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April 13, 1950

Dear Philip:

I did not receive until several days ago your letter of March 29 which I appreciate very much. Since our return from England I have been very much occupied and the last few weeks have been particularly hectic.

First of all, I am delighted that you have accepted to speak at the Air War College at Maxwell Field on May 2. General Anderson and Colonel Gibson had already given me this information. I am sure that you will find it a very interesting experience and I know that they are very happy to have you at the College.

I am to speak there on April 25 and it so happens that it comes for me at a most inconvenient time, but as I consider appearing before the College as an obligation, I am shaping my plans to be there, but it involves a good deal of difficulty. I have prepared my notes for my address and I hope to be able to leave a copy of the notes with Dannie in an envelope which he will deliver to you in New York, as you will undoubtedly see him before your departure for Maxwell Field.

We are planning to sign the long term dollar loan agreement with the International Bank on April 21. We are planning to sign the indenture and other documents with the National Trust in Toronto on April 27. In view of the character of some of my work here, it is imperative that I be away just as few days as possible during the latter part of April and the first part of May. For this reason, we have been able to arrange that another member of the Board will sign the indenture in Toronto on April 27.

My plan, therefore, is to leave here by air for New York on the morning of April 19, arriving in New York that same evening. I expect to be in New York on April 20 and leave for Washington that same evening, so as to be there for the signature of the loan agreement

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on April 21. I expect to be in Washington April 21, 22 and 23 and to leave for Maxwell Field by air on April 24. I will give my address at the War College on April 25 and leave Maxwell Field April 26 by air for Mexico City.

You will see from this schedule that it is quite improbable that I will be able to have the opportunity of seeing you either at Maxwell Field or in New York. I can assure you that this causes me great regret, but we are in the midst of certain work here which Dannie can tell you about, which makes it quite impossible for me to be away from here. It is my hope that you and Dannie might be able to fly down here for a few days. I am sure that you would enjoy a few days here, for modern Mexico is really worth getting to know. I cannot tell you what a pleasure and satisfaction it would be for me and Marion to see you here. I gather from your letter that Lady Swinton is not accompanying you on this trip.

With regard to seeing people in Washington, I gather that Acheson will be in London at that time. I really do not know Under Secretary Webb well, but I am sure he would be delighted to see you and that that can easily be arranged through the Embassy. So far as Spain is concerned, etc., Dannie will tell you that Hickerson, Achilles, and Dunham are really the people handling these matters, together with Assistant Secretary Perkins, and all of these would only be too happy to see you, and Dannie can arrange that. I will be in touch with Dannie about this by telephone, and he will undoubtedly tell you what arrangements could be made usefully in Washington. I note that you are planning to spend a part of May 3rd and all of May 4th in Washington.

This is a hurried note, but I did want to get this word off to you today. Marion joins me in affectionate good wishes to you and Lady Swinton, and I am still hoping that we may have the opportunity of seeing you. With all good wishes,

Cordially and faithfully yours,

George S. Messersmith