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AIR MAIL

México, D. F., México  
July 29, 1944

Dear Joe:

It was very thoughtful of you to write me your letter of July 28 with good wishes for Marian and myself on the occasion of our thirtieth wedding anniversary and the completion of thirty years in the Foreign Service. I appreciate more than I can say your cordial and generous letter which, because of our friendship and because of the high regard in which I hold you, means a very great deal for me.

I need not tell you how much I appreciated the very cordial note which the Secretary wrote me and which I am sure he wrote because you reminded him of this anniversary. You know of the affection and esteem which I have for the Secretary, and therefore how much I would prize a letter of this kind from him, who is without any question the greatest Secretary of State we have ever had.

I think you will be interested in seeing a translation of a letter which Dr. Padilla wrote me, and I am sending you one herewith. This letter, however, is for your personal information and I would not want it to have any publicity, as for example in the Foreign Service Journal.

I am glad to say that I am feeling ever so much better than I have for some years in spite of the fact that I seem to put in longer hours, if that is possible, continuously. I never expected to hold out for thirty years in the Foreign Service, and I can assure you that I was filled with a good deal of emotion last Thursday,

although

Mr. C. W. Gray,  
Office of the Secretary,  
Department of State,  
Washington, D. C.

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although, as you know, I am not a sentimental person. I am particularly grateful that my health remains good for I am still looking forward and not backwards, and there are a lot of things which I want to do before I quit.

You know how much our personal friendship and association has meant to me, and how deeply attached Marian and I are to you and how much we are interested in all that concerns you. It is associations of that kind that have made all the hard work of these last thirty years worthwhile.

With all good wishes, in which Marian joins,

Cordially and faithfully yours,

George S. Messersmith

Enclosure:

Translation of letter from  
Dr. Padilla.