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Mexico, D. F., August 14, 1944.

Dear Dudley:

Your letter of August 6 has just reached me, and I wish to tell you how much Mrs. Messersmith and I appreciate your writing me. I have had too many anniversaries coming along recently to feel altogether happy about them. In October of last year I passed my sixtieth birthday, on July 22 of this year my wife and I celebrated the thirtieth anniversary of our wedding, and on July 27 I concluded thirty years in the Foreign Service. When I think that behind these thirty years of service with the Department of State and our Government there are fourteen rather difficult years, but very satisfying ones, in the public schools of our country, it seems like a very long time indeed.

I am happy to say that in spite of my imprudent hours in this altitude, I seem to be physically more fit than I was some years back, and I am just as full of interest about everything as I have been. My work here, as you know, is extraordinarily absorbing as well as time-consuming, and it takes all that I can put into it, but I think it is well worth while.

It is good of you to say what you do concerning the possibility for further usefulness on my part. I have, of course, become intensely interested in problems of this Hemisphere, the importance of which, I for one, cannot underestimate. On the other hand, there are certain problems which are perhaps of even broader importance in the immediate post-war period having to do with our relations with Europe, and perhaps because of my background and my intimate touch with those problems for so many years I may be more useful in that field than in the Inter-American field. In any event, wherever my services may be used, I am glad to say that I am just as full of enthusiasm as I have ever been.

The/

Mr. Dudley Bonsal,
Office of the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs,
Commerce Building,
Washington, D. C.

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The work of the Service has been absorbingly interesting to me, and I feel that the satisfactions which I have had out of it have been all that one could ask in the way of reward. One of the most interesting and stimulating parts of this work has been the contact which I have had with so many of our people at home and abroad, in and out of government. One of these friendships and associations which I cherish is that which we have had during the last months, and I am sure I need not tell you that I know how to value it.

I appreciate your letter more than I can say, and Mrs. Messersmith joins me in all good wishes to you and yours.

Cordially and faithfully yours,

GSM/eer

G.S. Messersmith