



EMBASSY OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Habana, Cuba,  
November 12, 1941.

Mr. D. N. Heineman,  
The Beekman,  
570 Park Avenue,  
New York City, N. Y.

Dear Friend:

I have just received your letter of November 6 which I am delighted to have.

I am so happy to know that the application of James for admission at the Officers Training School was forwarded a few days ago, signed by his Commanding officer. I gathered from what Colonel Barber told me that this is the best method of approach. Please give James our very best wishes and I will look forward to further news from you after you have seen him at home. Whatever there is that I may do in order to facilitate his receiving the commission, I want to do it.

I have noted with particular interest what you say concerning the result of the private investigation made by the SEC of the Sophina. I felt sure that this would be the result, but some times these people who make investigations, even though they may be exploratory ones, feel that in order to justify their existence they may have to find things when there is really nothing to find. I am therefore more than happy that they have been so objective and even generous in what they have said. I am sure the remark that was made to the effect that if the Public Utilities Holding companies in the United States had followed the same conservative lines as the Sophina, the SEC would never have been conceived, is more than justified.

I am, however, surprised that the article in the TIMES which you were good enough to send me was permitted to appear. This article came to my attention in the issue of the TIMES and I was just about to write you about it when I got your letter sending me the clipping. My copies of the TIMES reach me very

late

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late and this is why this particular article was so late in coming to my attention. I think the ordinary reader of the article in the TIMES would not get any directly improper impression therefrom. The discriminating and informed reader, however, might gather the impression that the SEC had undertaken a thorough-going, regular investigation on the ground that it believed there were some acts of the Sopina which required such investigation. It is more the impression by implication rather than the direct impression of the article which I believe is undesirable. I was surprised myself that the article appeared in the TIMES without any reference being made to you about it before publication because the TIMES is particularly careful about things of this kind. The article appears so innocuous and so factual that I suppose there was no previous consultation with you before the article was published as it was deemed that there was nothing in any way injurious in it.

On the other hand, you are quite correct that the article may carry implications and have unfavorable reactions where the Germans in Belgium and France are in present control and where the Sopina has such large interests. The TIMES has such a wide circulation and such a high reputation that any article which appears in it carries a great deal of weight. I can quite understand all the things which you say as to the unfavorable repercussions which the article may have. I am inclined to doubt whether the article will have these repercussions, but it would certainly have been better in any event if it had not appeared at all and it would have been better if the writer had consulted you or your officers in New York before writing it.

I have read with much interest the factual memorandum which you sent with your letter and I think it is excellent. It should be printed for the information therein should be used by Swift in another article to cover any wrong implications which his previous article may have left or might leave.

Mr. Sulzberger is careful about what appears in the TIMES and I doubt whether he has seen this article or at least that he saw it before it appeared. I think his natural reaction would have been, in case he saw the article before publication, to tell the writer to inform himself directly through you before the article was put into final form. If I were you I would have no hesitation

in seeing

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in seeing Mr. Sulzberger about it. He is so fair and so correct and so understanding that I am sure he will see your position thoroughly when you take it up with him. Some of the thoughts which are ~~pregnant~~ <sup>present</sup> which you set forth in the first three pages of your letter would probably not occur immediately to a person even of the understanding and discrimination of Mr. Sulzberger. From my knowledge of him I think he would be the first to wish that you take the initiative in talking to him about this and I am sure the considerations set forth in your letter would have great weight with him. As a matter of fact I think this is rather important just because of the wide circulation and weight of the TIMES. I would suggest that it would be very wise to take up the matter with Mr. Sulzberger at an early opportunity as a further article by Swift I am sure, if properly worded can not only correct any wrong impressions or improper implications which his first article may have left, but really serve to do positive good in strengthening the position of the company against any possible attacks by unfriendly and in this case, without any doubt, enemy interests. I would write myself to Mr. Sulzberger but in view of the fact that you and he know each other and that he has such high regard for you, I think it would be much better for me not to do so but for you to take it up with him directly.

I note with much interest what you say concerning Mr. Cyfer and Mr. Casellas who are in Habana and about the other people who may be coming in here from Lisbon. I feel sure there will be no difficulty about this and if Mr. Casellas has any difficulties whatever, I will be glad to have him tell me and I may be able to be helpful. What interests me particularly is that you may be coming to Habana in a few weeks and I need not tell you how happy we will be to see you and I hope that Mrs. Heineman will be coming with you. We had a storm the other day and the long summer is broken and we are now having very cool and delightful weather so that you would not suffer from the heat in case you come. Marion and I would be delighted to have you at any time you can come. Please tell May that we hope very much she will be able to spend the Christmas holiday with us and there is no need to let us know in the immediate future as to whether or not she will be able to do so as we have no plans which take us away from here.

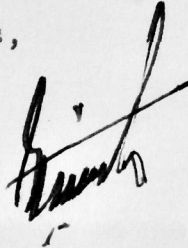
This is a hurried note as I am in the midst of these negotiations which have been keeping me busy for

some time

some time. I hope to have the most of it out of the way within another ten days.

With all good wishes to you all,

Cordially yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "Frank", written in a cursive style with a large initial 'F' and a long horizontal stroke.