

duplicate

Cl. Messersmith

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June 4, 1948.

PURELY PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Dannie:

As we have such a deep interest in so much that concerns the Argentine, I am sending you herewith some correspondence and wish to give you the following background:

Some weeks ago I had a letter from my friend Rudolph Hecht, who was formerly the Chairman of the Board of the Hibernia National Bank in New Orleans, which has been and is one of the four or five largest banks in the South and Southwest. He has been long interested in international affairs and particularly in our relations with the other American republics. He has been instrumental in setting up in New Orleans what is known as International House and which is one of the most constructive and concrete developments in the practical conduct of improved commercial relations between our country and these Latin countries.

He wrote me that he and a group of rather prominent business men in the United States had been invited by Senator Molinari, on behalf of President Perón, to visit the Argentine, and he had some reluctance about accepting or encouraging any of his friends to accept, as he did not know just what purpose it would serve. I wrote him very fully and frankly and told him that it would be a great mistake for him not to go and not to encourage his good and responsible friends to go on this trip, for while Senator Molinari was in some respects a rather irresponsible man and not to be depended upon, I knew that this invitation must come from President Perón, and that it would be a very helpful thing if he and some really responsible business men went to the Argentine. I said that unfortunately some of the Americans who had gone down there on their own initiative to see Perón and some whom Perón had been influenced to ask to come down had not been the right kind and had been for the most part second-rate individuals who had an axe to grind of their own and sometimes not a very good axe. I emphasized to Hecht how important it was for Perón to have contact with the right kind of responsible American business men and how useful it would be all around, and that I was sure he could talk with President Perón with the greatest frankness and that if he did not talk with such frankness it would be a disappointment to Perón.

I got a telegram from Hecht saying he had my letter and that he had about decided not to go and not to encourage his friends to go, but on receipt of my letter had decided to make the trip and was leaving with a group

of responsible

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of responsible American business men in a few days.

I am sending you herewith a copy of the letter which I have just received from Hecht and which is self-explanatory and which I think you will wish to read. You will also wish to read the enclosure to his letter which I am sending you and which covers the memorandum which he gave to President Perón before he had a long conversation with him alone. As Hecht's letter and the accompanying memorandum are altogether self-explanatory I make no further comment.

I gather that Brosens may still be in Europe and I am sending you this letter in duplicate in case you wish to send a copy and its enclosure to Brosens, but I would suggest that you do not send it to him in Spain, but retain it for his perusal when he may return to Brussels or to London.

With affectionate regard and all good wishes from Marion and myself,

Cordially and faithfully yours,

Enclosure.