July 2, 1961

The Honorable
Robert F. Woodward
Under Secretary of State

My dear Mr. Woodward:

This is a very sincere if somewhat belated letter of congratulation on your appointment as Under Secretary of State in Charge of Inter-American Affairs.

It can not be expected that you remember me; yet I have a very vivid recollection of you. In 1955 I traveled extensively through Latin America in a lecture trip sponsored by the U.S. Department of State and our own. You were at the time American Ambassador at San José, Costa Rica.

I visited over a dozen countries. In only three of them I was extended the privilege and opportunity of meeting the Ambassador. In only one, the honor and pleasure of meeting with an Ambassador socially, seating at his table. This was your case. And again, only one Ambassador attended my lecture. This was your case, too.

An Ambassador's life is so full and complicated with so many delicate chores that obviously he can not be expected to see everybody. So, in each of the three cases, I was very appreciative of the personal consideration that the gesture implied. But your having taken time to see and talk leisurely with me and attend my lecture was a clear indication of your interest in Inter-American relations and your awareness of how important it was to associate with people, no matter how humble, interested in fostering hemispheric understanding and solidarity. What I heard from you the day I had the pleasure of having lunch with you and your charming wife convinced me that you were one of the very few people in the U.S. diplomatic service in Latin America with a real grasp of the situation.

You can very well see that I have good sound reasons to see you in charge of the relations that you have cultivated and understand so well.

Sincerely yours,