

May 16th 1947

I received your letter of May 6th and, as usual, was happy to get your news and your general impressions. You state that you do not want to write at length about the situation in the Argentine and the world at large because, as I follow things, it would serve no purpose. Such is not the case as I always find your point of view very enlightening and beneficial.

I appreciate very much your and Marion's kind interest in Hettie's progress, and I am very happy to say that she is much improved and was well enough a week ago to leave with her nurse and Edna for the Pocono Mountains, where she seems to recuperate some strength; I intend visiting her with Stephen and Jimmy over the week end.

At the end of the month I shall leave for Lisbon and Madrid in order to attend the meetings of Chade Committee and Board, and to examine with our friends in Spain the very difficult situation which has been created for our companies by the intervention of Juan March, and which I have told you about. We had hoped to be able to work with him in the Barcelona company, but so far it has not been satisfactory and I fear that the situation will deteriorate still further.

From Madrid I intend to go to Brussels, London, Italy, France, Switzerland and also to Germany, where I will attend a meeting of the Berlin Light & Power Co. We have to struggle there too in order to uphold our rights in the management. I have asked for a travel permit to Germany from the State Department, but so far have not had satisfaction. It is indeed disturbing to see how slowly things are still moving for people who have urgent business to attend there.

My plans are to stay in Europe only two to three months and I hope therefore to be back home when you arrive in the States on your prolonged vacation; I would indeed enjoy seeing you again and talking over with you the situation I will find in the various European countries which I am about to visit.

As to your question about Jimmy, he is still keeping busy in our office but has not yet reached a decision as to his plans for the future and has given up the idea of joining the Foreign Service. I will tell him to write to you.

With best wishes to you both,  
as ever,

*I believe*

The Hon. George S. Messersmith  
American Ambassador to the Argentine,  
Buenos Aires.