over two weeks I have been having a low fever which gives me headaches and is somewhat debilitating. I have had all sorts of tests made and we know what it doesn't come from, but it hasn't been possible to determine what is really the cause. There are excellent doctors here, and I am sure that I will soon be rid of it, but in the meantime it is most annoying. It bothers me most during the hours of the day when I have the most to do.

My

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My wife and I are looking forward to seeing you and Mrs. Heineman here, and you must really come when you can get away. You know that during your busiest periods in Europe you always found it so helpful to take your holidays in Switzerland, and you will find Habana an ideal spot for a winter holiday and change. Any time that suits you and Mrs. Heineman will suit us. Please remember us affectionately to Mrs. Heineman and to James and your daughter. With all good wishes,

Faithfully yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'H. H. H.' or similar, written in a cursive style.