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Mr. Stephen Spender
Fifteen Loudon Road
St. John's Road
London N. W. 8

July 18, 1969

Dear Mr. Spender:

If possible, I should like to enlist your interest and participation on a matter which the Hispanic Foundation thinks is interesting and important.

For some months now, we have been sponsoring Miss Doris Dana, who is the literary executrix of Gabriela Mistral, the Chilean Nobel Prize winner, in her efforts to locate published and unpublished Mistral material in Latin America and Europe. As part of the same general program, Miss Dana has translated a number of the Mistral poems into English, as to date only a very few of them, most from her early years, have appeared in translation. We are now at the point where the Johns Hopkins Press has agreed to publish this selection, with Spanish on one page, and the Dana translation facing it. Miss Dana proposes to place very brief headnotes before each separate group of poems, and at the end of the book to provide some clarifying notes, especially on Mistral's use of localisms in Spanish and other matters which would not be self-evident to even a sophisticated reader. The whole work should run about 300 pages. Enclosed you will find the proposed Table of Contents as it presently stands.

We believe that this anthology should have an Introduction of perhaps 20-25 pages which would place Gabriela in perspective, and provide critical and interpretive comment which it would not be appropriate for Miss Dana herself to write. She expects to have a small translators preface, indicating the basis for her selection, and some of the difficulties which the Mistral poems provide.

Could you undertake this chore? The Hispanic Foundation could offer an honorarium for your efforts. Although there is at the moment no hard and fast deadline, Miss Dana believes that she will finish her translations and annotations within the next two or three months, and we would be able to send you those she has already completed, as well as those on which she is working, if you needed the materials.

[Carta] 1969 July 18, [Washington D. C., Estados Unidos] [a]
Mr. Stephen Spender, Fifteen Loudon Road, St. John's Road,
London [manuscrito] Howard F. Cline.

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