## [Translation below]



THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
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5208 Glenwood Road Bethesda, Maryland 18 de octubre, 1948 4~55 p.1/1

Cara Paya,

Aqui estamos por fin en una casa que es verdaderamente nuestra, bien confortable, mas o menos a la misma distancia de Washington que estabamos de Caracas en Campo Alegre. Como la situación por encontrar casas de alquiler es tan dificil todavia, tuvimos que comprarla para ocuparla, y por esto esperamos que los precios de casas no bajaran demasiado en el futuro! - porque tal vez tendremos que venderla cuando el Departamento de Estado mos manda otra vez al exterior. Sino hacemos eso, tal vez la alquilaremos a otras personas cuando nos vamos, dentro de tres o cuatro anos. Pero como nos gusta tanto la casita, todavia no queremos pensar en irnos de aqui. (Esta maquina no tiene los acentos espanoles, y ustedes tendran que imaginarlos!)

Nos dio mucho gusto saber que ustedes se habian por fin casado, y que todo va bien in la nueva familia Dassori. Ustedes saben que tienen todos nustros votos por una vida matrimonial feliz y larga. Estamos seguros, tambien, que una familia como la suya, ordenada y laboriosa, sera siempre una prospera familia en Venezuela. Pero espero que los dos de ustedes no trataran de hacer todo en un solo dia, sino poco a poquito. Se dice en ingles, "Roma no se hizo en un solo dia" - y sin duda se dice tambien en itadiano!

Pobre Lorenzino sufrío mucho en el mar, vomitando cada dia, mientras que nosotros nos sentimos muy bien. No le gusto para nada el viaje, ni por tierra ni por mar, y cuando por fin llegamos a la hienda hacienda chica de mi mama, el pobre nino habia perdido mucho peso, y no tenia ni una rosa in las mejillas. Pero después de una semana en el aire libre dela campana, entre los perritos, los gansos, y los pollos, se restablecto por o mpleto y otra vez tenia su apetito normal. Todavia dice, de vez en cuando, "Mama, te acuerdas de PAYA?" Está hablando como senor crecido ahora, y cada dia dice algo sabio y un poco raro. Por ejemplo, el otro dia le encontre haciendo algo um poco malo, y cuando le habia reganado un poco, le oi decir a si mismo "Ay, Lorencito, como has pitodido hacer tal cosa? Que desilusion: Que desilusion, Lorenzo!" Pero ya no habla nada ni en espanol ni en italiano- puro ingles. Se acuerda de Stevie, y de los autobuses de Altamira, pero vive en el presente, y le da gusto jugar en su jardin, con su arena y sus carritos. No se quiere pensar mucho en el pasado, tal vez porque le es triste pensar en lo que ha dejado en Venequela. Era una tragedia para el. irse de la unica casa que había conocido.

Figurese que ahora soy yo la Rita y la Paya de la casa, haciendo todo yo misma. Los precios no son tan altos aqui, pero no ganamos tanto, tampoco. El servicio domestico casi no existe, y me considero afortunada de tener una mujer que viene un dia por semana para limpiar y planchar. Guando queremos salir hor la noche, llamamos una senorita de la vecindad para quedar en casa con el nino. A principio era dificil, pero ya me gusta todo. Epa, falta papel!

Que todo les vaya bien,

## [TRANSLATION (LJK)]

5208 Glenwood Road Bethesda, Maryland October 18, 1948

Dear Paya,

Here we are at last in a house that is really ours, quite comfortable, about the same distance from Washington as we were from Caracas in Campo Alegre. Since it is still very hard to find a house to rent, we had to buy this to live in it, so we hope the prices of houses won't go down much in the future! – because we may have to sell it when the State Department sends us overseas again. If that happens, perhaps we will rent it to other people when we go, within three or four years. But since we like this little house so much, we don't like to think about leaving. (This machine doesn't have Spanish accent marks, so you will have to imagine them!)

We were very happy to learn that you had gotten married at last, and that all is well with the new Dassori family. You know you have all our votes for a long, happy married life. We're sure, too, that a family like yours, well ordered and hard-working, will always be a *prosperous* family in Venezuela. But I hope the two of you won't try to do everything at once, but little by little. In English we say, "Rome wasn't built in a day" – and I'm sure you say the same in Italian!

Poor Laurence suffered a lot at sea, vomiting every day, while we felt very well. He didn't enjoy the trip at all, on land or at sea, and when we finally arrived at my mother's little farm, the poor boy had lost a lot of weight, and didn't have a single rose on his cheeks. But after a week in the fresh country air, with the dogs, the geese, and the chickens, he was completely recovered and had his normal appetite. Still, from time to time, he says, "Mamma, do you remember PAYA?" He is talking like a grown man now, and every day he says something wise and a bit strange. For example, the other day I found him doing something a little naughty, and after I had scolded him a little, I heard him say, "Oh, Laurence, how could you have done such a thing? I'm disappointed! I'm so disappointed with you, Laurence!" But now he doesn't say a thing in Spanish or Italian – just English. He remembers Stevie, and the buses in Altamira, but he lives in the present, and he enjoys playing in his garden, with his sand and little cars. He doesn't like thinking much about the past, perhaps because it's sad to think about everything he left behind in Venezuela. It was a tragedy for him, leaving the only house he had ever known.

Imagine, now I'm the Rita and the Paya of the house, doing everything myself. The prices aren't so high here, but we don't earn as much, either. There's practically no such thing as household help, and I consider myself fortunate to have a woman who comes in once a week to clean and iron. When we want to go out at night, we call a young lady from the neighborhood to stay at home with the boy. At first it was hard, but now I'm enjoying it all. Oops! Out of paper!

Best wishes for everything!

LPK Philinda KRIEG