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August 1, 1940.

Personal

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I want to tell you how much Marion and I appreciate your personal note of July 30th, and we only wish that your stay here could have been longer and that your responsibilities had not been so heavy so that we would have been able to see more of you in our home and to show you something of this Island. I am sure I need not tell you what a personal satisfaction it was to both of us to have had this opportunity of seeing you and Mrs. Hull. Our hope is that, when the great responsibilities which you now carry may not be so heavy, you and Mrs. Hull will be able to spend some restful days with us here in our home.

May I again tell you how much I appreciate the personal telegram which you sent me on July 9 2 p.m., with reference to my not being included in our official Delegation? It was characteristic of you to have sent me this telegram, and I am also most appreciative of your having designated me as a special assistant to you during the Conference. I wish that I could have been of more use to you during the Conference.

There is every reason to believe that history will record the Habana Meeting as the most important Conference in inter-American relations, and one of the most important in which our country has participated. The success of the Conference, which

was

The Honorable
Cordell Hull
The Secretary of State,
Washington, D. C.

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was complete - and even more full than we could have hoped for - was entirely due to your persevering zeal and far-seeing direction and, of course, to the confidence which our neighbors in the South have so well learned to have in you. Our country and you may indeed feel well satisfied with the results.

I hope that you and Mrs. Hall had a comfortable trip home. Marion and I will try to get away from Habana towards the end of August to spend a few weeks in the cool climate of Cape Cod, and I shall, of course, see you before I return here. Whether I shall be able to get away from here for this leave will depend upon whether we can get certain pending matters settled by the Cuban Government, for which settlement, I am glad to say, there is now good prospect.

Always cordially and faithfully yours,

GEORGE S. MESSERSMITH