

December 18, 1953

Dear Charles:

I have your letter of December 15 stating that Mr. Heineman has communicated to you my letter of December 3 to E. A. Graydon, together with its enclosures. I note that you have sent a copy of your letter of December 15 to me under acknowledgement to Mr. Heineman, Mr. Brosens and Mr. E. A. Graydon.

I note from your letter that it was you who took up this matter of the Service Contract and Mexican taxation with Sir Ashley Cooper and Sir Bernhard Binder in London. I did not and do not think anything was to be gained by this matter being taken up with Sir Ashley Cooper and Sir Bernhard Binder, as the problem involved in your reference of this matter to them apparently was principally from the point of view of Mexican taxation on which Sir Ashley Cooper and Sir Bernhard Binder, competent and well informed men as they are, could not be expected to have any adequate specific knowledge which would be helpful. You know that the matter of the contract and of Mexican taxation in connection therewith had been under discussion for a long time and had been examined repeatedly by counsel and other officers of Sofina and by officers and counsel of the company in Mexico City and in Toronto, as well as by competent people in New York. My one interest in the letter of Sir Bernhard Binder to me, with which he sent me a memorandum expressing an opinion, was that I have very high regard for Sir Bernhard Binder and his competence and I did not think it was quite fair to bring him into this matter.

As I understand we should be able to close this matter of the Service Contract before the end of the year on a basis which is mutually satisfactory to Sofina and to the company, I do not think that any useful purpose would be served by me going into the matter further in this letter.

I am,

Sincerely yours,

George S. Messersmith

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