Dear Mrs. Leuck--

I was very glad to get your letter & to know of the plans for the new building.

I am not of course promising now to come to Curacao when the building is dedicated.
With my deep sense of duty and tribute to my husband's memory, I am
Dear Mrs. Roosevelt,

About a year ago, you had Lynn and me to tea at the White House, a gracious act that we shall always remember. We were on our way to Curacao, and Princess Juliana was with you. Afterwards you read Lynn's manuscript on the Foreign Service, and sent us your photograph which is constantly admired in our home here.

In telling us of your visit to this island, you could not recall having seen a Foreign Service building here, perhaps because at that time there was no representative office or residence. Now the Netherlands Government has offered to give a site of our own choosing,
Dear Mrs. Roosevelt,

About a year ago, you had Lynn and me to tea at the White House, a gracious act that we shall always remember. We were on our way to Curacao, and Princess Juliana was with you. Afterwards you read Lynn's manuscript on the Foreign Service, and sent us your photograph which is constantly admired in our home here.

In telling us of your visit to this island, you could not recall having seen a Foreign Service building here, perhaps because at that time there was no representative office or residence. Now the Netherlands Government has offered to give a site of our own choosing,
and construct a suitable building upon it, a gift which we believe is unique in the history of our Foreign Service. I inclose copies of letters from Governor Kasteel offering the gift, and from President Truman accepting it, also some of my husband's writings on the matter, and clippings from local newspapers.

It would indeed be a proud moment for our nation, for Governor Kasteel and his charming family, and for the people who remember you here, if you could come again when the President Franklin Delano Roosevelt House is finished, perhaps for its dedication.

Not long ago at a meeting of the American Women's organization, Helping Hand, the members told me about your visit during the war, and how inspiring you were in your attention to the troops and interest to our boys here at that time. One of the girls remarked "Someone tried to distract her
attention for some social advantage, but she would not have it, and kept
to her purpose of seeing our boys." Then another added: "Do you
remember her lovely SKIN?"

Lynn expects to take us home on vacation this Summer, and
we shall be at Fall Hill, Fredericksburg, Virginia, from late June,
for a few months.

He joins me in best wishes always, and gratitude for your
example and great spirit.

Sincerely,

Butler Franklin

Consulate General of the United States of America,
Curacao, N.W.I.
May 23, 1946.
The following article, translated into the Spanish language, appeared in the Curacao (Willemstad) paper "La Prensa" of Tuesday, May 7, 1946:

BEAUTIFUL TESTIMONY OF GRATITUDE OF CURAÇAO TO THE UNITED STATES.

Two letters of historic value.

Following we take pleasure in reproducing, translated into Spanish, two letters, the contents of which bring out the spirit of frank friendship which exists between Curacao and the United States, and which, therefore, are received with pleasure:

From His Excellency the Governor of Curacao to the Honorable Consul General of the United States:

"Dear Mr. Franklin:

Now that the Forces of the American Army, Navy and Air are leaving the Territory of Curacao, the Staten of Curacao wish to express the feelings of our people towards the great Republic which has helped our Kingdom in general and this part of the Kingdom especially.

These forces came to assist and to cooperate with us in defending these islands against possible attacks of the common enemy, and some of our American friends have offered their lives here in the fulfilment of this task, and remain here. They were inspired by the cause so ably led by the great man who was their President and whose descent from the ancestors of our own country made us feel especially close to him.

These thoughts have moved the Staten of Curacao to express their gratitude by a gift that should be a memorial to the Forces and, at the same time, to our old Commander-in-Chief.

The Staten of Curacao have asked me to initiate in a special budget a sum great enough to purchase a site and to build a house thereon that would bear the name "President Franklin Delano Roosevelt House". It is intended that the House and land upon which it is to be built shall be transferred to the People of the United States of America, and that the Government should use it in its permanent Foreign Service as may seem fit to it.

I am glad to transfer to you this offer of the Staten of Curacao, and I shall be happy to execute their wishes as soon as possible, as the Royal Netherlands Government agrees heartily with this project.

I should be glad if you would kindly transmit this offer to your Government, and inform me whether or not your Government can accept it.

I should also be glad if your Government might assist in the execution of this plan by sending detailed specifications of the building required and personnel to interpret them.

(I remain, dear Sir,
Yours sincerely,)

(signed) P. Kasteel.

From His Excellency President Truman to the Governor of Curacao:

"My dear Governor Kasteel:

The Secretary of State has informed me of the receipt of a despatch from the American Consul General at Curacao reporting that it is the desire of the Netherlands West Indies Government to give to the United States of America a site and building for the use of the American Consulate at Curacao to be dedicated as a memorial to the armed forces of the United States who served in the Netherlands West Indies during the war.

It is a great pleasure to accept the gift, in the name of the United States of America, as a memorial of perpetual friendship between the peoples of the Netherlands West Indies and the United States, and I wish to express to you the appreciation of my fellow-countrymen, as well as my own appreciation, of your Government's generous offer.

I am, my dear Governor, Very sincerely yours,
(signed) Harry S. Truman."
REACTION TO OFFER BY NETHERLANDS GOVERNMENT OF A SITE AND BUILDING FOR THE U. S. FOREIGN SERVICE.

We think upon this offer as a unifying effort in which everyone in this island is taking part voluntarily and that they will contribute unselfishly towards its successful conclusion. The result will prove that such undertakings can be of lasting and mutual benefit to all persons concerned.

Ever since His death voices were heard (through newspapers and otherwise) to have appreciation shown toward this Government and the late President Franklin Delano Roosevelt by the erection of a monument to our Ex-President or the naming of a public square in the city of this island.

It may well be said that the people of Curacao helped to awaken disinterested and unselfish sentiments amongst peoples of many lands, responding to our Good Neighbor Policy. This spark from their hearts, of generosity and appreciation, if properly handled, may bring hope to thousands who hear of it and who had felt that the light of humanity had gone out.

We believe that the people of our country, when they hear of the generous offer from the people of this country, will be greatly moved and will feel a strong desire to cooperate and reciprocate in every way possible towards a better understanding of this foreign people. This seems to us to be particularly important as the majority of the people of Curacao consists of persons who were born in the West Indies. There are strong ties between them and our country because of:

(1) the Lago Oil & Transport Company, Ltd. in Aruba, with thousands of workers from the United States;
(2) old commercial ties between these people and the United States of America;
(3) shipping;
(4) air lines and
(5) general community of interest.

We think that here, at the dawn of a new world, these people are showing appreciation and generosity which is the hope of the new world, and it makes us proud that the offer has come from this country to which we are the ranking representatives of the United States. We also think that it is encouraging to know that these people have risen to such lofty aspirations as to enable them to give birth to such an idea. It may well be that from this seed of appreciation on the part of these people will spring closer friendship and cooperation between peoples in this part of the world - and even in other parts of the world.

It may be that one or more distinguished groups might desire to be present at the inauguration of such a building or building, or even at the present time express their appreciation of the offer to the Governor and people of Curacao. Such a group might include our President, our Secretary of State, our Western European Division Chief in the Department of State, our Secretary of War and/or Navy, Mrs. F. D. Roosevelt - former Admirals who were Commander of All the Armed Forces in Curacao and Aruba during the war, Mr. Charles W. Taussig, Co-Chairman of the Caribbean Commission, Mr. Fred Larkin, Head of our Building Operations in the State Department, and Her Royal Highness Princess Juliana, His Royal Highness Prince Bernhard or Ambassador Dr. Alexander Loudon ???

Perhaps the people of our different States and Territories might desire to be present in the building by, for instance, a petrified specimen of plant life from Arizona, a Totem Pole from Alaska, a piece of marble from Vermont, a clock from Pennsylvania, a model ship from Massachusetts, a piece of granite appropriately carved from Maine, etc., etc.
BELLO TESTIMONIO DE GRATITUD DE CURACAO A EE. UU.

Dos cartas de valor histórico

A continuación nos complacemos en reproducir, traducidas al español, dos cartas, cuyo contenido pone de relieve el espíritu de franca amistad que reina entre Curacoa y Estados Unidos, y que, por lo tanto, han de ser acogidas con general beneplácito.

* * *

De S.E. el Gobernador de Curacoa al Hon. Sr. Consul General de Estados Unidos.

Muy estimado Sr. Franklin:

Ahora que las fuerzas militares Americanas están abandonando el territorio de Curacoa, los "Staten" de Curacoa desean dar expresión a los sentimientos de simpatía de la población hacia la gran República, que ayudó a nuestro Reino en general y a esta parte del Reino en particular.

Las fuerzas militares vinieron aquí para asistirnos y para cooperar con nosotros en la defensa de nuestras islas contra ataques eventuales de nuestro enemigo común, y amigos Americanos han dejado su vida en esta en el cumplimiento de su deber y reposan en nuestra tierra.

Estaban inspirados por la causa, tan hábilmente dirigida por el gran hombre que era su Presidente y cuya descendencia holandesa nos hizo sentirnos más unidos con ellos.

Persuadidos por estos sentimientos los "Staten" de Curacoa quisieron dar expresión a su agradecimiento por medio de una donación, que quedaría como un recuerdo a las fuerzas militares Americanas y su antiguo comandante el Jefe.

Los "Staten" me pidieron destinar del presupuesto una suma bastante grande para comprar un terreno y hacer fabricar una casa a la cual se daría el nombre "President Franklin Delano Roosevelt House". La intención es de regular la casa y el terreno al pueblo Americano y que el Gobierno de los Estados Unidos de América la usara para su servicio del Exterior, como lo desearan.

Me es sumamente placentero transferir esta oferta de los "Staten" de Curacoa a Usted y me sería un privilegio cumplir cuanto antes con el deseo de los "Staten", a lo cual el Gobierno Real Holandés ha otorgado con todo afecto su aprobación.

Le agradecería mucho si Usted quisiera poner su Gobierno al corriente de esta oferta y si quisiera informarme si su Gobierno la pudiera aceptar. También lo apreciaría si su Gobierno deseara contribuir en la ejecución del plan, haciéndonos conocer por medio de expertos sus deseos particulares para la construcción.

* * *

Head of our Building Operations in the State Department, and Her Royal Highness Prince Bernhard or Ambassador Dr. Alexander Loudon ??

Persuad the people of what the ground is used for.