May 12, 1957

Dear Alone,

Please forgive me for not having written to you sooner. There has been an endless amount of work to do. My spirits have been very low, and the whole matter of adjusting to a world without Gabriela overwhelms me. But please don't think my silence was forgetfulness.

Regarding the matter I spoke of in my last letter -- (The possibility of your coming to the U.S. to edit and arrange the "Recado de Chile" and the second volume of "Lagar") -- I wish to assure you that I am certain that you would be the last person to be a burden to me. I know, naturally, that an adjustment here for a stay of any length would be difficult for you in some ways. For me it would be a joy to help you in every way I can to orient you in terms of "la ciudad espantosa" (as Gabby always called it), to help you find suitable living quarters, learn the cultural facilities here, etc. as well as assist you wherever possible with the work on Gabriela's manuscripts. Please, dear Alone, rest assured that whatever small sacrifices I would make in time and effort, would be a great pleasure for me....which means, naturally, that it would be no sacrifice at all. On the contrary, I would be so happy to have you near, and to have your companionship. There are many friends here who will be very glad to see you. I also think that in New York you would pick up a vast amount of material necessary for your book on Gabriela. This would be important. Besides myself, there are other close friends of hers here who have known her well in various times of her life.

I have written to the Rockefeller Foundation, the Ford Foundation, the Bollingen, and the Guggenheim Foundations, regarding the possibility of a grant for you. I hope that soon I will have some concrete idea of the amount of interest there would be in this project. These steps that I am taking DO NOT COMMIT YOU IN ANY WAY, in case you should feel that the undertaking would be too much for you. Claude Bowers and German Arciniegas have both said that they will recommend you most enthusiastically when the time comes for that. They both felt that you are the ideal person for this work. Also I have reason to believe that Dag Hammarskjold, as member of the Swedish Nobel Academy, would do likewise....though perhaps we don't need as mighty a name as that. In any case, you will have many others in Chile.

I can talk these things over with you at length when I see you in Chile. I plan definitely to go at the time that Gabriela's remains will be brought to Montegrande. The Minister of Foreign Relations called me when he was on his way to Japan, and asked me if I planned to go. I told him most emphatically YES. Since then, I have heard nothing from the

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