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México, D.F., March 14, 1945.

Dear Avra:

I do want to send you this personal word to congratulate you on the most constructive and helpful contribution which you made to the Mexico City meeting recently closed. I am one of those who know how diligently and how earnestly and constructively you labored all the hours of the day and night in order to aid in bringing about the extraordinarily constructive results achieved at this meeting. My very sincere congratulations.

Marion and I left Mexico City on Friday evening for Guadalajara in the private car of an American friend of mine and returned Monday morning. Although we were away only two days I had an opportunity to catch up on my sleep. I knew that if I stayed in Mexico City over the weekend I would attack the mountain of papers which had accumulated during the several weeks of the meeting and I was desperately in need of a little sleep. We came back very much refreshed and I had at the same time an opportunity of seeing our Consulate in Guadalajara, which I have not seen during the three years of my stay in Mexico.

Every one of these meetings which we have had of the American Republics during the last one hundred years or more has been important and every one of them has had its particular significance and achievement. All of them, of course, served as the background of the present meeting and the achievements at this Mexico City meeting would not have been possible without the background and progress made at these previous meetings. It is, however, interesting and I think most significant and encouraging that of all of these meetings we have held over so many years the Mexico City meeting proved to be the most significant, the most fruitful and in many ways the most constructive. It is no disparagement

of

The Honorable
Avra M. Warren,
Department of State,
Washington, D. C.

of previous meetings to say that this was the most important of the meetings we have yet held in the Americas. It was the time and the circumstances under which it was held and the reality with which all of us are facing our problems that I think contributed so largely to this result.

I think there may be those who will not realize how the preparatory work of Dr. Padilla, the Mexican Foreign Minister, contributed to the success of this meeting. You know he is really a great statesman and during several months preceding the meeting there was hardly a day that he and I did not have a talk with regard to various phases of the meeting and there was not a day that I know that he was not diligently occupied in talking with representatives of the other American Republics here in order to lay a favorable background for the meeting.

Of course the principal contribution to the success of the meeting was made by our delegation which was really fine and this is recognized by the delegations of all of the other American Republics who go back with the happiest sensation of the cooperative and understanding spirit as well as the capacity of our delegation. The leadership given by Secretary Stettinius and Mr. Rockefeller was fine and could not have been more constructive and contributed so much to the success of the meeting.

I think all of us who had any association with the meeting can take a very great satisfaction in having participated in it. We have regained all the ground that we had lost in inter-American solidarity and cooperation. We have consolidated the position. We have gained much ground. This is far more than we could have hoped for.

I hope that you may get at least a few days rest to recover from the strenuous efforts here. I am sorry we did not have the opportunity for more exchange of views on a lot of things while you were here and to see more of you at the house but the circumstances under which all of us worked were such as to make it impossible.

With all good wishes,

Cordially and faithfully yours,

G. S. Messersmith

GSM:NA