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Dear Maria

I must apologise for not getting in touch with you sooner, but I really did not feel well at all. I have had a difficult time for the past few months, but now, I have begun to recover. I am really very sorry that I could not accept the invitation to come to Brazil, to celebrate the occasion of your 70th birthday. In any case, I wish to send you my sincerest congratulations and good wishes. I do hope that everything went well, and that we can meet again in the not too distant future.

With warmest regards to you and to all my friends in Brazil

Yours,

David

P.S. As you may know, I retired from the College last September