LEGATION OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Quito, Ecuador. April 20, 1937.

Personal & Confidential

The Honorable
Herbert H. Lehman,
Executive Chamber,
Albany, New York.

My dear Governor:

It is indeed a pleasure to send you and Mrs. Lehman greetings from Mrs. Gonzalez and myself upon our return to our post in Quito, Ecuador, and hope that this may find you both enjoying good health.

While I was in Washington shortly before my return, I had the pleasure of seeing the President and during that visit expressed to him my pleasure in serving under him, and my desire to continue so serving, and that if agreeable to him I would appreciate a change of post on account of the ill effects of the altitude upon the health of Mrs. Gonzalez. He stated that he would be glad for me to continue to serve, and that this Spring he would take me out of the high altitude.

A few weeks ago I received a cable from Secretary Hull stating that the President having in mind the effects of the altitude on the health of Mrs. Gonzalez, that the President offered to appoint me as Minister to Honduras or if I preferred, I could remain in Quito. In view of the fact that the post in Honduras is a remote and unhealthy from the standpoint of the lack of medical services for Mrs. Gonzalez, I was obliged to state that I would remain for a short time in Ecuador in the hope that in the meantime an opportunity might be granted for a transfer to Guatemala, Venezuela, Uruguay or Chile, the last two named about to be vacant in July and August next on account of the Minister and Ambassador to said respective countries reaching the age limit for service. I, in addition to my reply cable to Secretary Hull, also wrote the President, Secretary Hull, Assistant Secretary Welles and to Mr. Farley explaining the reason for not being able to accept the post at Honduras, and asking for consideration for one of the posts mentioned.

You have always been so very kind to me, that
I hesitate to ask you to assist me in obtaining an early transfer to either Chile as Ambassador in August when said post is supposed to be vacated on account of the age limit of the present Ambassador, or to Uruguay for the same reason in July, but at this great distance I am handicapped to do much for myself in that regard, and wonder if I may ask your very kind assistance with the President in order to have either of said posts, and be able to continue in the service during the administration of our beloved President Roosevelt.

Due to the delicate health of Mrs. Gonzalez, it really has been very hard on her to contend with the very high altitude of ten thousand feet above sea level, such as exists here in Quito, and I do not think it would be fair for me to expect her to continue to suffer under the circumstances.

I do hope you will not think I am presumptuous in my request for your assistance because I would not think of imposing upon our friendship, but feel you will understand the situation and what a lot it means for the health of Mrs. Gonzalez.

With high expressions of regard and sincere wishes for you and Mrs. Lehman in which Mrs. Gonzalez joins me, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

Antonio C. Gonzalez