

5208 Glenwood Road
Bethesda, Maryland
December 9, 1948

4-75 p.1/1

Dear Betty and Maurie,

Our Christmas card to you went out a few days ago, and on it I asked news of the impending Bernbaum. The news arrived last night (in William's pocket when he came home from the office) and made us both very happy for you, so I had to write and tell you so. How nice to have a little girl, now! In spite of everything that can be said in favor of small boys (and the many, many things which can be shouted against them on occasions) I still have a feeling that a young lady would be an excellent thing to have around the home, and I have the irrational notion that little girls are somehow NICER than little boys. All right, it's perfectly silly even to say it, but there you are. So I envy you your present blessedness.

Life in the United States is certainly quite a different proposition from life in easy old Caracas, but there are distinct compensations. Now that I'm more used to doing my own work I find I rather enjoy it, and in any case it certainly is good for the figure! It's only when we want to do what we would in Caracas have called "a normal amount of entertaining" that I find myself bogging down. Strangely enough I find I haven't six pairs of hands! Oh well, it's wonderful for the soul, too. I can only thank goodness I already knew how to cook, because I certainly had to learn everything else from the beginning.

William has been very busy with his revolution, an event which has saddened us quite a bit. They didn't even give the elected president a year's chance. It does seem a nasty shame, but it also appears equally certain that there's nothing to be done about it. In any case, for about ten days our telephone began ringing as soon as William left the office in the evening and kept right on through the night, only stopping in the morning when he arrived at his desk once more. It got so that I could tell when he reached his desk.

I hope you four have a good stay in Quito, and that you like the post. In any case, please give the new baby a chaste and antiseptic kiss on her brow for me, unless you don't believe in kissing babies. I DO!

Sincerely,