

January 25, 1958

Muy querido Tomie --

I don't think I need to explain my long silence, but I sincerely hope you will understand. I certainly know you have been patient. Living in this world without Gabriela has been like living in no world at all.

I thank you for wanting to know about myself and my own life. No, I have not had the time or the heart to return to my writing or to politics. I hope soon, with a little more inner strength, I shall get back to doing these things again -- si Dios quiere. Meantime there have been many debts to pay off for Gabriela and, needless to say, many responsibilities. I work full-time at a job. This plus the work I do for Gabriela's affairs leaves me no time free.

If you come to the States, as you mentioned in your last letter, you must be sure to let me know. I will be going to Chile at the time that Gabriela goes to Montegrande. The government indicated that they would invite me for that occasion last April. Since then I have not heard a word from them. I shall write directly to the President soon to see if he cannot hasten this. It is incredible to me that a country which professes to admire Gabriela so much has taken no interest in seeing her wishes fulfilled.

Thank you, Tomie, for sending me the detailed report on funds existing in Chile, and indicating to whom I should write. This is of great help to me. Please send to me directly the check which you have. It should be made out to "ESTATE OF GABRIELA MISTRAL".

Regarding the Order of Saint Francis, nothing can be done, of course, until the Estate has been distributed. I cannot do this until all of Gabriela's expenses have been defrayed. I have only recently been appointed Executrix by the U.S. courts. I still have to go to California to be appointed there, and am awaiting my appointment in Chile. This means that nothing can be done until Gabriela is taken to Montegrande. Until then I cannot make any kind of distribution. How much more time will be involved depends on the cooperation I get from Chile.

Even after the Estate is executed, the Order of Saint Francis has no authority to do anything other than to distribute to Gabriela's heirs in Chile, namely, the children of Montegrande. They have no authority as you know from the reading of the Will, to determine in any way what shall be done with her literary works. I say this because I understand that they "authorized" Editorial del Pacifico to publish books written by Gabriela. Editorial del Pacifico has never written to me asking permission to publish new books of Gabriela. They also have no contract in effect for the publication of either Resolucion or Lagar. Well, Tomie, the problems and decisions are many. I must handle them one by one, in the proper

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