

August 18, 1992

Historical Office  
Department of State  
Washington, D. C. 20520

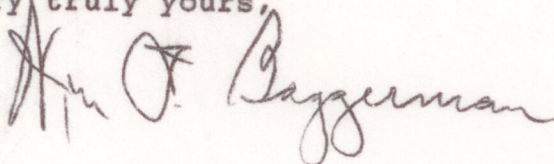
Gentlemen:

I've enclosed a photograph of a cast aluminum automobile identification plate. Should it seem significant for your archives I'll be glad to give it to your office.

Background information about the item is as follows: I was, just after the planned date of the conference, driving a Jeep down the Pan-American Highway, and stopping in Bogota. The conference was to include the U.S. and and representatives of all the countries of Central and South America. Secretary George C. Marshall was to attend for the U.S. Shortly before the conference was to open, a major opposition leader of Columbia was assassinated and because of the resulting turmoil the conference was cancelled. There was then no need for these official emblems for identification of delegate vehicles and the plates were sold as tourist souvenirs. I bought the plate shown, and installed it on the front of my Jeep. The results were pleasant and humorous as I continued my travel to southern Peru. At each check point and border crossing, the first question was always, "Diplomatico?" My answer was always a dignified, "Si, Si". I was immediately waved through.

If you can use the plate, send me a postage paid label and I'll send the plate on to you.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "W. F. Baggerman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial "W" and "F".





United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

September 1, 1992

Dear Mr. Baggerman:

I was delighted to receive your letter of August 18 and the attached photograph of the 1948 Bogota conference license plate. We are enclosing a self-addressed jiffy bag to you so that you can forward your interesting historical artifact.

Incidentally, your background information is only partly complete. The conference was delayed from January 6 until March 1948 because of the political problems in Columbia. General Marshall and other American leaders did meet in Bogota from March 30 to May 2, 1948. Riots did break out in Bogota during the conference. Marshall and other participants were in some considerable danger for a time.

I am sure your license was used. It may even have been shot at.

Thanks again for your offer.

Yours truly,

William Z. Slany  
The Historian, Office of the Historian  
Bureau of Public Affairs

Enclosure:  
As stated

Mr. William F. Baggerman  
3614 Gleneagle Drive,  
Sarasota, FL 34238.



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