

5208 Glenwood Road
Bethesda, Maryland
Nov. 12, 1948

Dear Rosetta, Dear Alex,

We were surprised and delighted by your letter of Nov. 2, and only sorry to hear of the delay of the heir or her, to coin a dreadful phrase! You and Princess Elizabeth seem to have tried to get together on your dates. By this time, however, you are probably all fixed up with a fine new baby, and so you'll be willing to second my opinion that there is no better moment in life. I felt so smug I nearly perished of the sheer weight of pride, as I remember. Well, God bless all three of you.

You will be astonished to learn that I am now a complete American housewife. At least I was astonished, after I discovered that in spite of my ignorance of those matters I was cleaning house, making beds, washing dishes, doing the laundry, cooking, and boy-watching myself, personally, with the aid of a dusky character named Leola once, ~~count'em~~ once, a week. And what is even stranger, I have survived the initial ordeal of moving-in and all it entails without apparent damage. I'm surprised at myself. Back in Caracas I was sure I'd sink under the weight of work without a trace, but here I am, pretty chipper! We had to buy a house in order to get a place to live without spending months in a hotel, so now we and the mortgage company are the proud possessors of a brick house, painted white, next to some woods, with a yard not too big for William to mow and rake, and a flagstoned terrace in back with a place for barbecues, and a picket-fenced play area for the Whirling Dervish. We also have a guest room for such of our friends and relations as are willing to come and visit us and be victims of my cooking zeal. I tell you this in case you plan to come near Washington at some time. Babies Our Specialty- we even have a Laundermat to handle the diaper situation!

William seems to like his new job, and I'm especially happy about how much he likes his new boss, Sheldon Mills. As you people know, a good boss can make all the difference. Being in the Department is wonderful for renewing old acquaintances. We seem to have seen about half the people we ever met in our previous lives since we came back, and we've had such a good time at it, too! That's why I hope that for some reason the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs will find it imperative for Alex to do some consulting in Washington before going over to Rome--so we can get a chance to see you, also. But in any case, please don't fail to give me complete, minute details on how wonderful your new child is, including wild guesses as to whom he/she resembles. William blasphemously maintains that all babies look alike, but I call that nonsense, and demand to know just how little X looks.

Affectionately,

.P.S. As you have perhaps noticed, once I latch on to a good source of stationery, I don't relax my grip.