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Metropolitan Club
Washington, D.C.

February 4, 1948

Dear friend -

Our good friend Bradford of the United Press, who has such high regard and admiration for you, has told me he is making a visit to Argentina, and I avail myself of this happy opportunity to send these few lines which he will place in your hands.

I have not burdened you with letters, but I am sure I need not tell you that you and Mrs. Peron have been very much and often in our thoughts for my wife and I shall always remember and be grateful for all the courtesies, kindness and friendship you extended to us so generously during our only too short stay in your country. We have followed and follow with the keenest interest the news we get of your country and of you and I was happy to learn from Ambassador Ivanissivich the otherday in Washington when I saw him briefly, that you and Mrs. Peron are well in spite of your many activities.

My wife and I are both well. She is very much occupied in arranging our new home in Mexico City. I have been particularly busy in connection with my new duties with the private company which I serve and it has entailed a good deal of travel between the United States and Mexico City. I am enjoying my new work for it is a constructive task in the field of electric power.

As you know, I am convinced that adequate electric power, fuel and transportation are the basic and vital factors in the development of any country, and imperative necessity in rapidly developing countries. With your usual vision you have recognized this in the stress you have so wisely placed in your Presidency on power projects in Argentina. There can be no development of industry or real improvement in agriculture without adequate power, and it is almost equally important in many phases of the social structure. Maintaining as I do my very keen interest in the economic and social improvement in the American countries, it is my hope that in my new work in the field of power, I may be able to do something really constructive.

There are some who believe that my country is less interested ~~in~~ than in the past in the welfare of our sister republics in this hemisphere. This is not the case. In fact, the interest of the U.S. government in all that concerns the welfare of the Americas is greater than ever. The fact is that European problems have been pressing in on all of us almost every hour of the day but in spite of this I wish to assure you that the government and people of the United States have never been more interested in, and more alive to the problems and needs of this American house in which we all live.

The discussions in the Congress and the Press concerning the Marshall plan are naturally somewhat prolonged, but the issues are vital and the decisions important - for implementation

of such a program is not easy. The United States may have, and will have, to carry the financial burden which will be enormous, and which will burden its economy for years. The United States however cannot implement the Marshall plan alone, but the close collaboration of all the American countries is essential. This I am sure will be given and it will be rebound not only in terms of long range security but also bring solutions to immediate problems such as scarcity of dollars and goods needed for the development of the economies of American countries.

I am one of those, my good friend, who knows how fully and clearly you foresaw some of the major problems we all have to face today and the soundness of your vision and judgment have been justified.

Those who really know what is happening in the world today can find little comfort in day to day developments, but I am one of those who believe that with vision, understanding, sacrifice, courage and decision, the fine worthwhile things in this world can be saved and made secure.

May I say how much I miss the opportunities to exchange views with you, which opportunities you so generously accorded me during my stay in your great country, and through the friendship you extended. It was always stimulating and helpful to discuss these matters of common interest. I treasure very much the hope that some time before too long I may have the opportunity of seeing you in your country, or when you may visit mine.

In the meantime be assured that I follow with the greatest interest your continued efforts to take constructive steps towards developing the economy of your country and the improvement of the standards of living, and I am confident your work will be crowned with deserved success.

My wife and I wish to convey to you and Mrs. Peron the heartfelt hope that this year may be filled for you both with a great measure of all good things. My wife hopes that Mrs. Peron will accept the little remembrance which our good friend Bradford is so kind as to carry on his journey, and he will hand you, dear friend, a remembrance from me, the use of which from time to time may turn your thoughts to one who has for you deep admiration and respect, and sentiments of real affection and friendship.

Always cordially and faithfully yours,

G. S. Messersmith

His Excellency General Juan D. Peron
President of the Argentine
Buenos Aires