



April 7, 1953

Dear Tomic,

I am a bad correspondent, as my long silence indicates, but I do write when it is really important, and what I have to say to you today matters very much.

This is really an expansion of Gabriela's enclosed letter. Dr. Vogl, head of the Medical School at New York University, and one of the best specialists in internal medicine and circulatory disorders, told me that Gabriela's condition is extremely serious and needs constant attention because it is a progressive ailment. He has emphasized the advisability of her being in or near New York for treatment and repeated check-ups. He also feels that the intense heat of Santiago de Cuba during the summer months might be harmful to her.

In spite of the doctor's advice, Gabriela is anxious to leave for Cuba immediately. Her sense of urgency about this move is prompted by her desire not to fail the Ministerio in any way. As you can see from her letter, she is even hesitant to ask for a month's leave of absence for the purposes of the immediate medical treatment. And yet, as you may know from the nature of her illness, a one month vacation would not accomplish anything. It seems to me we must look for a long term solution.

You may recall that in 1948, when Gabriela went to Mexico, she was sent as "Consul en Comision", and retained that position for a year and a half, until she was appointed Consul in Vera Cruz, at her own request. It has occurred to me that from a psychological as well as a practical point of view, it may be a solution to give a similar assignment to Gabriela at this time. This would relieve her of undue strain, allow her to function on a cultural and creative plane, and at the same time leave her the freedom to choose her residence in accordance with her physical needs.

Please do not think me a "nina intrusa" for making this suggestion. I have thought about it for a long time and have discussed it with Gabriela. I think that this might be an ideal solution for her, although she would never

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