

VIA AIR MAIL

THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
México, October 5, 1942

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up. 20 oct.

AMERICAN EMBASSY

My dear Friend:

Your air mail letter of September 27 reached me today on my return from Cuernavaca where I had spent the week-end. It is the first time in eight weeks that I was able to leave town for a week-end and to get a little change in a lower altitude. I returned this morning and as usual, wished in spite of the good the two days' rest did me, that I had never gone away, for even a few days away from my desk here piles things up.

Our program of collaboration with Mexico is so broad and covers so many articles in which we are interested that it takes more hours than there are in the day, at least for me, to handle the job. Saturday afternoon and Sunday are really the only times when I can do certain types of work. I used to think that I was fairly efficient, but I must confess that my work here presses me more than it has done during the thirty years that I have been in the Government Service. Our establishment here has grown by leaps and bounds and we now have well over 200 people on the staff. Although I am trying to do our work here with as few people as possible, and although I have very competent help, I find that the demands are so steadily increasing that we shall have to grow a great deal more. In any event, it is satisfying to know that the results of our work are evident in the increasing quantities of strategic materials that we can get out of Mexico. One of the problems we have to think of is that it is not only a question of getting the materials, but of transporting them. Fortunately we do have a land route here and that is a very vital factor for us. I am very happy to say that the situation is developing very satisfactorily.

I am very much interested to know that you are making this long-planned trip to the Argentine and that Gordon Auchincloss and Charles Wilmers are going with you.

I am/

D. N. Heineman, Esquire,
c/o American Embassy,
Buenos Aires, Argentina.

AIR MAIL

I am sure that you will have a very interesting trip. I shall be interested in hearing from you on your return. I have seen some of my Buenos Aires friends recently and they had some interesting things to say. One of them is Mr. McGrath, who is the Assistant Manager of the First National Bank of Boston and a very fine American who knows the Argentine thoroughly. He has just returned to Buenos Aires. Another friend whom I have seen recently and who is a common friend is Mr. Kreiglinger, from Antwerp, who has just spent several months in the United States and who has a daughter living near Boston. Mr. and Mrs. Kreiglinger were among our very dear friends in Antwerp and I am sure you remember them very well. He is now living in the Argentine and is trying to do what he can for us in the wool business, but of course the transportation problem is a serious one. It was very pleasant to see the Kreiglingers here and to see them both looking so well.

I am sorry that our Ambassador, Norman Armour, whom you will recall from Brussels, will probably not be in Buenos Aires while you are there. My understanding is that he is in the United States, but I suppose he will be returning very soon. He is a splendid man and is doing a splendid job under very difficult circumstances. I do not know most of the people in our Embassy now, but I am sure that they will be delighted to see you and be as helpful as they can these days. I hope you will remember me to our mutual friends in the Argentine. You will find many changes since 1936.

We are now really comfortably settled in the Embassy residence. It is completely transformed. Everyone is pleased with it because no one was happy to see our Embassy in such a dilapidated state and one into which it should never have been permitted to fall. The whole job is done with the exception of the central heating plant, for which we are still awaiting the radiators. The task of remodeling and repairing the chancery buildings is also completed. We are constantly growing so much, however, that I have just had to rent for our Government the Imperial Hotel building which has over a hundred rooms, well adapted to our purpose for the period of the war.

You do not say whether Mrs. Heineman is accompanying you to Buenos Aires, but I assume from your letter that she is not. I gather from your letter that there is a possibility of your stopping over here on your way north from the Argentine. I do wish that you could arrange this, for I need not tell you how much pleasure it would give me to see you here and I am sure that Marian would be pleased.

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If Auchincloss and Wilmers are with you we will have room for all of you at the Embassy for as long as you can stay here and I assure you that you will be more comfortable than at any of the hotels. I think you can arrange your trip north by plane so that you would be passing through Mexico City. It is just a little longer, but not much more so.

I have missed news of you and the family and am appreciative of the news of the family which you have given me. We had hoped that we would see you and Mrs. Heineman and May before this. Marian and I have been planning to go home for at least a few weeks for some time, but I am not able to make any definite plans, as whenever I do, I find things developing here which require my presence. You know we all have this feeling that we have to be on the job and perhaps it is exaggerated but in any event there is so much to be done here that I have not felt I could leave. If it is only the fact that our establishment is growing so rapidly - this alone would be enough to hold me here. We are still hoping, however, that we may be able to spend a few weeks at home before the end of the year, and in that case, you may be sure that we will look forward to seeing you all.

I am glad to know that James is at Camp Ritchie and I hope that he will be able to obtain a commission. I think he would be splendid in the Intelligence Service, for which he is so well fitted in so many ways.

I have missed so much hearing from you and have missed writing you, but I think you will appreciate the situation under which I have been working. I usually get to my desk at 8 in the morning and leave it at 8 or after in the evening and as a matter of fact, do the same week-ends, except that on Sundays I get here at 10. I have never been in the position before where certain personal correspondence was almost impossible.

I do hope that if you cannot stop on your way north that you and Mrs. Heineman will make us a visit here as soon as you can and if May can get away from her classes at Columbia, we would love to have her too. This promise to make us a visit is one which you really must keep and I am sure that a few weeks here would be very pleasant for you all, and I need not tell you how much we would enjoy it. At present we have as our guest in the house Dr. Carlos Saladrigas, the former Prime Minister of Cuba, who is here on some official business.

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This is just a hurried word. If you should be planning to return this way, I hope you will send me an air mail letter or a telegram indicating when you may be coming through here, as I would not want to miss you.

My sister-in-law, Louise Fraser and her husband are at present in Buenos Aires where I think he is likely to be for some time with the International Standard Electric. I do not know their address, but they would be delighted to see you if you have a moment for them. You can get their address through the International Standard Electric, which I think is the name of the International Tel. and Tel. subsidiary there.

With every good wish,

Faithfully yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'L. Fraser' or similar, written in a cursive style.