

Meridian Hill Hotel, Room 836.
16th and Euclid
Washington, D.C.

Dear Dr. González;

It was certainly nice to receive your letter; thank very much. It seems years since I left Concepcion, and so many things have happened.

I arrived in the States on Dec. 9, but arrived in Minnesota with my family on Dec. 20. I enjoyed the trip through B. A., Rio, Trinidad and Puerto Rico immensely, but not so much as the trip to Cusco. You and Mary must take that some day, as it is the most interesting I have ever had. I had Christmas in Virginia, Minnesota, almost on the Canadian border, in 2 degrees below zero weather. However, it was lovely, with sunshine and snow, and it was perfect having Christmas with my family.

I left you in Washington for consultation, and am busy from 8 a. m. to 5 p. m. in conference and classes, and try to see everything after that time. I have gone to all the plays and concerts I could find tickets for, and shall spend Monday and Tuesday in New York getting acquainted with the bright lights. I saw Olga Embarrat when I went through New York in December. She looks fine, with the exception of her eyes. They have been very bad, but she is getting the best medical attention possible at Medical Center.

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And I, still, do not know where I am going. Definitely, I am not to be sent to Argentina, as they are sending no more money nor American personnel to Argentina. The Institutes there have been costing so much, with such small returns, that it has seemed best to withhold the money, and either give that amount to others, or open other centers in other South American cities. It seems as though there was an attack upon the Institute in Rosario, also. No great harm was done, but it was rather an apparent insult to the work of this Institute. It was given much publicity in the newspaper, the New York Times, and, largely, as the result of that, I believe, they have withdrawn the American personnel.

So now, I don't know where they will send me. At present, it looks as though I would be sent to Korea. At least, they are studying my credentials and investigating my past record: they have given me all the medical examinations and the conferences necessary for entrance, and are holding me here until March - I should know before that time, what the plans are. It is really a bit dangerous, but they do not want married men; as the married men

always want to take their children over, and that is a bit dangerous, as the northern part of Korea is in the hands of the Russians. This is really a great experiment in the teaching of English, and has created a great deal of interest in the State Department. I would be working through Foreign Service and would have to live under the direction of the American Embassy which controls all of the living quarters of the American personnel, so that we may be reached in case of trouble. The work would be training the Koreans to speak English in 6 to 8 months, by a method of recordings. Students are to be divided into groups of 100, with 6 teachers, or 10 teachers, if they can locate that many. There will be a series of booths, all sound proof, and students enter these booths, listen to recordings of correct English; then they make the English sounds of sentences on recordings of their own, and when reproduced the student compares his sounds with the correct English sounds. The teachers meet with them individually and show them how to place their tongue, lips, etc. in order to make the correct sounds. The experiment will be made with a very select group of University students, and we teachers have to keep a complete record of every detail, so that we can report on this system of teaching. I am now spending my time studying the machines for recording, reproducing and

the administration of the teaching material. It will be fascinating if it is not too dangerous, but we will have every protection of the American army and air force, as there is a big staff stationed there. There is a chance that I shall return to Concepcion - but only in case they do not send me out to Korea, or put me in one of the new posts which they are planning to open.

I have talked to all of the members here about Concepcion, and they are very much pleased with the way we are working. Thus far they have not sent anyone into Concepcion - to replace me, but I believe that has been because they are waiting on putting me into some other position, and, if the Korean or others do not develop, I will possibly be sent back to Chile until this can be opened up. At present, no one knows, and I guess we shall just have to wait.

I have been very much pleased at the way the complete Institute program has been integrated into the foreign policy. There is no question but that the Institutes are here to remain, and will get better and better. There is even a tendency here towards the Institutes owning their own homes, and each Institute is encouraged to save up as much as

possible, so that it may be in a position to buy a home when the Department gives the word to do so. Naturally, all of these policies are in their infant stages, but this division of the Department has grown immensely since 1947, and is very much better integrated and is receiving the respect of all Departments.

All reports, as of January 1st, are to be made on the quarter basis now instead of the monthly basis, and are to be made on special forms, which will be sent to the Board with definite instructions. Tom will receive them soon, I believe.

I shall write you from time to time to give you any information I may have, and write me if you want me to take up anything special. I went over the budget in detail with the budget department: we shall receive almost everything we asked for, except the amount of money for social activities, and they felt we should either not spend so much, or we should charge for our social entertainments.

I have written Tom most of the information, and shall advise you of anything new. The Department is working on text books, but this book will not be ready for distribution until 1951. In the meantime, they advise me use Dixon, which is the text we are now using in Concepcion.

Much love to Mary, and thanks for all you have done for me and for the Institute. I think the day is coming when we shall

all be proud of the work we have done
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Most sincerely,
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Helen Aimes