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México, D.F., México,
March 12, 1945.

My dear Friend:

I wish to take this first opportunity after the close of the Inter-American Conference on Problems of War and Peace to express to you, as one so deeply interested in the problems of this hemisphere, my personal appreciation of the constructive leadership which you gave during this meeting which, in my opinion, has been the most constructive, the most important, and the most fruitful of all of the meetings of the American Republics up to this time.

I am one of those who know how largely you are responsible for the holding of this meeting. I am one of those who know that no one realized the importance and the necessity of such a meeting more than you. I am one of those who know that for months before this meeting you gave it that preparation and study which ~~is~~ necessary to the success of such a meeting. There are few who realize the constructive statesmanship and the infinite effort and vision which must lie behind such a meeting. From the very outset, you saw this meeting in its true importance and its true perspective, and labored diligently and constructively and with adequate vision to assure the success of the meeting.

Perhaps no meeting of the American Republics which has yet been held started in such a good atmosphere and ended even in a better atmosphere.

From

His Excellency
Señor Licenciado don Ezequiel Padilla,
Minister for Foreign Relations,
México, D. F.

From my experience, I should say that in no meeting of the American Republics held up to this time have each and every one of those participating in the meeting approached the problems with such vision, such realism, and such understanding as characterized this meeting. I am one of those who know how much of the success of this meeting is due to your statesmanship, vision and leadership.

I am confident that every one of the American Republics participating in the meeting, as is my country, is grateful to you for this leadership which means so much for this hemisphere and for the future peace of us all, not only in this hemisphere but in the world. I am writing you these few words to tell you what a privilege it has been for me to be associated with you in the work of this meeting. Although my capacity in the meeting was a very humble one, the months of preparation for the meeting, and the association during the meeting, have given cause for gratitude that it has been my privilege, even in so humble a capacity, to be associated with you in this great enterprise.

Permit me to say that in the many years that I have served my country I have been associated in many parts of the world with statesmen of vision and understanding, but nowhere have I had the privilege of an association with a Foreign Minister for whom I have had such respect and such admiration as I have for you because of the manifold qualities of statesmanship which you have so fully shown and which have found such fine fruit for the family of the Americas in this Conference in Mexico City just closed.

With assurances of my sincere admiration and respect and enduring friendship, believe me,

Cordially and faithfully yours,

GEORGE S. MESSERSMITH