

February 23, 1959

Mr. George S. Messersmith,  
Sierra Paracaima 1285  
Mexico 10, D.F.

Dear George:

I read again your letter of February 5th. I enjoyed your letter. It reminds me also of the time of the first World War in Zurich. A Greek prince lived with his family at the Hotel Baur-en-Ville, where I stayed also. His wife was a Russian princess, very goodlooking, and they had three little daughters, all very sweet, about 8-11 years old. One was the present duchess of Kent, one sister married a count Törring, whose mother was a sister of Queen Elisabeth of Belgium. I forgot whom the third girl married. The duchess of Kent has at least one other child, a boy, who was a reckless automobile driver and kept his mother busy with hospital and police.

I read that Eisenhower and the Mexican President decided to build a new dam on the Rio Grande. It will be very useful for electrical power and irrigation. I read today of the construction of a new dam in Rhodesia, this is a disaster for the animal life, poisonous snakes included. Specialists are engaged in saving the wild life; the poor animals try to defend themselves against the approach of men.

I cannot believe that Draper would accept a cabinet seat, as it would only be for a year's duration and he would have to give up a very good job. His return to Mexlight could of course be assured.

The illness of Dulles creates general regret. Many express the wish that he could keep his job on account of his experience and of his friendship to Adenauer. This was said namely by Senator Kennedy last Sunday over the television, but he conceded that a decision in that respect has to be taken within ten days, as it would be impossible to direct the State Department from the hospital. Humphrey on the other hand considers with many others that a new Secretary should be appointed forthwith.

As long as one feels well and is able to use one's head one can go on until ninety, but then one becomes a nuisance to the family. Have I ever sent you a book by Bertrand Russell, "Portraits from Memory" ? It includes an excellent essay on "How to grow old".

Thank you very much for your letter of February 17. It was indeed a most unpleasant experience you went through and I was glad to hear you took it with philosophy.

Yours ever,