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FONDO DE CULTURA ECONOMICA

PANUCO. 63

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MEXICO, D. F., a 22 de Mayo de 1947

Mr. David Stevens
The Rockefeller Foundation
49 West 49th Street
New York 20, N.Y.
E.U.A.

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Colegio de Mexico
Mexican history

Sharon to W.B. 10 June He will send us his comment

Dear Mr. Stevens:

After some hesitation I am writing you this letter in a tone of most friendly confidence: Before making any formal application to the Foundation itself, I prefer to inform you, as a friend, of my project.

You, personally, will understand readily this: like many Mexicans of my generation, I have always postponed my own interests, whether economic or academic, to serve enterprises of a national or public character: in the government service (I was its economic adviser for fourteen years), teaching at the National University, helping Dr. Reyes at El Colegio de México and above all directing Fondo de Cultura Económica, which, as you know, is a non-profit publishing house very much alike your University presses.

I believe that a man has fulfilled his duty toward his country by devoting to it twenty-five years out of forty-six. That is why I would like to spend the next five or six years (perhaps the last useful ones I shall have) to prepare and write a couple of books giving thus for once satisfaction to my own calling, and perhaps serving my country at the same time, although in a different field.

Now, to prepare those two books is not a task which may be attempted while working on some other activity, for I would have to spend my residual energy in a work which by definition is a full time job. On the other hand I am a poor man, as a public servant or a University professor usually is; then, I could not work on these books unless a grant in aid replaces the income I now get from my daily work.

Do you believe there could be any chance of obtaining from the Foundation a scholarship similar to the one granted to Mr. Lida? I am quite ready, of course, to submit a project for the research I would like to make, Suffice it to say now that I wish I could make a history of what we call the Mexican Revolution.

Allow me to make just one more remark: I think it would be improper for El Colegio de México to give me a grant in aid being as I am an official of it, and then, of course, El Colegio has not funds to spare.

Thanking you in advance for kindly considering my suggestion, I am, obliged,

Yours faithfully.

DANIEL COSÍO VILLEGAS.

DCV/sy