



THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

5208 Glenwood Road
Bethesda, Maryland
November 29, 1948

Dear Rosette,

Aren't you a lucky girl. Thank you and Alex for letting us know about small Roderic, who is working up to being a month old now. I hope he isn't suffering from colic or anything like that, and don't forget to feed him plenty if he asks for it, and remember as you get up in the cold grey light of dawn or a trifle before that it'll all be over soon. They are only a month old for such a short time, that later it's nice to look back on the cold grey midnight hours and think well, anyway, I was looking at him then as he was for such a short time. Cold comfort, but some comfort. Anyway, there is no doubt whatsoever in my mind that a small baby is absolutely the best thing in the world, diapers and all. I hope you feel the same, because it's just as much help with the diapers as a -aundersmat, if not more so. I'm probably a bit incoherent, but I've just been reading Huxley and Waugh, and they always strike me somewhat dumb.

I have nothing more to add to my previous letter as to our own affairs, except that Laurence John saw his first snow the other day and was delighted. "Daddy, it goes everywhere! The snow is on both sides of the house and in front too!" He also had a word to say on the subject of the Bethesda Naval Hospital, which is quite near us. "Mamma, that's a joke, isn't it! Hospitals don't have navels, do they!"

William has been furiously busy with his revolution, nationally, since he handles Venezuelan affairs at the Dep't. We managed to get in Thanksgiving dinner, though, and I don't suppose the poor souls down in Caracas had that much luck. What a sorry state of affairs, coming right after those hopeful elections! At least there wasn't much blood shed. Well, I'm glad in any case that you and Roderic were up here, although I don't suppose either you or Roderic (especially the latter) would have felt any serious effects of the revolution even had you been there.

Since every mamma has a different idea of what is absolutely necessary, or at least very pleasant to have, I was at a loss to know what young Roderic would want in the way of a gift. I assume that Roderic agrees with you in everything, and will concur in your decision. In any case, I hope you will manage to buy him a present for me with the enclosed check which will please both of you. And give him a chaste, antiseptic kiss on the top of his head for me.

Love to all three of you,