

January 7, 1953.

Kessersmith

MESSERSMITH WROTE YOU ON JANUARY THIRD EXPLAINING THAT OWING TO HIS PRESENT ILLNESS HE WILL BE UNABLE TO BE IN NEW YORK BY MIDDLE PRESENT MONTH AS HE INTENDED. YOU SHOULD NOT THEREFORE MAKE YOUR TRAVELING PLANS ON BASIS OF EXPECTED MEETING IN NEW YORK AS MESSERSMITH WILL CERTAINLY BE UNABLE TO TRAVEL FOR A FEW WEEKS . WOULD IT BE POSSIBLE FOR YOU TO STOP IN MEXICO ON YOUR WAY BACK TO EUROPE . REGARDS

The doctor was in yesterday, and everything seems to be going quite well. I will have an X-ray examination tomorrow, and as there has been no evidence of further bleeding since last Wednesday, the chances are that the X-ray examination will not be too bad and that the doctor will decide that an operation now is not necessary and that in another week with careful diet and rest I shall be in fairly normal shape again. If the X-ray examination tomorrow is satisfactory, which, as I say, I have every reason to hope, I intend to go to Cuernavaca on Thursday evening with Marion and remain there until the following Sunday evening or Monday morning. I did lose a good deal of blood and the whole thing has weakened me very much, and therefore it will be, of course, quite impossible for me to consider making a trip to New York or elsewhere during January.

I am terribly sorry as I was looking forward to seeing you, and it would have been very useful and interesting, I believe, if you and Brosens and I could have met in New York, and there were some personal things which I wanted very much to do. I wanted to have a talk with Foster Dulles on various matters, and also with Allen, and I was wishing to see McCloy and Aldrich as well as people in Washington. It is extremely important that we start **right** on this matter of our relations with Latin America, because things are in about as bad shape in most of these countries as they can be, and they are all beginning to gang up against us. Argentina, Bolivia and

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Chile are working together more closely and they are trying to bring in Brazil. The Central American states are planning to have an economic conference and the so-called Gran Colombiana states are also planning and having intimate talks with each other about internal arrangements between them. Perón is trying to promote this economic meeting, first of the few of the Southern states and then of all of Latin America, to talk about raw materials - all of which is done with the purpose of bringing pressure on us. It seems ridiculous that the man could even think of it, but the scheme will be no more successful than this meeting that Perón promoted in Mexico City several months ago to form an association of Latin American workers. The net position, however, is that the whole Latin American machinery has disintegrated. I cannot recall any time in the last thirty years when it was in a worse way. This is not a time for hysterical action by our government because we are not going to help the situation by giving them money and all sorts of things except under the proper conditions. Even though the position looks so black in Latin America, both so far as cooperation is concerned and so far as the internal situation is concerned, we cannot do anything hysterical or unrealistic. The only way that anything will get better in any respect is by them realizing that we are going to stand firm and that we are not going to permit American interests, either public or private, to be discriminated against. If they understand that, they will soon come to heel, and the way to make them understand it is by not doing a thing to help them for the time being and until they show a better disposition to talk with us in a realistic and proper way.

This is only one of the few things that I would have liked to talk over with some of my friends while I was north, because I know there are many other aspects of this problem that I know some of them want to talk over with me as much as I want to talk it over with them. Unfortunately, this setback makes it impossible for me to travel for at least a month. I do not know whether Brosens will find it convenient to stop here on his way north. It is possible that we may have to consider, so far as the new service contract is concerned, for Mr. Maryssael to make a brief trip north while Brosens is in New York. This will not be convenient, but may be desirable.

I am glad to know that you are feeling fit. Marion, of course, has been much concerned and nervous, but I think she feels relieved now. She joins me in love and good wishes to you and Hettie and Edna and Yvonne and to the family.

Cordially and faithfully yours,

GSM/go


George S. Messersmith.