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Villa Serbelloni

THE FORD FOUNDATION
477 MADISON AVENUE
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10022

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS PROGRAM

December 16, 1965

Dr. George Harrar
President
The Rockefeller Foundation
111 West 50th Street
New York, New York 10020

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Dear George:

I have been meaning for some time to give you my personal views regarding the usefulness of the Villa Serbelloni. I have now attended two sessions there which resulted from a partnership between the Rockefeller and Ford Foundations. The first conference concerned increasing the effectiveness and size of European assistance to Latin America. The second involved a group of experts on Atlantic problems.

This is a truly extraordinary facility. It keeps people together in a gracious manner which stimulates friendly and informal discussion. The arrangements and administrative handling keep the meetings on the rails and people at work. At the same time the surroundings facilitate small individual and group meetings when plenary sessions are not being held. The Marshalls have managed beautifully to permit a cordial atmosphere where there is a minimum of time lost in detail matters or administration.

I have mentioned this to your staff. I did want you to know, however, that a number of us feel the Villa Serbelloni is an accepted institution which we hope has a long and bright future. As you probably know, many projects and grantees supported by us utilize the Villa's services. My observations represent a clear consensus of those Europeans and Americans with whom we are in close touch.

Warmest personal regards and Season's Greetings.

Cordially,

Joe
J. E. Slater
Associate Director