



Calle Italia 501, Hato Rey, P. R.

April 26, 1962

Dear Nestor,

You are more than welcome. I'm only glad that the needle did arrive and that there were no complications with the Customs authorities. Is there anything else which you need? I think it would not be too difficult to send some small articles there. I shall ask the local Post Office what the situation is and then maybe some of the items so scarce now in Havana could be sent from here.

Just this minute one our neighbors came in and I asked him if he was sent any packages to Cuba. All of the businesses in this building are owned by Cuban refugees and they are a good source of information. Anyway, he told me that he has sent things frequently and without any difficulty as long as the shipment is restricted to foods and medicine. Perhaps I could do this for you. It would be no trouble at all and would give me a lot of pleasure.

You can imagine my surprise when you told me that you might be going to Spain for a time. Is there a chance that, if you do go, you might stop off in Puerto Rico for a visit? Probably by then I shall have my new apartment and you would be very welcome to stay with me, if you wish. I'm looking forward to hearing more from you about this.

I'll be waiting for news about this boat deal and thanks very much for looking into the matter.

When you described your new record purchases I was a little embarrassed to admit that some of the people are complete strangers to me. Although I have always liked pure American jazz, mainly Dixieland, that is, the other forms have never meant very much to me. There are extremes of jazz these days which I am too unsophisticated to understand and I don't really try very much. Years ago my taste in music was very, very romantic. Tchaikovsky, Schumann, Strauss and even Rossini. Now, as time goes by, the most satisfying music for me is it seems the purer classics, particularly Bach. I particularly



enjoy sacred music, choral works especially. I guess it is the precision and the order that appeals most. As my tastes have matured, soaring violins and thumping tympani are not so necessary as before, but rather the more evident genius of the real classic composers. This is not to say that I don't like many of the modern ones. It depends mostly on the mood. When the lights are low and the company attractive, Bach is hardly suitable. This could hardly be called my views on music, but it does give you an idea of my very old-fashioned tastes. You know what a reactionary I am, so they probably make sense.

There are frequent reports of the shortages in Cuba these days and it makes me sad to think that such a basically wealthy country should have such a difficult time. What is required, it seems to me, is enthusiastic and efficient hard work of all the people along with a sensible, practical economic, social and political system. I am afraid that the eagerness of many Cubans to correct the many abuses of the past is leading only to more abuses, although different ones. The idealist has a hard time in this world, no matter where he operates or what he tries to do. It is especially unfortunate when extreme idealism is also coupled with political power. Perhaps a solution is possible. Who knows?

I think it is wonderful that your romantic life has taken a new turn. Maybe this will be the real thing - as they say in Hollywood. Good luck, anyway. As for my new interest, that has turned into a strange relationship of meetings maybe once a week with no questions, no probing and only a pleasant being together. It is nice. My long time friend (now my business partner as well) and I still have many, many problems which will take a long time to straighten out. On this matter I can make no predictions at all right now. This kind of life takes plenty of hard work and good luck to be worth much. Sometimes it doesn't seem worth trying and other times it is the only thing in the world. Maybe that's why there are so many of us.

I'm really looking forward to seeing your film. It is impossible to tell if it will be shown here, but since it is being sent abroad perhaps there is a chance.

Please write to me soon. If I can be of help in any matter, let me know and I'll do all I can.

Regards to Marcos.

Yours,

