

from Mel Ferrer

La Retama,
La Moraleja,
Alcobendas,
Madrid.

22nd March, 1965.

Dear Nela and Arthur,

Forgive my not answering your letters sooner but I have begun filming and time has been a rare commodity.

As you feel dubious about accepting something from a man you do not know - and whose motivation might not perhaps seem clear to you - it seems wisest for me to leave the entire matter in the hands of the person who originally proposed it. Aline Quintanilla is an associate of Jose Banus. When Peter Viertel and I decided to build houses at Marbella, Aline told me of Mr. Banus' interest in attracting people to this particular development who would represent a similar desire for peace, isolation and privacy. Mr. Banus decided to hold the choicest section of his development for just these people.

Aline then asked me to propose someone to whom Mr. Banus would like to make a gift of the house and property. As we had seen each other in Paris shortly before, it occurred to me to suggest your names. Mr. Banus was delighted to offer you a house and the tract of property on the express condition that he would never exploit your presence there and that his benefit would be an indirect one - derived solely from the fact that you both liked the area of Marbella enough to create a home there. He is more than satisfied with this arrangement. However, I can well appreciate your own reluctance to accept such a gift, as I am sure you feel you might be under obligation.

Therefore I am asking Aline to get in touch directly. It is her idea and her project and I simply served as an intermediary, thinking it would be something which might appeal to you. I have conveyed your reluctance to Aline and she will

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either attempt to persuade you to overcome your resistance to accepting Mr. Banus' offer or will arrange a most reasonable proposal for you to buy and build.

I am delighted that the place appeals to you. It certainly does to us and I can think of no happier situation for Audrey and myself than the possibility of seeing you both from time to time. Let us hope this comes to pass.

Our very best wishes,



Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Rubinstein,
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New York 28, New York,
U.S.A.