



THE FOREIGN SERVICE  
OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

AMERICAN EMBASSY

Mexico, D. F., December 13, 1943

AIR MAIL

Dear Dannie:

I have just received your note of December 3, and Marian and I are so happy to know that you are back from your long and arduous trip. I feel much happier now that you are back, for while air travel is so much safer these days, and probably safer than rail travel, I can't get away from the feeling that travel is still safer on terra firma. What I am particularly happy to know is that you found the trip so useful, and I know you must have a deep sense of satisfaction in having made it, now that it is over.

Marian and I were delighted to have a letter from Hettie about ten days ago, and I have in the meantime written to her. She told us that Jimmy is happy and all is going well, and that May has passed her MA in physics and mathematics.

With regard to Mr. and Mrs. Hersy<sup>a</sup>, they arrived last week and we asked them to dinner at the house on Saturday evening. We were giving a dinner for some of the diplomats here, including the Soviet Ambassador and his wife, and it gave Hersy a chance to meet some of the people here whom he wishes to know. There were so many people at the dinner on Saturday evening that I did not have a chance to talk with the Hersys very much, but I gather from my Press Attaché that he had seen Hersy the day before the dinner, and that Hersy has indicated to him that he is no longer with TIME, but that he is now associated with LIFE, and that his principal interest in coming to Mexico is to write an article on Oumansky. I am therefore very glad that Hersy had a chance to meet Oumansky at the Embassy the other evening. They seemed like a nice couple, and we hope to see some more of them.

I have noted what you say concerning your wishing the Hersys to get to know the Conways, and I will arrange that. I think that it is very important that

Hercy

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Hersey see the right kind of people here, because TIME, FORTUNE and LIFE are not too popular in Mexican official and other circles, because they have carried, or at least two of them have carried, some very unfavorable articles concerning Mexico, and which gave a somewhat distorted idea of the situation here. I think this is because some of the people who have come down here for these magazines have not seen the right people, as I cannot believe it was deliberate misrepresentation. So I shall be very glad to help Hersey to meet the right kind of people, who can really give him some help in getting the real picture here.

I gather from your letter that you have been getting some bad reports about my working habits. I am afraid that they are correct. I think I am a little too old to change my way of living. Some of my friends say that I do not delegate adequate authority, etc. This is one of the things that I have been accused of from time to time, but it is certainly not true now, as with a staff of over 600 altogether, I have to delegate authority and do it amply and widely. These friends of mine, however, do not keep in mind that this Embassy has grown from less than 100 to a total establishment of our Government in Mexico City of over 600 in the short space of a year and a half, and that the scope of our work has tremendously widened, and the work itself become more important, and that so many of our people, even in the more responsible positions, must be relatively new to the Mexican picture. You will appreciate that the organizational problems always involved in such a situation mean that the boss has to work pretty hard to get the machine properly going. But I am getting to the point where the machine is working much better. I am glad to say that in spite of all my bad habits of work, I feel physically better than I did at the same time last year. I had all of my teeth extracted about four months ago, and I think I am just beginning to feel the good effects of it.

I have now not been home since latter January of this year, and there are a number of reasons which make it imperative for me to go home in the near future. I am planning to leave here so as to be in Washington on January 15. If Marian goes with me we will go by train, which means that I will be leaving here about January 10 or 11. Marian will be going straight on to Boston, where her mother is, if she does go with me. I have told Washington that I will be there from January 15 to January 30. It is not a trip in any way one of absence, and I am

*have of*

afraid

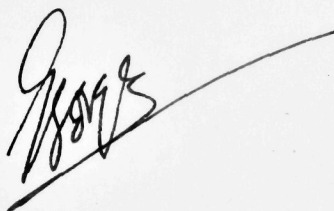
afraid that I shall be harried and keep going even harder in Washington than here during the two weeks that I plan to be there, as there are some really important matters which I wish to take up. I am not planning to take any leave, and there are reasons why I wish to be away from here no longer than necessary. What I am hoping to do is to be able to complete my work in Washington between January 15 and 30, and then spend a week in New York and Wilmington, Delaware, and then return home with Marian. These are my plans, which I will make an effort to carry through, and which I think I can carry through. Needless to say, I look forward to seeing you all.

There is now, I am afraid, too short an interval for you all to make us a visit before we make this trip home in January, but I am hoping that soon thereafter you will be able to make us a visit here. I will use my best persuasions on you and Hettie when I am home. Please tell May that in my letter to her mother I did not mention her in the invitation because I was thinking of her as this very serious young lady who is going to be one of our great mathematicians, and I thought she would probably be continuing her work in Columbia or elsewhere!! Please tell her that I am going to try to persuade her, just as much as you and Hettie, to come down her for this visit, which you really must make.

It was good of you to send me a note so soon after you returned from your arduous trip. I need not tell you how relieved Marian and I will be when we know that the President is safely back from this epic trip which he is making.

With love and good wishes to you all from us both,

Cordially and faithfully yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "George B. Segal", with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the signature to the right.