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C o p y

Cuernavaca, Nov. 29, 59

Dear Dannie,

We are alone here at Cuernavaca this week except for Grace Katz, and I'm very glad for I've had a lot of thinking to do this week. I have been preparing some brief policy papers on Latin America for some friends at home who have asked my opinion. We have handled things very badly in Latin America because we have really encouraged this anti American tide by not taking strong attitudes. There is only one thing that Latins to the South understand - and that is force and plain speaking. We have let everyone call us names and kick us in the back - and it's all blackmail - but our own people in the Department of State have handled the situation miserably. I think things will be better, but this new committee appointed by Ike will create confusion rather than help because there are too many sentimentalists on it.

Here in Mexico things are not any better. They are still bound on a program of socialization which they can't carry through. Mexlight affairs are in no better shape. Taylor and Maryssael and the members of the Finance Committee (except John Snyder who was not here) had a talk with the Minister of Economy on Friday - but with the Mexican position still up in the air. The longer the Government here delays positive action in our favor, the more difficult the situation.

Mikoyan has been here for ten days, and there is no doubt he is a clever man, but he overplayed his hand, and kept attacking the United States every day. Now that he has left, I think it was a good thing for him to come, because he could hardly have played the Soviet hand worse.

It is very cold here in Mexico as it is in the North. It was below freezing here last night, but we have strong sunshine outside in the patio of the house.

I am enclosing a review of a book "Diplomat" which appeared in the New York Time literary section several weeks ago. I do not know if you saw it. The book is really second rate. Herbert Feis, who was the chief Economic adviser of the State Department wrote the review. He starts out by saying Joe Grew, Jeff Caffery and I were three of the most effective diplomats he knew. I wasn't flattered by what my friend Herbert Feis said, or rather by the company he put me in. I don't mind being put in the same category as Joe Grew, but Jeff Caffery was one of the worst career diplomats we had. He made a failure at every one of his posts.

I am also enclosing a clipping from the N.Y. Times, an article by Reston, which came out at the time that Bob Murphy resigned. I told Marion that I seem to get into the strangest company. Reston puts men like Kipley Tuck in the same category as myself - as good men. Tuck seldom drew a sober breath, and was a complet stuffed shirt.

*Pinckney*  
I'm only sending these clippings to show how people whom we think should be well and completely informed, can so mislead their readers. Herbert Feis and Jimmy Reston are both extremely intelligentwell informed men. It just shows how little we can believe of

what we read!

We live in a world of mediocrity, and I am one of those who believe that in our country, in spite of all the information means we have, the capacity of the great mass of our people to understand and discriminate, has decreased rather than increased. We had some people in for dinner last night and while the others were playing bridge, two of the men and I talked and I was not only bored, but distressed that the two men had such a superficial knowledge of things they should know and that are so important for our country now.

I shall have a rather heavy week in Mexico City. One tries to stem the tide but there is not too much that one can do. But as long as I can, I shall do what I can.

Sam Katz is in New York and he told Grace over the phone yesterday he had talked with you.

I am writing this facing the patio of the house, and altho it is cold, there is brilliant sunshine, so I will stop and go out and get a bit of sun.

Marion and Grace Katz send their love to you all. Shall be writing you soon again.

All the best,

Faithfully,

GEORGE