

● PSF Colombia

FSF; Colombia freedom 1-43

ADDRESS OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS TO  
THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
WASHINGTON, D. C.



DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

*file  
Personnel*

December 9, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR GENERAL WATSON:

I am enclosing herewith a sealed envelope addressed to the President, which has been received in the Department from the American Ambassador at Bogotá, Colombia.

*G. T. Summerlin*  
George T. Summerlin

Enclosure:  
Sealed envelope.

FOR DEFENSE



BUY  
UNITED  
STATES  
SAVINGS  
BONDS  
AND STAMPS

Bogotá, Colombia  
November 24, 1943

My dear Mr. President:

As you undoubtedly have been advised by the Department of State, President and Mrs. López, their daughter, María Mercedes López, and the Secretary General of the Foreign Office, Dr. Alberto González Fernández, left for the United States today via the Canal Zone.

The purpose of the visit is so that Mrs. López can undergo a very serious operation for cancer. Dr. López informs me that he has kept from his wife the gravity of her condition, and while it is rumored in Bogotá that she is suffering from a tumor it is not generally known the malignant character thereof.

Dr. López said that as soon as the operation is performed in New York and as soon as the condition of his wife permits, he hopes to have the pleasure of paying his respects to you. I feel certain that Dr. López will apprise Secretary Hull of his desire to see you but I considered it advisable to notify you now of his trip to the United States.

I may say that he has been having a very difficult time politically during the last four months. Congress has been filibustering since the end of

July

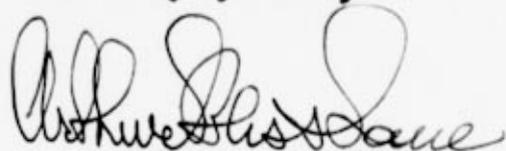
The President,  
The White House,  
Washington.

July and no legislation of importance has been passed. There have been numerous reasons for the political crisis, such as dissatisfaction on the part of those Liberals who were not given appointive positions, but it is generally believed that the principal factor which brought about criticism on the President has been the indiscretion of his son, Alfonso, in accepting a large legal fee as well as a high monthly salary from the Handel-Bavaria brewery which is under the fiduciary administration of the Government. These attacks on the President's son have aggravated Mrs. López' condition especially as the opposition has charged that the President has been forced out of office by the attacks of the Conservatives.

The Constitution provides that the President can leave the country for a period not longer than ninety days provided the Senate gives its consent. This permission has been given by the Senate, and therefore Darío Echandía, former Minister of Gobierno, is Acting President until Dr. López' return. Should Dr. López not be able to return to Colombia within the stipulated ninety days a Presidential election must be convoked to elect a President to fill out the unexpired portion of Dr. López' term of office.

With the expression of my deep admiration and respect, I am, my dear Mr. President,

Faithfully yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Arthur H. Lane".



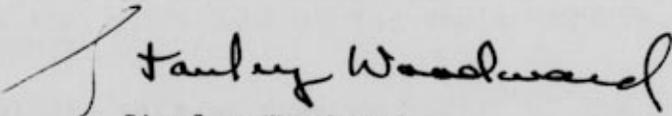
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

April 8, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR GENERAL WATSON:

At the suggestion of the Office of American Republic Affairs, there is enclosed herewith for the information of the President a copy of a telegram dated March 21, 1944, addressed to the American Embassy at Bogotá, Colombia by the Department, and a reply thereto from the American Embassy at Bogotá dated March 30, concerning a message sent to the President by the Archbishop of Bogotá.

  
Stanley Woodward

Enclosures:

- From Department to  
Bogotá, March 21,  
1944;
- From Embassy, Bogotá,  
to Department, March 30.

FOR DEFENSE



TELEGRAM SENT

March 21, 1944

7 p.m.

This telegram must be paraphrased before being communicated to anyone other than a Governmental agency (BR)

AMEMBASSY,

BOGOTA, (COLOMBIA).

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The President has received the following message from the priests Archbishop of Colombia which reads in translation as follows:

QUOTE As spokesman of the thirty-one prelates and ten million Catholics of Colombia, permit me to address myself both respectfully and urgently to Your Excellency. Even the possibility of the destruction of Rome fills us with horror; Rome, moreover, the incomparable treasure of perpetual art and the school of culture, is the glorious center of the Catholic Church whose damage would produce irremediable trembling and inexpressible pain to all the living souls of the Church which is comprised of four hundred million of the faithful. At the same time, the Holy See hastens to show a lively interest in the conservation of Athens and Cairo. Catholics hope that no less care will be given to these cities than is given to Rome which Byron called the QUOTE land of the souls UNQUOTE. Respectfully. UNQUOTE.

Please acknowledge this message in behalf of the President and assure the Archbishop that the President is equally concerned for the safety of Rome, as evidenced by his statement to the press on March 14 which was quoted in the radio bulletin of the same date. You are requested to give the Archbishop a copy of this statement and to report whatever reactions he may have.

HULL

MJK-486  
This telegram must be  
paraphrased before being  
communicated to anyone  
other than a Government  
Agency. (BR)

Bogota  
Dated March 30, 1944  
Rec'd 9:33 p.m.

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

606, March 30, 2 p.m.

I called on the Archbishop of Bogota yesterday and delivered to him a letter embodying pertinent portions of the Department's 382, March 21, 7 p.m. I likewise delivered to Archbishop Perdomo a copy of President Roosevelt's statement of March 14 to the press. The Archbishop inquired whether he should acknowledge by telegraph the President's message. I replied that this would not be necessary as President's message was an answer to the Archbishop's telegram. I offered, however, to transmit my comments which the Archbishop might wish to make. He thereupon requested me to telegraph to the President that the Archbishop is very "complacido y agradecido" (please and grateful). He repeated the phrase three times.

Airgram follows.

LANE

EDA

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**TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:**

I have given permission for Mrs.  
John C. Wiley to accompany her husband  
when he travels. This order includes any  
type of military plane -- Army, Navy or  
Marine.