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Mexico, D. F., February 6, 1945.

Dear Joe:

I appreciate very much your generous letter of February 1, acknowledging my letters of January 25 and 26, with which I sent you copies of letters to the Secretary and Nelson Rockefeller. I am glad to know that you found them interesting.

I appreciate particularly your saying that my insistence on a realistic approach to the Mexico City meeting is a good thing. You state that one of your constant aims is to see that any policy advocated by us is within the realm of the possible. You, like some of the rest of us during your long and constructive experience in our foreign relations, and in our contact with foreign countries, have learned that a realistic approach to our problems is not only essential but the only sound one. I recall this so well from so many of the telegrams and reports of yours which I read while I was in the Department from 1937 to 1940, and I had the greatest admiration for the clear, concise and realistic reporting which you made and if I may say so, the greatest admiration for your sound judgment and vision.

is that
I think it is so fundamentally important for us not only for our approach in these political and economic problems to be eternally realistic, but as you say, it is necessary for us to keep our policy within the realm of the possible. One of the things which some of our people at home, and some very good people, as well as some in the Department do not understand, we cannot be talking about pure principle ~~when we are~~ faced by stark realities in so much of the world picture. I do not believe that we can let go of any of our principles for a moment because it would be treason to ourselves and by that I mean treason to

our

The Honorable
Joseph C. Grew
Acting Secretary of State
Washington, D. C.

our country and to our people. More than that it would be in a way treason so far as the hopes and aspirations of the whole world are concerned for I do not think there is any doubt that it is pretty well understood in the Americas and in a good many other countries that the only country which is really standing up definitely for the principles for which we are fighting is the United States. Their hope is in us and if we let them down we open the flood gates to all sorts of movements which may engulf even the strongest of us.

As you and I realize, however, adherence to principle does not mean that we can merely advocate principle in a vacuum and that we are accomplishing anything by merely talking about them. The implementation of principle and the acceptance of it in order that it may increasingly and generally prevail is a slow and difficult process and not the work of a day and not accomplished merely by the stating of principles. The accomplishment of the objectives that we have in mind necessitates a realistic approach to these problems and at times it means that we have to agree to things which are short of what we are aiming at. The thing which has concerned me somewhat is that some of our people in the economic field are thinking too much and almost entirely in terms of general principles and of Europe and the Far East and not keeping in mind that if we wish to really be in a position to establish the principles for which we stand ultimately, it is necessary for us to keep our house in this Hemisphere in order and that means we have got to be prepared to collaborate very closely with our friends in this Hemisphere. Unless we show our friends in this Hemisphere that we are understanding of these problems at home we will lose their support not only in the inter-American picture but in the big picture and our power to accomplish the things we are after will be correspondingly decreased.

I am particularly interested in your statement that it is one of your constant aims to see any policy advocated by us is within the realm of the possible because there are some of us who have learned that there is nothing more dangerous than a policy of a broad

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and general character which cannot be fulfilled. There are, however, some things in this American picture which can be done in the economic field and which our primary interest, I believe, makes it essential for us to consider, discuss, agree upon and implement together with our associates in this Hemisphere. In my opinion the more realistic our approach, the more understanding our friends in this Hemisphere will be for they may be Latins but they are viewing this world situation very realistically and are convinced that their future is tied up with us.

I have every confidence that our people will prepare for the Conference in Mexico City with these considerations in mind for they are so vital for our own future position.

I note that you have found the observations which I made about the activities of the Roman Catholic Church in My letter of January 26 and earlier letters of interest. I can only assure you that I am not seeing Indians behind trees. I see every day the most concrete evidence of the situation which I have set forth in my letters with respect to the activities of the Church.

Appreciating your letter and hoping that you will not take the time to acknowledge this further comment, believe me, with all good wishes,

Cordially and sincerely yours,