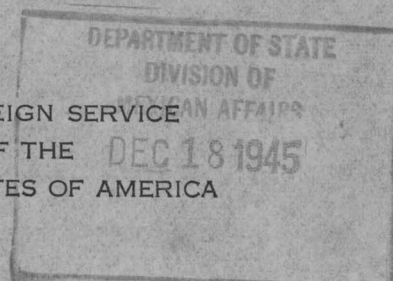




THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



AMERICAN EMBASSY
Mexico, D. F., December 13, 1945

Dear Carrigan:

I find that I did not send you a copy of my letter of December 1, 1945, to Secretary Byrnes in reply to a telegram which I had from him with regard to the charges made by General Hurley and which seemed to be blanket charges in effect against the Foreign Service. I am enclosing a copy of my letter to Secretary Byrnes for your information. It is the only spare copy which I have and I would appreciate your returning it to me.

I do not know whether you saw the telegram no. 1279 of December 1, 5 p.m., 1945, which I also sent to the Department for the Secretary on this matter and which from a Service point of view you may be interested in calling for and reading if you have not yet seen it.

My prediction from the outset was that the Hurley charges were so absurd, so personal, so general, and so unfounded that they would fall of their weight and that Hurley would come out of this with an already dimmed prestige, still dimmer. I see nothing further in the papers about the matter and it looks as though Mr. Hurley were very soon going to pass into that political obscurity for which his ineptitudes and incapacities have pre-destined him for a long time. I have known him for years. He puts up a good front. All the money he made came out of the ground in Oklahoma and the one thing in business that he showed good sense in was in building some office

buildings

John W. Carrigan, Esquire,
Chief, Division of Mexican Affairs,
Department of State,
Washington, D. C.

AIR MAIL

- 2 -

buildings in Washington which our Government is using and which cause him very little concern even so far as the collecting of rents goes. It is wonderful how far a man can go with a good front and nothing behind it.

With all good wishes,

Cordially and faithfully yours,

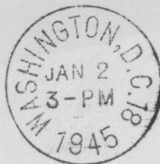
George S. Messersmith

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'G. S. Messersmith', written in a cursive style.

Enclosure:
Copy of letter to
Secretary Byrnes



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON



Mrs. George S. Messersmith

The American Embassy

Mexico, D.F.

Mexico



INDUSTRIA, COMERCIO, TRANSPORT
PROPORCIONAL INC. - MEXICO
EXACTOS. 1944-1945



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

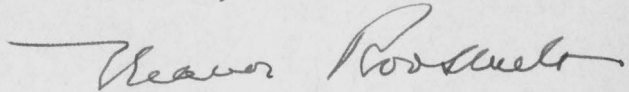
January 1, 1945

Dear Mrs. Messersmith:

The President and I were pleased to receive Christmas greetings from you and the Ambassador and we are more than pleased to have your picture.

Thank you very much for your thought of us and our best wishes for 1945.

Very sincerely yours,

Eleanor Roosevelt

Mexico, D.F., December 1, 1945.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I was very pleased to get your telegram No. 1779 of November 30 5 p.m., asking me for a statement with respect to the charges made by General Hurley, formerly Ambassador to China, to the effect that United States foreign policy is frequently rendered ineffective by many Foreign Service officers who lack understanding of and sympathy with the directives which may be given by the President and by the Department of State. You state that you will appreciate a prompt and full and free expression of my opinion, based on my experience, of the validity of the charges which have been made by General Hurley against the Foreign Service.

I have replied to your telegram in a telegram which is going forward today and which you will have had on the receipt of this letter.

May I say that I was so shocked on reading the charges which General Hurley made against the Foreign Service that it was my intention, in view of my long service with the Department, to take the liberty of conveying to you some of my views with respect to these charges, which expression would be based on this long experience of over thirty-two years which I have had with the Department. I am therefore taking the liberty of expanding somewhat in this letter upon the statements made in my telegram under reference.

May I say at the outset that I consider, and have always considered, the formulation of and conduct of our foreign policy and its implementation, of such primary importance

The Honorable
James Byrnes,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D. C.

importance in our national interest that I would not, as a citizen and irrespective of my long association with the Foreign Service, hesitate to bring to your attention any information which I might have which would indicate that the Foreign Service has not been a loyal and effective instrument in the conduct of our foreign relations. You will, I am sure, understand if I make reference to my long service and varied experience with the Department because I do not do so in any egotistical sense. I entered the Foreign Service in 1914, after examination, in the lowest grade of the Foreign Service and at the age of thirty, after having had considerable experience in public school work and after having reached a respectable position in that work. As a matter of fact, when I entered the lowest grade of the Foreign Service in 1914 at a salary of two thousand dollars a year without any allowances of any kind, I gave up a position in public school work which was paying six thousand dollars a year. Without the use of any political preferment but purely on the basis of loyal performance of duty to the best of my capacity, I secured promotion from time to time and passed from the grade of Consul to Consul General and later to that of Minister. I was appointed Minister to Austria in 1934, and in 1937 was brought into the Department as an Assistant Secretary in charge of administration and of the Foreign Service. In 1940 I was appointed Ambassador to Cuba by the President and, later, Ambassador to Mexico. I should add that during my period of service in the Argentine as Consul General, I also served as an inspector of Consulates, Legations and Embassies. Because of the countries in which I have served and of the experience which I had in the Department, I have had an unusual opportunity to know not only our Foreign Service officers in the field, but also in the Department of State. I have a good deal of knowledge of the administrative machinery of our Government in Washington and, while I have high regard for the spirit of public service which animates so vast a majority of our public servants at home, I can say without reserve that I know of no body of men in the service of our Government who have rendered and are rendering such unselfish, devoted, and efficient service to our Government as the officers of the Career Service of the Department of State.

I should like to add that I have had unusual opportunities for observation of our Foreign Service officers, both in the field and when on duty in the Department of

State.

State. As a Consular officer I was several times Supervisory Consul General in such large areas as Germany, which necessitated a good deal of travel and intimate contact with the work of the officers at other posts. As Assistant Secretary of State in charge of administration and head of the Board of Foreign Service Personnel and of the Foreign Service Examination Board from 1937 to 1940, I had these unusual opportunities of coming into contact with a very considerable number of our Chiefs of Mission and Foreign Service officers, and was in a position to hear their most intimate reactions.

I may also add that I have considered it a part of my duty as a Foreign Service officer to keep very close contact with business, financial, industrial, professional, labor, and other groups in our country.

In all these thirty-two years and more of service with our Government, and with this intimate contact with those in the service of Government and in so many phases of our life in the United States, I have never found any criticism such as that which General Hurley has made of the loyalty of our Foreign Service officers. In so large a group as that which makes up our Foreign Service there are, as there would be in any other phase of activity, men of varying capacities and understanding. We can have no more perfection in the Foreign Service than we can have in any other group of public service. I can affirm, however, and I believe that all those in Government and in business, or who in some other way have had contact with our Foreign Service will agree that our Foreign Service measures up as one of the most effective groups in the service of our Government, and General Hurley's charge of lack of loyalty and understanding is, in spite of my experience and broad contact, the first time that I have heard such a charge against the Foreign Service.

I should like to add also, Mr. Secretary, that as one who has been so deeply interested in the organization and practice and composition of our Foreign Service as an instrument of our foreign policy, I have naturally been a close student of the organization of the Foreign Service of other Governments and I have also been, through my experience in so many countries and posts, a close

observer

observer of the conduct and practice of Foreign Service officers of other Governments. Not as a member of the Foreign Service of the United States, but purely as an American citizen who realizes the obligations resting upon that Service, I am in a position to affirm to you, as I believe all unprejudiced and informed observers would be in a position to affirm, that in the last twenty years there has been no Government served by so capable, so effective, so loyal, and so unselfish a Foreign Service as that of our Government.

I do not wish in this letter to be personal, and I do not wish to impugn either the motivation or the patriotism of General Hurley with respect to the charges which he has made. I should like to observe only that General Hurley's contact with the conduct of our foreign relations has covered only a short period of time and that his contact with and knowledge of the actuation and work of the large body of our Foreign Service officers in every capital and commercially strategic center of the world must necessarily be limited. The broad generalizations, therefore, which General Hurley has made I consider as an altogether unwarranted and most unfair attack against what is undoubtedly not only an altogether competent and loyal Foreign Service of our Government, but one which in spite of the many difficulties under which it has to labor because of the very nature of the Service in so many distant and isolated parts of the world, is the best of any such instrument at the command of any other country. I am inclined to believe that General Hurley is basing his general charges against the Foreign Service on very limited and inadequate and narrow contact with and knowledge of the operation of our Foreign Service, and that he, on reflection, as a man of fairness and understanding, will be the first to wish to withdraw these general charges of so destructive a character at a time when the prestige of our Government and of its representation are of the most vital importance in the national interest.

I cannot in this letter enter into any details with regard to the development of our Foreign Service into this effective instrument for the conduct of foreign policy which it is today. It has been a long and laborious process to build up this Foreign Service. The present Service is the result of the earnest effort and considera-

tion

tion of succeeding Presidents and Secretaries of State and the increasing appreciation by the Congress and by our people as a whole of the necessity of the most effective instrument we can have for the implementation of policy. The Foreign Service has always required, on the part of its personnel, a particular sacrifice, not only because of inadequate compensation but because of the conditions under which so many of our officers have to live at so many widely scattered posts. The personal dangers, the family inconveniences, inadequate security for the future, exposure to sickness and disease in isolated places, and other adverse factors have not prevented our building up this large group of patriotic, intelligent, understanding, capable, and loyal officers, who have been willing to make any sacrifice in peace, as our countrymen as a whole are prepared to do in war, because they believed they were rendering a useful service to our Government. To accuse such a group of disloyalty, inefficiency, lack of understanding and sympathy, is to make a charge based on an utter lack of knowledge of the history of our Foreign Service and its personnel and their actuation in peace as well as in war.

I would like nothing better, Mr. Secretary, than to answer in person before any group of the Congress, and before General Hurley, any of these broad allegations which he may make against the Foreign Service. So far as the specific statements which he has made with respect to individuals whom he has dealt with, or with respect to Chinese policy, are concerned, I am not able to make any specific statements, not having any knowledge of the immediate facts, but even if these specific charges which General Hurley has made against individuals are well founded, they are an exception to all that I have known of the practice of the Department officers and of Foreign Service officers in this broad experience of over thirty-two years.

I should like to say further, Mr. Secretary, that the extraordinary situation to which General Hurley refers as having developed in his contact with the Department and with Foreign Service officers in his Embassy or under his supervision in China, so far as my broad experience

with

with the Foreign Service is concerned, is unique. At the risk of making a further personal reference, I believe I should say that in all these thirty-two years of experience I have never heard a similar charge by any Chief of Mission, Career or non-Career.

The formulation of foreign policy by the President and the Department of State is a complex matter. Increasingly, as our foreign relations have become more important to us through the years, all elements within Government, in Congress, and our public opinion have been consulted in the formulation of policy. Foreign Service officers and Chiefs of Mission, as one of their primary functions, contribute to the Secretary of State and to the President the very best out of their experience and knowledge to the formulation of such policy. Once, however, such policy is formulated by the President and the Secretary and is made known to our Chiefs of Mission and Foreign Service officers in the field, I have no knowledge of a single case in which such Chiefs of Mission and Foreign Service officers have not, to the best of their ability, endeavored to carry through their instructions, even though after consultation, the policy decided upon may not have been in accord with their own best estimate of what such policy should be. In my experience, when a Chief of Mission or a Foreign Service officer has not found himself adequately in accord with the policy of our Government or with the instructions which he has received, he has, as a man of conscience, responsibility, and honor, separated himself from the Service, without, however, impugning the motivation of our policy, the integrity of those who formulated it, and of those who are carrying it through.

There is much more, Mr. Secretary, that I would like to say in this respect, because I feel profoundly, as an American citizen who has had this long contact with the conduct of our foreign relations, that never before in the history of our country have our responsibilities been greater and more serious. I consider that such unwarranted and unfair attacks on our Foreign Service and on the conduct of our policy as those contained in General Hurley's statement are most dangerous to our prestige at a time when the influence of our country and of its representation abroad is so vitally important for the preservation of peace and order and for the future security of ourselves and other

peoples.

peoples. Such unfair and unwarranted attacks against our policy and those who are implementing it can only cause further disorder in a confused world, and add nothing to any constructive action.

I would like to conclude, Mr. Secretary, that I think these charges against the Foreign Service and against the conduct of our policy in general--for it is not only our present policy with respect to China and its implementation, but the formulation and conduct of policy in recent years which is under attack--are so serious that these unfair charges must be disproved before the public opinion, not only of the United States, but also before the public opinion in the rest of the world, the attention of which, unfortunately, has been brought to these unfair charges. I have endeavored in this letter to give a few observations based on my experience and in an entirely objective way as a citizen, rather than as a member of the service that is under attack, and I wish you to know that if there is anything I can do in order to show the unfairness and unfounded character of these charges and thoroughly re-establish that confidence which our people must have in the formulation of our policy and in its implementation, I shall be very happy to be of service.

With all good wishes,

Cordially and faithfully yours,

In Triplicate.

OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

WASHINGTON

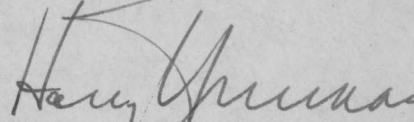
March 30, 1945

My dear Mr. Ambassador:

My good friend, John W. Snyder of Saint Louis, will be in Mexico City the week of April Seventh and will be at the Reforma Hotel for about a week. He plans to call on you and I will appreciate any courtesies you may be able to extend to him.

He has called on you before. He was former Director of the Defense Plant Corporation, and is now Executive Vice President of the First National Bank in Saint Louis.

Sincerely yours,



Harry S. Truman

The Honorable
George S. Messersmith
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Mexico, D. F., Mexico

^{III}
very well. She has been very ill.

His Majesty sends you & Marion his most affectionate thoughts and asks you if you received the letter he sent through the Embassy before Christmas.

From the Urbanianns their best regards
A loving kiss to Marion and hope
very soon a long letter from her.

To you my dear friend my most
affectionate thoughts.

Your sincerely

Elia Lupescu

Copacabana Palace Rio 4 Janvier 1945

My very dear friend.

I do not want to let the new-year
pass without sending you & Marion
the sincerest good wishes that my
heart sends you. We miss you dread-
fully. As you probably know I've
been very ill after the long journey
and the complete change of climate.

I had to undergo a transfusion and
now I feel a bit better but not yet.
quite well because here there is a damp
heat that gives me aches in my arms &
hands. — I know how greatly Mrs Mustard's
illness made Marion suffer, & my thoughts

11

were all the time with her.

Mr. & Mrs. Fraser who are our floor neighbors and with whom we lunched on Christmas day were also very anxious about her mother.

My thoughts have followed you all the time and the news that you were coming here was a short joy as I see that another Ambassador has been sent to Rio. — How much we would have liked to have you both here.

Life goes on, but it is full of anxiety, let hope that this year will see the end of this horrible war, but I must say that I don't see the issue very near. Let's hope that I'm wrong.

I'm tired of living without a home & the climate of these continents have worn me out added being to the cares which are a day & night worry. — I need the four seasons, and what I miss the most is snow and a good sparkling fire.

You will smile, my very dear friend, but I know also that you will understand me very well.

We sent you a wire for new-year did you get it? —

His Majesty is well, he has had news from his son that he is well, which was a joy. —

Madaame Urdariano & he also have not been



Capasobona.

7 January 1945.

Dear Mrs. Messersmith,

If I did not write to you before it is that I know how worried you were about Mrs. Mustards health.

We followed with great anxiety the course of her illness and with real and sincere joy have we heard that she is recovering.

I must first of all thank you for all the kindness you showed us in Mexico and for your so true friendship. I will never forget them and they will be an outstanding feature of our stay in Mexico where we have left so many friends.

We miss terribly all that have remained there, and this feeling was still more acute on Christmas eve. We had our traditional tree, but the jolly company of our friends was missing.

Rio is certainly a lovely place, but it's hot and damp. The people are very nice

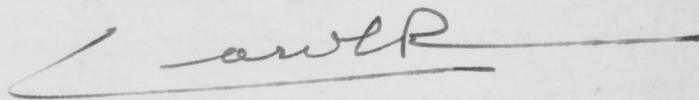
and have received us I must say very warm heartedly. But I must say I miss every day Mexico, the life there, the house and garden of Coyocacan, all the nice and kind company.

Happily Elena is beginning to feel a bit better, but her recovery is slow and she must not overdo things. I've got allthough the feeling that it was unhappily absolutely necessary for her to get out of that very strenuous altitude.

I hope that all the enormous work Mr. Messersmith has had these last weeks he is not too tired and in good health.

As this letter is sent at the beginning of the year I reiterate my very best wishes for the happiest of new years.

With all my most loving
regards

 Carl R.

ABERTA PELA CENSURA

EUROPESCU
HOTEL
QVITANDINHA
PETROPOLIS
BRASIL

D. F.
207

VIA AÉREA
PAR AVION



Mrs. George Messersmith
United States Embassy
Calle Niza 53

D. F.
300

Mexico D. F.
Mexico.

DEF. CONTINENTAL

ABERTA POR CENSURA

ABIE
NEFF

Remefente:

Enderêço:

81279a



D. F.
207



D. F.
207

MINISTÉRIO DA VIAÇÃO E OBRAS PÚBLICAS
DEPARTAMENTO DOS CORREIOS E TELEGRAFOS



D. F.
207

S. P.

Easter. 1. April 45

My dear Marion,

Yesterday I recieved your letter of 17th March. All this time I've been thinking a lot of you and the Ambassador, how tired you must both be after the strain of the conference. I'm so pleased that it is over and that were able to take some rest.

We can't tell you how happy we are about the good news you gave us from Mrs. Mustard. I must say she is wonderful.

Mrs. & Mr. Vollosio told me that the Ambassador was looking well. I want to know you both in good health -

Being here in the hills I take an absolute rest. Have taken a bit of weight but do not feel well, I'm continually tired and for the moment have a dreadful cold which has kept me in bed.

The other day there was a terrible storm many houses and were destroyed by the rain.

many fatal casualties and no light for half a day. - Since then it rains all the time it gives me the blues. -

We would wish to go back to you if only for hours if it would be possible to see you and give you a good hug - It is so far but all the same we hope to see you very soon. - I've not seen your sister since we left Rio, I suppose she must already be in Argentine.

From time to time I play bridge it is an other game than in Mexico, they do not play the short club. What they like the most here is pit-paf a very expensive game in which we never take part.

The Urvarians have not luck since they are here, Monique has always something the matter with her and Ernest had a bad fall with a horse and broke his shoulder, since then it is in a splint with

II

Great pain. His Majesty thank God is the only one of us who behaves. —

Here life is different to Mexico — There we were a big family, here is something that does not go with the simple way of being I like so much. — I'm sure you understand me without further explanations —

She is preparing for elections here, the people are very agitated some pleased others not — L. C. Resignation is very differently commented — some say that he hastened too much, others of course are pleased — He has arrived already she not yet, coming probably by ship —

Poor H. Boynton what bad luck I'm so sorry for her — I see that many people are leaving Mexico, for Helene Knudsen I'm happy that she is on her way home — Mrs. Fraser will miss her very much — Poor Dick his death made me very sad for he was really a smart fellow — What are Floyd & Anne and the Woods doing? Please give them my love —

I hope Marion dear that are going to rest a bit you do too much especially in that altitude.

Your brooch has had a great success every body admires it. Here silver is out of price only for millionaires, and the humidity makes it all black so that one must clean it every day — Even in the most chic houses the table is dressed in the best case with Cristofle.

Life is very expensive in the hotels it costs a fortune it is very difficult to find a house. I do wish this war would be over I can't stand it any more.

His Majesty sends you both his most affectionate thoughts. The Kvarianus their best regards. From me all my affection to the Ambassador —

Lots & Lots of love to you
Elena

CAROL OR ROUMANIA



Quitandinha

3. Apr. 1945

My dear Ambassador and Friend,

No doubt you recieved the letter I wrote you a month ago and that you were able to do something for the poor people I spoke for.

The conference in Mexico, must of given you an awful lot to do, I hope that it did not overtire you and that you did take at least a few days of rest, as I understood by Mrs. Messersmiths letter to Mme. Lupescu.

In any case the meeting seems to have

been a success giving good results for the Continent. Thus let's hope a good omen for future ones. One of its happy results have certainly been the change of attitude in Argentine, a change which at least is an outward sign of American solidarity, let's hope that it will be more than that.

Really glorious is the news that comes from the battle front, the progress is wonderful and of the most encouraging. It seems as if we are again living those days of summer and autumn 1918 following Foch's offensive. It certainly looks now like the end of the end, but an exact timing seems not possible.

As elated as I feel about the fighting as anxious I am about the international political situation. This time there is no doubt that we are going to win the war, it is so much gained. The big thing now is to see that we do not lose the peace. I hear a lot of talk about future security, but very little about



international solidarity and for times to come without an allround and unselfish solidarity I believe There can be no security and no peace. We are getting rid of the most pernicious and most satanic of dictatorships, lets not fall in to an other form of such thing.

Independence, liberty, the possibility for each nation to live a progressive and happy economical life that is what the world wants. Those who are powerfull need so much understanding and Kindness, that sometimes I wonder if it is possible, humanly talking, and with this it is so necessary - Every country has its ways of living, wich are a result of an historical process, as long as it does not harm the community, one must not enforce upon it political and social systems that do not fit them.

Theories and slogans we have had enough in the past lets be more practical in the future, lets have a real democratic mind in international relations and lets help the world economi-

cal situation by aiding the national economy of smaller and agricultural nations. They are often those who feed the big ones.

It is well understood that all this does not relate to Germany which has been, is may be the great friend of the world - Germany as state and unhappily also as nation and race. I know how much we agree upon this question which so often we have discussed, does every body understand this problem as we do and as Van Sittard does. I see by newspaper items, which perhaps you have read, in which there is a protest against the behaviour of certain officers of The Amgot who object that the cattle stolen from the belgium farmers should be restituted to their owners, because the poor germans would die of hunger, that there are still people in responsible positions who do not understand this problem. They still believe that Hitlerism is an accident and not a typical german product. That some germans individually feel otherwise, it is possible, that is an accident, but as a mass, as a nation and



as a race There is a uncanny and morbid solidarity of the german people with this over barbarism and, I must say, traditional "furore teutonius".

In a few days the new conference is supposed to meet in San Francisco. What will be the result? With the greatest interest and anxiety will I follow its developpements. Will it be a manifestation of international and human solidarity?

Let's hope so.

The world, humanity, our civilization has come to a ^{such} crucial moment that if there can be no real understanding we risk to fall in to the blackest of historical nights. Certain abstentions from the conference I do not like.

What this apocalyptic salom of Hitler had led the world into, the destruction this beast with a sort of human body has caused makes me shudder. No human punishment is sufficient for him and for those who upheld his so called german superiority -

As the red army nears Vera, I suppose that your time in Mexico is nearing its end, as certain informations have told me.

How much more I would have liked to talk all these things over with you instead of writing them, and many more I would have to say especially if you leave for Europe one hears -

Talking of Mexico, certainly if it would not be for the altitude, we would the first conveyance and return there, where we led such a happy and friendly life. Here I must say everybody is as nice as possible, but it is not the same thing and we so dreadfully miss our friends.

The heat was so terrific in Rio that since a month we are here at Petropolis, in the hills living in this most gorgeous hotel of Quitandinha. Here it is cool but it rains and is misty all the time -

I must thank for your help in the money question, at last after nearly six months the sum I asked for has been released and has arrived.

It made me most uneasy all this time



because the expenses here are very high and it is almost impossible to find a house. I do hope that in the future things will go easier, that is why I must again trouble you asking that you do something that the treasury should be more helpfull an other time.

Mme. Dupescu out here has taken a complete rest, which is unhappily absolute necessary as "au fond" her health is not really better, this climate also is not good for her - she feels very much this inactivity as she would so much like to go on working for the red cross, but it is not possible.

Urdarianu has also been unlucky he had, as soon as we came here, a fall with a horse and fractured his shoulder, is in great pain. It is a thing that seems to last a long time to get in shape.

At last after so many years we have had news of our place in France.

The germans were there for some time and now there is a U.S.A. staff living in the Chateau. I hope they will have

have well disinfectied the place so that the
lost ~~odor~~ of the hapi odor may be gone for ever,
it is as least what Mme Dupou says. There are
things that make one smile, certain irony in
life. We were not allowed to get in to the States
and now our house is abiding american
officers. I hope and wish they are comfortable
in that charming and out of the way place.

Although, only on paper, it is always a
pleasure to talk with you. This is what
has made this letter become so endless,
and I know you will fore give me taking
up so much of your precious time.

Realy I must end now.

I hope soon to have news from you.

Please give Mrs Messersmith my
very loving regards.

To you my very dear Ambassa-
dor and friend my best wishes for
the future and all my most affec-
tionate thoughts.

Sincerely yours

Carol R

Rockefeller Center
New York

Room 5600
30 Rockefeller Plaza

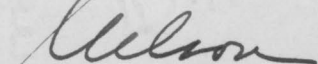
August 31, 1945

Dear George:

Just a few lines to say goodbye and to tell you how much I have enjoyed the association with you during the past five years. The work you have done in Mexico during this war will never be forgotten, and despite the many problems and complexities of the situation, Mexico and the United States are emerging from this period as closer friends and with greater mutual respect than at any time before in history.

I am looking forward to seeing you the next time you come up to New York. In the meantime, with very best wishes to you and Mrs. Messersmith, and warm personal regards,

Sincerely,



Nelson A. Rockefeller

The Honorable
George S. Messersmith
c/o American Embassy
Mexico, D. F.

AIR MAIL

CONFIDENTIAL

México, D.F., México,
December 20, 1945.

Dear Jimmy:

I would like to refer to my letter of August 29, 1945, with regard to former King Carol of Rumania, as well as to my letters of November 3 and November 28 also with regard to him. In these letters I advance certain thoughts to the effect that in my opinion, it would be desirable for it to be made possible for him to go to France.

In the Department's secret bulletin for the Chiefs of Mission "Weekly Political Review" dated December 12, and prepared in the Office of European Affairs, there appears, on page 2, the statement:

"Meanwhile ex-King Carol who was thwarted when he tried to return to Europe, is again seeking entry into France and the French Communists have been putting pressure on their Foreign Office to admit him. We hope to prevent his return as he would undoubtedly become a center of political activity once he arrived on European soil."

I am not in as close touch with some of these developments as I should like to be and am not in a position to form the accurate judgement with regard to some matters affecting policy as you are. I therefore hesitate to criticize this statement above quoted, but I am wondering whether this attitude towards Carol's returning to France really represents our attitude. I confess that I cannot see how Carol could become the center of political activity if he lived quietly, as without question he intends to, on his little place in France. Everything indicates that King Michael is gaining prestige and popularity among the

Rumanian

The Honorable
James C. Dunn,
Assistant Secretary of State,
Department of State,
Washington, D. C.

Rumanian people. The last thing ever that King Carol would do would be to disturb that situation or to create any difficulties for his country or for his son. As I have previously indicated in reports and letters to the Department, Carol is deeply attached to his son, and the last thing I believe he would do would be to do anything which would disturb the situation in Rumania, and he has no pretensions whatever to the throne. It seems to me that if we are taking this attitude in the Department it is, from the information which I have, not a very wise one taking into account all of the circumstances and factors which we should consider. My own idea is that you would not be in accord with the idea expressed in the above quotation.

For the reasons set forth in my long letter of November 28, 1945, I think we should revise our position so far as offering any objection to Carol's return to France is concerned. I know the tremendous amount of work which you have, but I would be very much interested to know what your own thoughts with regard to this matter are, and I would appreciate a word from you as to whether you think there is any possibility of the Department removing its objection to Carol's going to France.

With all good wishes,

Cordially and faithfully yours,

George S. Messersmith.

(In duplicate)



Mexico, D. F., August 29, 1945.

Dear friend:

Your letter of August 12 reached me a few days ago and I need not tell you what a pleasure it was to Marion and me to have this news. I had been wondering what your plans were and particularly had we been wondering and concerned with regard to the news we had had from you about Mme. Lupescu. Your letter is not too reassuring for I was hoping that in the lower altitude of Rio in spite of the higher temperature, that she would feel much better than she did in Mexico City. I am quite sure that once she is back in Europe and the surroundings to which she has been accustomed and with some aspects of life more tranquil and settled, it should go far towards bringing about complete recovery of her health, which I know has been of such concern to you and to her friends.

I am very much interested in knowing that you are going to Lisbon and from there to France, and when the circumstances are propitious, to Rumania. You will probably not be wishing to stay too long in Lisbon as you will be more comfortable in the home you have in France. From the reports I get, however, life is still very difficult in France, but as you would be at the chateau in the country, living of course would be very much easier.

I also do not have very much news from Rumania, but somehow or other I feel that the situation is improving there. I was very glad to see the recent action of your son King Michael the King, who obviously is not satisfied with the type of election which was being planned. I was more than gratified to see the statements made by my Government and that of Great Britain in the sense that we would not be able to recognize the results of any election that was not carried on under conditions

which

His Majesty
King Carol of Rumania,
c/o American Embassy
Lisbon, Portugal.

which represented an expression of the real will of the people. The danger which you have so consistently perceived of the possibility that at the end of the military hostilities, small but vocal and violent minorities would make themselves felt was more than realized, not only in your country but in others. The whole problem is one which is exceedingly difficult to deal with, and I think some people have been improperly impatient with my Government because it has not taken certain drastic and determined attitudes at times. Perhaps its attitude has been more determined even and more drastic in fact than may have appeared on the surface. In all of these particular problems we have had to keep in mind not only the individual problem but so many factors in the major problem, and it was only if the big picture was kept in order that it would be possible to carry through policy all along the line. I think the pattern of things is beginning to develop and it has begun to be more apparent when the Government of my country made it clear that it could not be disinterested in what happened in any part of the world. This was a difficult decision for us to come to but we have been preaching that peace and order are indivisible. We have learned through the bitter lessons of the war that peace and order are indivisible. Out of this there can grow only one policy, which has to be clearly defined, even though its outlines may not always be apparent on the surface.

I think one of the most encouraging things for all of us must be the recent developments in China, where there is now common agreement that there must be no intervention by an outside power in the internal affairs of China, and there seems to be very clear understanding between the Government of Soviet Russia and my own country on this matter. I feel that the danger is over of civil war in China, at least on the scope that we had to possibly foresee it. Of course in China, as in so many countries, lawless elements give themselves labels under which they think they can work more freely, and so-called Communist factions in China are not necessarily Communists, but may be only bandits. Unfortunately some of those on the Government side are not very much better. The thing is that we have arrived at the principle that in this big country like China, as in smaller countries, the principle of self-determination without outside influence or imposition shall be carried through.

How difficult it will be to carry this through, you know as well as I, for you have such profound knowledge

of

of these political problems. The important thing, however, is that we are on the right path. Not everything is going to happen along the way that we wanted to happen, nor as fast as we should like it to happen, but we are on the right way.

I quite agree with you that from what I have read of the obligations which are placed upon the economy of Rumania, it would mean that if carried through strictly it would be very difficult for Rumania to establish any kind of sound economic life, which means that it would be extremely difficult for her to reach political tranquility. I am, however, of the opinion that these economic obligations which have been placed upon Rumania and which today may be carried through with a good deal of severity, will gradually be eased.

Here in Mexico many things have been happening since you left, but as I live so close to events here, you will forgive me if I do not comment on developments in this country. My one hope is, as it is the hope of all thoughtful people in my country, that Mexico will continue to have a government which is stable and understanding and which will carry on in such a way that Mexico can go forward in the path of economic and political development in which she has made such progress in the last few years. It is very probable that the presidential elections in July 1946 will determine whether Mexico will go forward along the path she is now following and whether her agriculture and industry will develop, or whether her development will remain more or less stationary, and there is, of course, always a possibility of retrograde movement. I myself however remain optimistic as to the course of developments in this country, for as you learned to know during your stay here, although democratic forms have not developed to any considerable degree, the democratic feeling is increasingly getting strong among the masses, and it is bound to find expression.

My own life continues a very busy one. The operation which I had in May in Washington was quite successful but it was a rather delicate one and I still have some minor inconveniences so that I shall, the next time I go home, go to either the Army Hospital at San Antonio, or the Naval Hospital at Washington for some treatment. I feel very much better since the operation, and I am sure that it did me good.

I am planning to go to Washington probably in the

latter

latter part of September, but I do not plan to remain there for more than a week or ten days, as there is so much for me to do here. I am only making the trip because I wish very much to talk over some matters with President Truman and also with the new Secretary of State, Mr. Byrnes, who is, I can assure you, one of the really best men my country has produced in recent years. He has not had very much experience in matters of foreign affairs, but he is a man of very broad experience and knowledge and of wide interests, and a man of great understanding. What is most important is that he is a man of keen sense of perception and of very great capacities. I think it is a very great fortune for my country, and I should like to think for the rest of the world also, that men of the character and temperament and capacity of President Truman and Secretary Byrnes are carrying the burden of the foreign relations of the United States at a time when she must assume this position of leadership for her own security and for that of the rest of the world.

This letter is already too long, but I did want to send you these lines to tell you how much Marion and I appreciated hearing from you. We hope that you will be comfortable in Lisbon and I am sending this letter in care of our Embassy there, with the request that it be delivered to you. In case you may not have left Rio by this time, I am also sending a copy to our Embassy in Rio with the request that it be delivered to you if you are still there.

You were good enough to inquire concerning Mrs. Mustard. I am sorry to say that she is not any better, although fortunately she is not worse. She is now with her son at Wellesley. The most one can say is that she is no longer suffering the way she did for so many months. She is able to be about a little and is able to play a game of bridge or some gin rummy on most days. I shall not fail to let her know that you made inquiries concerning her. It is a pitiful thing to see a woman who has led so active and fine a life and so useful a one in every way possible pass through lingering months of pain before release.

Undoubtedly Marion will be writing to Mme. Lupescu. Please tell her how often and how much we think of her and how earnestly we hope that she will soon be feeling entirely fit. I particularly appreciate the message which she was so kind as to write at the end of your letter, and it is characteristic of her.

With

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With affectionate good wishes to you and Mme.
Lupescu, and hoping to hear from you in due course
believe me,

Cordially and sincerely yours,

GSM/eer

G. S. Messersmith

Mexico, D. F., October 10, 1945.

Dear Adolf:

I am in receipt of a letter dated September 19 from Paul Daniels, enclosing a sealed envelope addressed to me containing a letter from former King Carol of Rumania who requested through Count Urdarianu that the letter be forwarded to me.

Daniels states in his letter to me of September 19, with which he was good enough to send me the envelope from former King Carol, that as a matter of procedure, it probably would have been preferable if the letter had been left with the Embassy for transmission without sealing the envelope in order that the Embassy might be automatically informed of its contents. I quite appreciate the comment which Daniels has made in this respect, but I assure you that in leaving the letter sealed, former King Carol had, I am sure, no objection whatever to the Embassy seeing the contents of the letter.

For your information, I may say that the letter from former King Carol under reference, and which the Embassy was good enough to transmit to me, was a personal letter in which he informs me concerning his health and that of Madame Lupescu. He also informs me that his plans for leaving for a small house that he has in France was stopped as he was informed that after consultation between the United States, Britain, Portugal and France, the permission for the voyage was cancelled on the ground that his presence in Europe would be a cause of trouble. Naturally, he is greatly distressed, because whatever one may think of the relationship between him and Madame Lupescu, there is no doubt of his attachment and loyalty to her, and there is no doubt that her health continues to decline.

The Honorable
Adolf Berle,
American Ambassador,
Rio de Janeiro.

There/

There is, in my opinion, not the slightest shadow of doubt that the two principal reasons why he wishes to be in France are first, because he feels that the health of Madame Lupescu will improve. This may be a vain hope, but all of us would chase even shadows where those whom we love are concerned. The second reason for his wishing to go to France, I am sure, is that he can live there more cheaply and more comfortably.

I happen to know, through our Treasury officials in Washington, how much money Carol had in this Hemisphere. I know that that money must be seriously depleted and getting to a dangerously low ebb. Although Carol lived very modestly in Cuba and in Mexico City, I know that his expenditures were heavy because every charity felt that it had a call on him and I am confident that his contribution to charity while he was in Mexico was at least double or triple the cost of his living expenditures.

Of course, I can understand why Carol wishes to live in France, because even though he has nothing whatever to do with political affairs, he will be happier there for it is more nearly the atmosphere to which he has been accustomed so great a part of his life. I think I know Carol, and I do not think he has the slightest desire or hope of returning to the Rumanian throne. Even if he had such a desire, he knows that it would be impossible, and that even if he could return, his life would be troubled and that he could only bring difficulty to his country. I think he does fervently hope that his son will be able to remain on the throne, because he believes monarchical government of a democratic form such as the English is the only possible form of government for his country for the foreseeable future. Concerning the attachment of Carol to his son, and of the son to Carol, there is no doubt whatever, and that attachment is so strong that Carol would not do anything in a political sense that could do injury to his son or to Rumania.

As you know, I have consistently taken the attitude that it is not wise for us to join with England in taking this attitude against Carol. It is England that is preventing the return of Carol to Europe. I know those in the British Government who are responsible for this attitude. It does not do credit to them. The motivation of the British Government, or rather of certain people

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in the British Government, which has lead to this official attitude does not do credit to Britain. I have always taken the attitude with our own Government that it is not wise for us politically to take this attitude towards Carol in support of the British attitude for the British are merely using us in this respect. So far as the French attitude is concerned, I am sure that the French Government has no objection itself to Carol living in France. So far as the Portuguese Government is concerned, its attitude is entirely governed by the peremptory attitude which Britain has taken and to which we have given our support so unwisely.

I know that in the later days of President Roosevelt's life, the attitude of our Government with regard to Carol had been straightened out and was understanding and reasonable. Now, apparently, we are again supporting the British.

I have a passion for justice and I do not like to see my country doing things which are not humane and not sound and not in its interest. While I feel great sympathy for Carol and have very real estimation of his good points, it is not that which impels me to take an interest in this matter. What impels me is the fact that I like to see my country doing the right thing and the things which are in its own interest, and I certainly do not like to see us pursuing an unfortunate individual who has never been anything but friendly to us, and whose attitudes towards those whom we have just defeated in the war was and is to my personal knowledge so altogether correct. As I have said in previous letters to you while you were in the Department, I had reason to know, before I ever knew Carol, while I was stationed in Vienna, that he was really the only ruler in southeast Europe which stood up firmly against the Germans and their arbitrary demands on him and on his country.

I have written a letter to Carol which I am transmitting in an unsealed envelope herewith. I will appreciate your sealing this envelope and having it delivered to Carol. For your information, I am sending a copy of the letter which I have written to Carol.

I have to go to Washington again in the course of a month or so, and purely as a matter of equity and justice, I intend to take up this matter of Carol being

able/

able to go to France. If he is not permitted to go, it should be the responsibility of the British, French, and Portuguese Governments and not the responsibility of our Government. I am confident that if we do not continue to support the British in this unwise attitude, that the British will not be able to maintain this attitude which they have assumed and which is so purposeless except to satisfy the personal feelings and delights of certain people in the British Government, who, when Carol was King of Rumania, could not use him for their purposes as they desired.

I will appreciate your permitting Daniels to see this letter.

With all good wishes,

Cordially and faithfully yours,

GEORGE S. MESSERSMITH

COPY

Copocabana
Rio de Janeiro
12 August 1945

My dear Ambassador
and Friend,

With great anxiety did I hear that you had been ill and that you had to undergo an operation; happily after the last news I got from Mexico you are well and up. I hope your health is quite good again.

From here there is not really much to say, very minor occupations, and the temperature is now quite suportable.

The only more outstanding event has been the home coming of the F.B.E. on a hot day and in a squash in which we were packed like sardines. The crowd was such that really one could only see the tips of the helmets. It gave me in any case the pleasure to know your great general Clark. I find him really fine. It gave me also the oportunity to meet Ambassador Berle who gave me the last news about you.

Kleiber has been here, his concerts have been the principal artistic event of the season. We met him and his wife often, talked a lot about you for whom they have a real and justified adoration and veneration.

Since about two months we are back here in Rio after our very long stay in Quitandinha.

This time has been ocupied with preparations for our return back to Europe. The principal reason for this move is that all the doctors agree upon this one point that only a complete change of climate, that means a returning to the European one, can do any good to Mme Lupescu who continues not to feel at all well although her courage and energy are remarcable.

In what state I will find dear old Europe again, God knows. The news is so very unsure and every body talks after their political feelings, in any case it seems that this winter is going to be a very difficult one - With all the difficulties, and there are many, after five years of perigrinations, we will be glad to be in our own home and under a roof that is ours -

We will be leaving at the end of the month for Lisbon where we hope to make a pause before going on to France.

Two months have not been too much to get every thing in order especially when you have to travel with as much baggage as we do. Nobody seems to try and make things easy for one, although the war is over, over there. Restrictions, permits and so on that take time and trouble; when will we see things returning to a more normal state of affairs -

The meeting in Potsdam looks promising and certainly shows a decided intention towards a trial of normalisation, but things move slowly. There are so many interests to be taken in consideration. At least I hope that after the decisions taken there peace will return in a certain way, at least, in a part of the world.

Potsdam has been very decidedly a great success for President Truman and an affirmation of his personality. Especially now that there has been such a radical change in England all eyes are turned towards him with the hope that he will be a strong champion of justice, liberty and independence.

News from Romania are very scarce. As I have already told you what makes me more anxious than the political situation is the economical one. For country to live and to progress that is the basis. Well after the conditions of the armistice, this basis seems to be a very feeble one, the financial clauses are after what I hear much more draconical than they seemed at first. The payments which must be done in nature are rated so low that the global sum must be multiplied very much, if kept at that ratio they mean nothing less than a complete ruin of the country. Then there are entire factories which are being taken out of the land. All this means that my poor Romania is losing its economical independence for many years to come. Independent of my patriotical feelings I do believe that such a state of things is to nobody's advantage be it winner or loser. If we want any stability in the future the first thing to be done is to help that the economy of each European country should normalize as fast as possible. Too great misery in one part of the world, especially when the people have attained a certain degree of civilization and welfare is always a danger to the community, in this politics are so very close to economics -

All the smaller countries believe that it is America which will defend in the world this point of view.

The last news show that the Japanese resistance is definitively smashed and I hope that at this hour when I

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write the surrender will be a matter of fact. I allways believed that this chapter of the war was to be the shorter and in a way the easier one, I'm happy that I was right.

For all the joy of seeing the nightmare at last over there is a dark point. Every body seams tired, there is a lack of energy in most nations, and that is a bad thing. It will mean that the real fighting nations, those who have been educated to suffer and to combat will master the world and that is not a good thing.

These are some of the reflexions which I can put on paper, naturally in a conversation there would be many more.

I must tell you an amusing allthough agrevating thing your treasury has again done. I had to send a certain sum for reparations to be done at our chateau in France. The address was indicated in full Chateau de Coesme, Belleme, Orne, France. well next to the usual questions, when, how, why, the also came this one where is the exact place? I think it takes the cake.

This last letter before leaving America has become a very long one. I think I must put an end to it.

But before leaving I must again express my gratitude for the way I've been received in the countries I've lived in during these years. Mexico and Brazil have done their best to make, if possible, things easy, and pleasant for us. I keep the deepest gratitude espescially to Mexico. But this gratitude extends to you who have been a real friend and the greatest moral suport in days which have sometimes been black ones, to you all my deepest and most affectionate thanks.

What news is there from Mrs. Mustard? I do hope she is keeping well.

Please give Mrs Messersmith my most loving regards and tell her that all the kindness she has shown us both will never be foregotten. You both did all you could for us, and that is a thing that will never leave our heart.

I suppose that in France, Portugal ore elsewhere I will allways be able to write to you through your official representatives, and that very soon I will have the joy to here from you.

Again all my most gratefull thanks.

Your very affectionate and sincere

friend
Carol R.

(4)

My very dear Friend,

I profit of His Majesty's letter to write you a few words. Before leaving America my thoughts go to you and Marion. I want to tell you once more how dear you are both to our hearts and that our friendship will always be the sincerest for you.

The doctor gives me good hopes of recovery on the other continent. I have suffered so much that I don't want to think. I'm full of hope that once over there I'll recover my forces.

We wish to see you soon in Europe. Write us please so as to know where you are.

For the moment we will make a stop in Portugal so that I can have a rest. Then on to France. At last in our home and "por fin" to finish living amongst the trunks.

Please tell Marion all my affection and that I consider her as my dearest friend.

Dear Friend I can only say au revoir et a tres bientot.

Your very affectionate

Elena

LUDWIG, Emil

MOSCIA

ASCONA
SUISSE

28.9.45.

*Answered
BSM: clp
10/9/45*

Dear Mister Ambassador,

when I found to -
your name
day in one of ~~my~~ articles, I remembered
the exiting ~~your~~ in your Vienna embassy in
33 or 34 , when you let me read your c
classic report on the German charcter.
Since that time I wrote and have sent you
two books on the same idea. But I am near-
ly alone and I precieve the same deve-
lopement, we have in the 20 th.

The epilogue on Roosevelt will
be published in different labguages.

Please to remember me to Mrs.
Messersmith, evr your sincerely

Emil Ludwig