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Mexico

1941-42

Note:

5/27/68

Norman Littell is alive at age 70, a very successful Washington attorney but not connected in any direct way with the Government.

PST Mexico

file  
personal

SIXTY-THREE WALL STREET  
NEW YORK

January  
30th  
1941

Dear Missy:

I am enclosing a highly confidential report from the Assistant Attorney General, Norman Littell, on his interpretation of the many problems in Mexico. I have read this very carefully and talked about it with Father and he has asked to see it.

Norman is very anxious that it should not be read by anyone except myself and ~~perhaps~~ *of course* Father as it might embarrass him with other government officials, and so I am sure you will see to it that this desire is carried out and that it will not be sent to the State Department or fall under any other jealous gaze.

After Father has read it, if he does not wish to keep it in his personal file, may I suggest that it be returned to me.

Father also mentioned that he might like to talk to Norman about it, in which case I am sure that you will see that the appointment is made.

Many thanks for all your trouble, and lots of love to you,

Franklin (Jr.).

Miss Marguerite Le Hand  
White House  
Washington, D. C.

Enclosure

Frank: -

Please don't read this when you are  
in a hurry, but buy it until you can  
take time out for it. The memo referred  
to was not finished due to pressure  
of work here, but this letter says enough  
anyway without the greater detail. -  
Regards - Norman

# Department of Justice

Washington

NORMAN M. LITTELL  
ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL

Corpus Christi, Texas  
December 16, 1940

2086.

PERSONAL

Honorable Franklin D. Roosevelt, Jr.  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Frank:

While on business in Southern Texas I had an opportunity to take annual leave and visit in Mexico during the inauguration of President Camacho. Certain information was obtained and conclusions were drawn from discussions with members of the Mexican Government and others, which I feel very strongly should be submitted to your father. Partially because of the strictly confidential character of much of the information given to me, and partially because I feel that your father's policies in the Western Hemisphere, insofar as Mexico is concerned, are vitally affected, I could not bring myself to write a memorandum and send it to the President through the usual secretarial channels. One never knows where such a communication may come to rest. I therefore decided to write to you fully and freely, without pulling any punches, so that you may communicate to the President anything which might be at all helpful to him, and at the same time you could keep this letter and the enclosed memorandum embracing greater details, under your own control so that they will not get adrift and come into hands for which it is not intended.

The position of Mexico is so vital to your father's Western Hemisphere policy, and our relations with that country are being so carefully watched by neighboring countries further to the south, that no stone can be left unturned towards establishing firm friendship and cooperation with the Camacho administration. The opportunity to reconstruct our relations with Mexico on a sound basis appears quite clearly to be more favorable than at any time in the history of those relations, but a barrier to such reconstruction, and a very real danger of failure for reasons herein indicated, became disturbingly apparent to me while in Mexico.

On the threshold of our relationships, and as one of the principal factors making possible new and enduring friendship between the two countries, is the astonishing degree of personal leadership which President Roosevelt has right down into the rank and file of Mexican Government officials and citizens. Ambassador Daniels' personal popularity with the Mexicans, I am reliably informed, stemmed first from the basic fact that he was a personal friend and representative of President Roosevelt, and secondly, from the fact that

he endeavored to understand and win the confidence of the Mexican in spite of the very great handicap of Daniels' participation in the occupation of Santa Cruz in the last war. Such confidence as has been won by Ambassador Daniels, and by one or two other men, particularly the Commercial Attaché, Thomas Lockett, has not been sufficient to win the confidence of Mexican officials. The rest of the American Embassy staff, insofar as I could find, are anti-New Dealers and Republicans. It is not that party affiliations are fundamental, or even important as such; they only become fundamental when they control point of view. As one minor member of the Embassy staff said to me,

"The English know how to treat these people! As soon as the expropriation of oil lands took place, England recalled her ambassador."

The inaccuracy of fact can be ignored (the English ambassador was handed his walking papers by the Mexican Government, very much to his surprise, in response to strong demands which he had presented), but we cannot overlook the complete failure to examine the Mexican point of view carefully, sympathetically, and even legally, and the implied scorn of our American indulgence of the expropriation. I do not mean for one moment that this point of view represents that of the whole Embassy staff, but it is at least one viewpoint, of which there are many modified versions.

With over ninety per cent of the American Colony in Mexico City and over eighty-five per cent of the Embassy staff voting for Willkie in a poll taken just before the election, you can readily see that the Republican viewpoint dominates, and that viewpoint spells the protection of property rights without reference to how they may have been secured, and a corresponding condemnation of bare tolerance of other actions taken by the Mexican Government. Consider briefly two principal policies of that government:

In respect to the expropriation of oil properties, as an irreducible minimum of a vastly complicated legal problem, the following three points are at least sufficient to establish that the action taken under Article 27 of the Constitution of 1917, lie sufficiently well within the wide margin of sovereign discretion and power to take the matter out of common law standards and English viewpoint, into the realm of intra-governmental affairs, particularly when the Supreme Court of Mexico has now passed upon the question and approved the expropriation as constitutional:

(1) Under the civil law, which was the law of Mexico taken from the Spaniards, sub-surface mineral rights were the property of the sovereign. (2) In the course of the Diaz dictatorship, from 1876 to 1910,

during the interim administration of President Manuel Gonzales, a puppet of Diaz, (and one of the most predatory of the Mexican officials in a period of exploitation, with forty large haciendas, at only one of which he had over thirty mistresses), the Mexican mining law of 1884 was adopted, modifying the old Spanish law to declare that the ownership of coal and oil was vested in the owners of the surface. It is an historic fact that English pressure on the Mexican government, with some American aid, was primarily responsible for the passage of this Act, and the great period of the concessionaires in Mexico followed. (3) Article 27 of the Mexican Constitution of 1917 merely reinstated the old law, not by just repealing the mining laws but by embodying the principle of ownership of minerals beneath the surface into the fundamental law of the land. This, however, was not given retroactive effect to expropriate existing oil properties until the decree of March, 1938, by President Cardenas.

It is impossible to elaborate on this subject, on which volumes have been written, but these points alone are sufficient to make the issue none of our business as far as the individual and personal attitudes of our official representatives at the Embassy are concerned, except, of course, insofar as they may aid in line of duty in the settlement of this commercial controversy. And yet I feel very strongly and am convinced that most men in the Mexican Government feel that the attitude of our State Department is fundamentally one of sympathy with the disciplinary action taken against Mexico by the English government and by capital in our own country which sought under leadership of the oil industry to reduce the Mexican government to bankruptcy. Statistics could be given to show, not only the withdrawal of oil company capital from Mexican banks, but the withdrawal of innumerable other accounts. It is now a well-known fact that this effort to bring the Mexican government to time was deliberately and forcibly made, and also that it was a complete failure. Governments do not go bankrupt; they just go on.

One other basic hazard stands in the way of any sympathetic understanding between our official representatives, with the exceptions noted, and the Mexican government, and that is the expropriation and redistribution of agricultural lands. I, myself, was a victim of the propaganda in the American press which had painted Mexico as Communistic. Here too the facts are complicated, but not difficult to understand if one really seeks the truth. No one was shocked during the Diaz administration, except possibly a few liberals who may have raised their voices in vain, when ninety-six million acres of land--nearly one-fifth of the total area of Mexico--were given away to seventeen persons. Nearly thirty million acres in Lower California were allotted to four individuals. By 1910 nearly half of Mexico belonged to less than three thousand

families, while of ten millions of Mexicans engaged in agricultural pursuits, more than nine-and-a-half million were virtually without land. Water rights, too, were ruthlessly disposed of to favored land owners to the prejudice and sometimes ruin of small farmers.

Against this, contrast the meager redistribution of eighteen million acres of land from the revolution of 1910 to the beginning of the Cardenas administration in 1933, and an additional twenty-five million acres during the Cardenas administration. The whole matter of redistribution of land transposed into modern times was called revolution and labelled Communism, but of course it was only a belated escape from feudalism, and a partial escape at that. This step was historically inevitable in Mexico. I might go on to say that under entirely different circumstances a redistribution of land will some day be inevitable in our country, where ninety per cent of the produce is grown by fifty per cent of the ownerships and ten per cent of the produce is grown by the remaining fifty per cent, leaving us face to face with the most tragic problem in American life today--dispossessed hordes of our agricultural population with no land to live on and no place to go.

Surely we New Dealers, who pride ourselves on being able and willing to face facts, can understand what the Mexican Government is up to in tackling these basic problems, with their primary objective the improvement of the common lot of a particularly dependent Indian population too illiterate to escape from peonage of the most oppressive sort, until the revolution of 1910 started their emancipation. It is no wonder that many members in the Government of Mexico, newly appointed or surviving from the Cardenas administration, call the government from 1933 on, "the New Deal of Mexico," and accept as their inspiration and leader, President Roosevelt.

It is for this reason that they hailed Mr. Wallace with such cordiality. As one of them said at the Agricultural College where I went at Mr. Wallace's invitation on an inspection trip with him, "I wish Mr. Wallace could meet more of our farmers and students so that he could see how highly he is regarded here where we have long been familiar with what he has done and tried to do for American agriculture." Not only as the personal friend and representative of the President, and as Vice-President elect, but also as a great leader in the agricultural industry on this continent, Mr. Wallace's appointment as ambassador plenipotentiary and extraordinary was an effective move in the interests of solidarity between our two countries.

I think it is fair to say, however much I regret it, that Mr. Wallace was more welcomed by the Mexicans than he was by the majority of the staff at the American Embassy, where, of course,

every formal courtesy and act of hospitality was extended to him. The fact remains that he was a New Dealer and therefore fundamentally at odds ideologically in the family of our official representation in Mexico City, with the exception always of Mr. and Mrs. Daniels and Mr. Thomas Lockett, and possibly two or three other minor officials.

The distrust and dislike of the arrogance of the British Foreign Office is almost, but not quite, equalled in the feeling towards the American State Department, the latter being of course alleviated by actual diplomatic relationships, however unsympathetic the State Department as an institution may be, and by the personal feelings toward President Roosevelt. By great good fortune, the newly-appointed Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Padilla, is staunchly loyal to England in the present war, and was ready to move at once for the reestablishment of diplomatic relations with England. However, lack of confidence in the State Department and in the British Foreign Office precluded communication through an official channel to Prime Minister Churchill, who it was felt would appreciate readily the desirability, under present world conditions, of immediate reestablishment of diplomatic relations, without imposing the condition heretofore insisted on by the British Foreign Office, that the dispute over expropriation of oil properties be first settled.

The contact with Prime Minister Churchill was therefore informally made. The whole matter was handled in a way to preclude our State Department then knowing anything about it. A friend of Mexico and a confidante of many members of the Mexican Government discussed the matter with H. G. Wells over long-distance telephone from the office of the Secretary of Foreign Affairs, in Mexico City on December 5, Mr. Wells being, as I am reliably informed, a close personal friend of the Prime Minister. I happened by force of circumstance to be fully informed as to the details of the conversation in Mr. Padilla's office, both before and after the long-distance telephone conversation with H. G. Wells, and immediately appreciated as a valuable asset in solidifying the position of Mexico in your father's policy of advancing Western Hemisphere solidarity, the fine attitude taken by President Camacho and the Foreign Secretary in this conversation. The letter addressed to H. G. Wells for presentation to Prime Minister Churchill, a draft of which I read and criticized, could not appropriately express the cordial feeling and strength of conviction which the rest of the conversation reflected, but I very much hope that the Prime Minister will have the insight to recognize the importance of the immediate reestablishment of friendly diplomatic relationships with Mexico, leaving to subsequent discussion the adjustment of claims for expropriation of oil properties.

Knowledge of the above facts, which are communicated to you and your father in strict confidence until you learn them from some other source, made me keenly aware of this fine opportunity to secure Mexico's affirmative cooperation on the side of the democracies.

Only one vital detail in the many implications which arise from this cooperation is the assistance which would be forthcoming in handling the English censorship of mail, aiding in the detection of work by German agents in the Western Hemisphere. I know from discussion with Edwin Herbert, Chief British Postal Censor, who was recently in Washington to coordinate his efforts with those of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Department of Justice generally, that Mexico is a blind spot in the censorship system, through which German agents in South America take care to route their mail for the express purpose of avoiding any censorship. A measure of active cooperation might be of great value, both to England and to our country, as the discoveries of Herbert's organization are being made available to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

It is needless to discuss the many possibilities inherent in the reestablishment of diplomatic relations between Mexico and England, as bearing upon Western Hemisphere solidarity and resistance to German penetration here in all of its forms, but it must be emphasized that the relationships with Mexico henceforth must be upon a new and more sympathetic basis, both on the part of England and on the part of our country.

With the expropriation issue reduced to triviality in comparison to the major issues in the world today, it is hoped that Prime Minister Churchill will grasp this situation quickly, and act over the prejudices and animosities of a frustrated personnel in the British Foreign Office which refuses to accept what must now be accepted as an historic fact, that the expropriation of the oil properties will not be undone by this administration. Again in confidence to you, although your father may know it from other sources, President Camacho will not restore the oil properties, as he advised Pat Hurley in a confidential interview shortly after his inauguration. Even without this affirmative evidence of Camacho's policy, political factors virtually conclude the matter. An attempt to give the properties back to their former owners would result in violent public opposition and perhaps revolution. While there will be a swing to the right under Camacho (I am reliably informed that he signed a decree to suppress the Communists shortly before I left Mexico, on December 10), the swing to the right will not be far enough to permit return of the oil properties.

More fundamental to us than the resumption of diplomatic relations between England and Mexico is the improvement of our own relations with Mexico and the removal of that feeling of distrust which officials in the Mexican Government undoubtedly have for our State Department. The reestablishment of normal relations between Mexico and England would undoubtedly help by stilling to a large degree the sympathetic vibration of our own Foreign Service in

response to policies of the British Foreign Office, but the distrust of the Mexican Government is based upon the more fundamental factors first mentioned in this letter.

The resignation of Ambassador Daniels, announced in Mexico City, and of course known to your father, will give an opportunity in the near future for change of personnel, and thereby a fundamental change of attitude in our Embassy in Mexico City. It cannot be too strongly urged that the new ambassador be a thorough-going New Dealer with full power to reorganize his staff to include effective men such as Thomas Lockett, Commercial Attache (an appointee of President Roosevelt and a friend of Senator Barkley's, who in himself is almost a complete answer to the argument for "career men only"). I do not share the concern of some that Mr. Girard, who wanted this post twenty years ago and is after it again, can get it, so sure am I that your father appreciates the need here of a man of Mr. Bullitt's capacities, experience, and knowledge of volatile Latin temperament and politics. My guess is that Mr. Bullitt is slated for the post. Even this, however, will not be wholly effective without power to reorganize his staff.

On this vital front there is no time to lose. The day is past for the polite diplomats living the lives of gentlemen in foreign lands, a Royal Order of Knights of the Protocol founded by Prince Metternich, dominated since the Napoleonic period by the British Foreign Office and under a motto written by Talleyrand:

"Our words are to conceal our thoughts, not to reveal them."

The epitaph of this order has been written by Sir Neville Henderson in "The Failure of a Mission," and the man responsible for the passing is Adolf Hitler, who said of his ambassadors:

"I do not want a soldier for an ambassador, nor yet an advance agent for German products. I want a representative who can find and use the weakness of every leader in the country where I have put him. If it is money, buy him. If it is women, corrupt him. If it is fear, find what he is afraid of, and keep it dangling before his eyes."

Contrast this hard, slashing school of diplomacy, drilling out the bulls'-eyes of its objectives in foreign lands, with the accuracy and ruthlessness of the gangster's machine-gun, to the following impressions received in Mexico City from the ranking member of the Embassy, next to Mr. Daniels: I seized an opportunity for hasty and polite interrogation of this estimable gentleman in order to ascertain, first, as a litmus paper test of his understanding,

his attitude toward the expropriation of oil lands and the redistribution of agricultural lands by the Mexican Government, and secondly, whether or not he concurred with my readily-formed opinion that American policy should be to end the sit-down strike of capital against Mexico by giving affirmative aid in solving a number of concrete Mexican problems such as: (1) Rehabilitation of the Mexican railways with American technical and financial aid, (2) Removal of constant friction between Mexican railroads and our connecting lines, (3) The development of iron resources for the manufacture of steel in Mexico on other than the fatal concessionaire basis of past history, (4) The possible financing of the connecting railroad line to fill the gap between San Pedro and Sanchez, in the State of Sinaloa, a distance of about one hundred fifty miles across the mountains, to connect with the Kansas City, Mexican and Oriental Railroad, in order to open up direct connections with the interior of the United States, from Kansas City, Missouri, to the free port of Topolobampo on the Gulf of Lower California, and also rail connections from there to El Paso, Texas, (5) Possible cooperation in rehabilitating the railroad across the Isthmus of Tehuantepec as auxiliary to the Panama Canal for military and commercial purposes.

I did not get farther than the expropriation of oil lands and the redistribution of agricultural lands, and finally asked a broad, sweeping question:

"What do you think is the answer to the problem of our relations with Mexico, and what should our policy be in terms of concrete lines of action?"

"The development of cultural relations," was the reply.

The answer was spelled out in terms of the needs of the American business men for better understanding of Mexico. The improvement of cultural relations was the channel through which this could be accomplished.

This is all very excellent. Culture is a very good thing and we all ought to have more of it. Even Nero must have believed in culture for he played a fiddle while Rome burned. Many an able critical mind has dropped anchor for life in the quiet harbor of cultural activities, in comfortable seclusion from the steady blast of trade winds outside and the real problems of navigation.

Here was a professional diplomat on one of the most vital fronts of our foreign policy, face to face with fundamental issues and points of conflict between Mexico and our country which had produced a state of stagnation and mental stalemate in relations between the two countries, giving his best enthusiasm and attention

to cultural relations, instead of attacking with all the vigor he was capable of the removal of misunderstandings and obstacles to Mexican cooperation with us in a world aflame. He spoke with keen enthusiasm of establishing a joint university in a disputed boundary area at El Paso between our two countries--an excellent idea, but one felt that he supplied a refutation of his own policy, for in spite of all of his undoubted "culture," he himself does not have any real understanding of Mexico.

In conclusion, let me broaden my observation to say that a substantial part of our Foreign Service personnel obviously have not found out that the old order has passed and that we must meet a vicious, barbaric invasion, of proportions unprecedented in history, on the front line of diplomacy, as well as in economic and possibly military invasions. If the President's policies in the Western Hemisphere are to be fully implemented in concrete terms, to hold up standards of good faith and sincere cooperation in mutual achievement in the democratic way of life by governments in the Western Hemisphere, in opposition to the destructive attacking power of Hitler diplomacy, then our representatives must be able to accept concepts of government and policies such as they find in Mexico, irrespective of whether those concepts and policies serve perfectly the dominant American commercial interests.

The President has reorganized the Executive branch of the Government, and the Judiciary, and is reconstructing national defense on a modern basis. Why not now reorganize the Foreign Service, that branch of national defense which is already in the front-line trenches whether fully aware of it or not, and which lies wholly within the constitutional prerogatives of the Chief Executive.

Kindest personal regards.

Sincerely yours,

  
NORMAN M. LITTELL

TBF Mexico Folder



DEPARTMENT OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

PERSONAL

Mexico, February 4, 1941

Dear Franklin:

Pursuant to your suggestion on the day I was leaving Washington, I spoke to President Cemacho about Acapulco and Magdalena Bay and the value of the idea to both countries. He expressed the desire of his country to have adequate bases on the Pacific. He said he was to see Ambassador Castillo Nájera this week, and after conferring with him would prepare a memorandum in reply to the one presented the Ambassador by Sumner Welles. I will keep you posted.

Affectionately,

Joseph P. Daniels

The Honorable Franklin D. Roosevelt,  
The White House, Washington, D.C.

PSF Mexico folder

EMBASSY OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

PERSONAL

Mexico, February 4, 1941

*file* →

Dear Franklin:

I conveyed your friendly message to President Avila Camacho, who received it with high appreciation. I acquainted him with the fact, and impressed that it was strictly confidential, that you hoped to be able, perhaps the last of March, to take a brief fishing trip to the Gulf of Mexico in the neighborhood of Tampico, and wished to know, if you came in a small ship, whether President Avila Camacho could contact you on his ship, and you could fish together and visit, and perhaps have luncheon at some convenient place on the nearby shore. He said nothing would please him better, and that he sincerely hoped the affairs of state would permit you to obtain this vacation and he could have the pleasure of welcoming you to the waters and shores of his country. He said that he was "at your orders", and would plan his engagements so as to meet you at any time and place convenient to you.

I asked the President what month was best for fishing in the Gulf near the Mexican shore. He said he was inclined to believe the best fishing was in May, but that March might be as good; he would ascertain and let me know, adding that he was not so good a fisherman as you and he would make further inquiries to learn from expert fishermen the best time in the spring and let me know. At that juncture Licenciado Armandariz, Chief of Ceremonial of the Foreign Office, who with my secretary, Mr. Stephen Aguirre, accompanied me and acted as interpreter, interposed to say that he believed that it was "not so much the fish as it is President Roosevelt's desire to meet and talk with you/" The President answered that the month of March would be quite agreeable.

After

The Honorable  
Franklin D. Roosevelt,  
The White House,  
Washington, D.C.

After leaving the Palace, my secretary got in touch with an expert fisherman of the Tampico section of the Gulf and the latter said that from long experience in fishing in those waters he could give assurance that the peak of good tarpon fishing was from February 15th to March 15th. So your idea of coming in March would bring you into Mexican waters at the best season.

In a cordial mood, President Avila Camacho referred to a story he had heard connected with your fishing trip to the West Coast. It seems that Commodore Gómez Márquez, of the Mexican Navy, charged by President Cárdenas to convey a message of welcome and high regard to you, was asked by you about the possibilities of big catches in those waters. The Commodore, whose knowledge of fishing in those waters was very little, told you to "try your luck", and you made big catches.

The President with great good humor then related an incident that took place before he and General Almazán were contenders for the presidency. When they were making a trip by water from Acapulco to the Bay of Chacalapa near Salina Cruz, they observed that General José Siurob, head of Public Health in the administration of Cárdenas, had thrown out a fishing line from their boat. Camacho and Almazán, deciding to play a practical joke on Dr. Siurob, requested him immediately to attend a member of the crew who was very ill. While the doctor was away from his line answering the call to treat the sick man, Camacho and Almazán procured a live chicken from the steward and tied it to Siurob's fishing line. When the doctor returned he was quite excited to find his line drawn quite taut. His friends - the practical jokers - called to him to hasten to pull in his line and catch the big fish on the hook. He did so and as the catch was hauled on board he was chagrined to find that he had landed a chicken. They enjoyed a hearty laugh at the expense of the doctor.

I thought you might wish to add this to your repertoire of fish stories. But President Avila Camacho assured me that, while he might wish to stock the waters in which you were fishing with impounded fish so you could get big hauls, the waters of the Gulf would not permit such a trick on you, even if he wished to pull off a practical joke.

With my best regards,

Faithfully yours,

*Joseph Daniels*

PSF: Mexico #100

file personal



THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

February 10, 1941

My dear Mr. President:

Thank you for sending me with your memorandum of February 10 Mayor Maverick's letter to you of February 5 about General Maximino Avila Camacho.

While we have no definite word as yet, I understand that General Maximino Avila Camacho will probably visit Washington during the latter part of this month coming here in an unofficial capacity. I shall do everything possible to see that he is amply entertained during his stay here.

Believe me

Faithfully yours,

Enc.

The President,  
The White House.

*Wells  
53.11*



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
CITY OF SAN ANTONIO  
TEXAS

MAURY MAVERICK  
MAYOR  
MEMBER U. S. CONFERENCE OF MAYORS

February 5, 1941

THE WHITE HOUSE  
RECEIVED  
FEB 8 11 35 AM '41

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

*Personal - Imbatant  
about Mexico*

Dear Mr. President:

One phase of the Camacho administration must be watched. Maximino has almost a juvenile desire to be entertained. I am informed today through his representatives and that of the Mexican government that he is going to the Bermudas to be entertained by Senator Hastings\* and the Duke of Windsor. (The latter is probably something worked up by Hastings. There is an Englishman in it, a big promoter who lives there most of the time, whose name I cannot remember right now).

All the racketeers in the United States are now passing through San Antonio in and out of Mexico. This must be watched.

*\* you know him.  
N.Y. State senator*

Sincerely yours,  
*Maury Maverick*  
Maury Maverick, Mayor

MM:el

PSE Mexico folder  
1-41

April 1, 1941

Dear Chief:

I had really hoped that I could carry out the plan of meeting President Camacho in Mexican waters this March or April.

I hope you will tell him this and also that my only reason is that I felt that at this time I ought to be within twenty-four hours of Washington in view of the rapidity with which things are happening. Actually and confidentially, my little trip on the U. S. S. POTOMAC took me to the northern and western Bahamas, not more than four hours from the Florida railroad at any time.

Personally, as you know, I would love to make arrangements by which I could fly back from the Tampico or Vera Cruz coast in case of emergency -- but every-body is very definitely set against my using the air.

Tell the President that the same thing applies to Warm Springs where I may go for a week after Easter but, as you know, I can get back to Washington from there in about eighteen hours.

Therefore, I have to keep the whole thing open until such time as the Balkan problems quiet down and the shipping problem becomes at least no worse. I am most anxious to meet President Camacho and I know that he and I would be in every way simpatico.

I radioed Welles from the POTOMAC to go ahead with the Air Use Treaty and I am grateful that the Mexican Congress will remain in session for an extra

-2-

week. I anticipate little or no trouble in having it ratified by our Senate.

As ever yours,

Honorable Josephus Daniels,  
The American Ambassador,  
American Embassy,  
Mexico, D. F.

fdr/tmb

Mexico, March 18, 1941

Dear Franklin:

The other day I had an inquiry from the President's secretary asking when Congress would adjourn. He did not wish to ask about your movements, but having the idea you would come into Mexican waters at the adjournment, that was an example of Mexican politeness. I had to tell him that only the Almighty knew when Congress would adjourn. Judging by the past, I "hae me doots" whether it adjourns until driven out by the July humidity.

The papers intimate that you hope to get time off to fish the latter part of the month. If you can come as far south as Tampico, President Avila Camacho would like to join you and give you the freedom of the Gulf, or so much of it as are Mexican waters. Frankly, nobody knows how much that is. Uncle Sam claims only three miles - or did when I left Washington - but so many things have changed I can hardly keep up with God Almighty's time or the ebb and flow of the tides. Mexico claims twelve miles, and asserts that in a long-ago treaty Uncle Sam agreed to such control of the seas. However, like Chamizal, neither country tries to get a showdown. Let me know if you can get off to fish in Mexican waters.

Your Fireside Chat was heard with deep interest here and there is growing enthusiasm for policies that strengthen continental solidarity. In the theatres and cinemas here your utterances were applauded, and Nazi-ism is waning in support. The  
big

The Honorable Franklin D. Roosevelt,  
The White House, Washington, D.C.

big labor organization has issued a strong declaration against any infiltration of foreign influences or subversive activities here.

Your address at the opening of the building given by Mellon was a gem. I thought the quotation from Lincoln was most apposite and timely.

My wife joins in love to you and Eleanor.

Faithfully yours,

Joseph Daniels

P/s-

Dr. Shotwell, Dr. Jessup, Dr. Clark and other distinguished scholars are here seeking closer cultural coöperation. It is a real pleasure to talk to Dr. Shotwell, or rather listen to him- for he is the link between 1919 and 1939, a vital link, who has "done the state some service."

Mexico 27 April 26. 1941.

EMBASSY OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICAFile  
personal

Dear Franklin:-

It would be excessive cruelty  
forbidden by the Constitution to expect you  
read anybody's speech in your crowded  
days. But I marked two portions that  
will interest you if you can snatch  
a moment. The first will recall dark  
and anxious days in 1918 and the  
second dark and anxious days in 1941.

My wife joins in love to you and Eleanor.  
Her niece, Mrs. Elliott and her husband  
are here on their honeymoon and are  
kindly with us tomorrow.  
Affectionately  
Franklin D. Roosevelt

ADDRESS of Ambassador Josephus Daniels in response to the toast "Our Guests" at the annual dinner of The Royal Society of St. George, British Club, Mexico City, April 23, 1941.

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This has been a day of deep anxiety to all who are enlisted in hostility to totalitarian rule in the world. The news from Greece has disturbed all Britons and those in sympathy with their cause. The light that cheers is that they and the Greeks with the spirit of the ancient Spartans are fighting with equal courage at the very spot, Thermopylae, where in 480 B.C. victory was won by a small band of valiant warriors over superior force.

The news that the Germans had taken Salonika and the Greeks and British had fallen back to a new line at famous Thermopylae recalled to my mind the darkest hours of my life. It was at the time the news came across the Atlantic that the Allied forces had suffered reverses in France and had been driven back and back in that never-to-be-forgotten terrible March offensive in 1918. I was in Boston when the depressing news arrived. It created fear and pessimism in brave people whose hearts were in the conflict. Haig's famous and desperate appeal to the troops should hearten us tonight as it nerved the allied forces a score and more years ago:

"There is no other course open to us but to fight it out. Every position must be held to the last man: there must be no retirement. With our backs to the wall, and believing in the justice of our cause; each one of us must fight to the end."

I had gone to New England to speed up naval effort in the construction of naval fighting ships in old and new naval yards and had accepted an invitation to speak at Tremont Temple. The news of the retreat "with back to the wall" came as I was preparing a fighting address to the stout-hearted Boston people who had been among the earliest to urge American participation in the World War. As I was Secretary of the Navy and speaking for the Wilson administration, patriots who had been stunned by the disaster called on me, hoping that behind the black cables of the retreat I had information which would dispel the gloom. A large gathering looked to me in famous Tremont Temple to bring words of cheer and faith. The people needed no stimulus to courage. Never before nor since did I face an audience with such trepidation and prayer that I might say the right word. It was no hour for wishful optimism. To minimize the danger would be to insult the intelligence of those who looked to an administrative official for both truth and light. The very heart and soul of the address was this extract from my concluding words:

This is a dark hour. Some fear the worst, but we know that the forces of Right will win, no matter what the cost nor how long the bloody trail. This is not a time for buoyant optimism, for we must not shut our eyes to the gravity of the situation at the war front. This is not a day for pessimism, for doubt in a civilian is  
as

as great a crime as cowardice in a soldier. It is rather a day of resolution and ~~devotion~~ devotion to the spirit of Liberty which nerved the founders of the Republic to suffer for all things and endure all things to win Freedom.

America and the nations allied with her will never lay down their arms until this menace to the world is removed. No matter how long it may take; no matter how great the sacrifice in blood and treasure, we will never sheathe the sword until Autocracy is put out of business, Frightfulness cannot affright us; defeat here or there can but strengthen our determination. On this anxious day we dedicate ourselves anew to the sacred cause. And we will fight on until democracy shall triumph and the light of Liberty shine throughout the earth.

This day - April 23, 1941 - has been to me as anxious a day as after the March Drive in 1918, and what message I could bring to the members of the Royal Society of St. George has, I assure you, caused me to sweat blood as I did on that day of apprehension twenty-three years ago. I bring you the exact words I was moved to address to that anxious Boston audience twenty-three years ago, and I know that everyone here will feel deep down in his heart that as Haig's "my back is to the wall" was followed by hard-won victory after sacrifice in 1918, history will repeat itself in the year 1941.

.....

"The Empire never needed such loyal service so much as now. Never did it so urgently require the strenuous and united support of its subjects. For in the present state of the world an active vigilance is more than ever required. We have to make sure of our equipment. There is a disposition to challenge both our naval and commercial position, which requires our utmost vigilance ..."

The words I have quoted were uttered by a distinguished English statesman. They sound like an utterance to which Churchill might have given expression in Parliament yesterday. As a matter of fact, I have taken them from an address by Archibald Philip Primrose, Earl of Roseberry, in 1900 at the University of Edinburgh. Let me quote further from the address of that able premier. He went on to say:

"Had the older Pitt, when he became first minister, not left the House of Commons, he would have induced George III to listen to reason, have introduced representatives from America into the Imperial Parliament, and preserved the thirteen American Colonies for the British Crown. Is it fanciful to dwell for a moment on what might have happened? The Reform Bill which was passed in 1832 would probably have passed  
much

much earlier, for the new blood of America would have burst the old vessels of the Constitution. It would have provided for some self-adjusting system of representation such as now prevails in the United States, by which increasing population is proportionately represented. And at last, when the Americans became the majority, the seat of empire would perhaps have been moved solemnly across the Atlantic, and Britain become the historical shrine and the European outpost of the world empire.

"What an extraordinary revolution it would have been had it been accomplished! The greatest known without bloodshed: the most sublime transference of power in the history of mankind ...

"I know that I am dreaming!"

Of course the distinguished Earl was giving play to his imagination and was dreaming of a federated union that had no possibility of realization. In that era men thought of unity between peoples only by incorporation as colonies, and that conception was the basis of Roseberry's dream. In the larger conception of our generation we see unity of thought and action by independent, self-governing countries animated by like devotion to real democracy without any thought of loss of separate sovereignty. In this sense, the spirit of unity in America and Britain, the dream of Roseberry has come true. This spiritual oneness of the two great English-speaking countries is evidenced by a recent statement of President Roosevelt. Voicing the country's determination, he has often expressed, of aid to Britain in the present struggle, America's and the world's most illustrious statesman, Franklin Roosevelt, hailed in all hemispheres as the hope and symbol of our advancing democracy, dispelled gloom over the situation in Greece in Washington. Only yesterday at his press conference, in response to some expressions of despondency by the correspondents, President Roosevelt's answers were reported thus:

".... in the light of history the American people should not go to a pinnacle one day because of a British victory in the Mediterranean, and then sink to the depths of despair the next on word of a Nazi victory.

"Speaking slowly and thoughtfully, he went on to say he believed the American people in fact were coming to understand that the war would not be won by one sea fight, or one retreat in Greece, but only by keeping the existence of the main defense of Democracy going. That, he added, was England."

.....

There is a poet in my home State who does not rank with the great bards like Shakespeare and Longfellow. Her place is rather among the younger poets of the heart inspired with the afflatus to interpret the spirit of brotherhood between English-speaking nations. Residing in a small college town, where Christian culture is regnant,

regnant, Mrs. Edith Earnshaw of Wake Forest, North Carolina, a leader in finding refuge with love for English children who have been given homes in America, has written a poem which I am sure will warm the heart of every Knight of the Society of St. George. May I read it ?

AMERICA - HELP ENGLAND!

When Maud, my English friend, was on this side  
 We used to roam the fields and forests wide;  
 She loved the rolling country and the sky;  
 The sunshine and the freedom - she and I.  
 One day, we needs must cross a steep ravine  
 Or else walk miles around it, which would mean  
 A wear, walk along the dark'ning ridge,  
 And so we laid a footlog for a bridge.  
 I made the trip without event or loss,  
 But Maud stood wavering, half way across -  
 "America! help England - quick!" she cried,  
 And I led her to the other side;  
 Then, laughingly, we went our happy way.  
 O that was years ago, but now - today -  
 The incident comes back to memory,  
 For once again I hear her calling me;  
 Across the waves the eager message flies:  
 "America! help England - quick!" she cries;  
 No banter now, no smiles - with quickened breath:  
 "O quick, America! 'tis life - or death!"  
 Not Maud alone - we hear all England plead:  
 "America! this is our time of need!"  
 Our kinsmen, these, whose way of life, we know  
 Is like our way - speech, faith, ideals - and oh  
 They guard a citadel girt by the sea  
 And fight our battle for Democracy!

Our kinsmen, you with outstretched hand who wait,  
God grant we help you ere it is too late!

.....

There has never been a time when the spirit of St. George was more needed and never a time when it was more in evidence and more resplendent than now. It was comparatively easy on the tight little island when no clouds lowered and no bombs burst to enjoy the delights of what was truly "Merry England". Today the joys of life that made for merriment have been turned, through no fault of their own, into suffering and dread. In this dark hour, no one has heaped from England a renunciation of its ancient faith in the doctrines of the Magna Charta, a hint of yielding as their children fall victims to bombs hurled from the deadly Stukas from the sky, or a surrender to Fear, even in the face of death. The bombing has served to stiffen their resolve to fight on, no matter what the cost, until once again they may return to the delightful paths of peace.

St. George, the soldier who never lowered his lance, is the patron saint more than ever of Britain today. That exemplar, sacrificed positions of honor and surrendered his high commission when

when his Emperor demanded that he recant his faith in Christ. He suffered torture and cruelty, even gave up his life rather than renounce his religion.

This saint was the inspiration of noble souls in the sixth century as he was credited with working miracles. Churches were erected in memory of his Christian courage, and he was lifted to the heights as the Dragon Slayer. Knights in England adopted the lion of St. George as their emblem, signifying their duty to their God and their allegiance to lords and ladies. Honor and religion, with the glamour of chivalry, were the sanctions of their actions. As less romantic centuries dawned, the spirit of St. George was translated into the sublimest aspiration of the noblest of England: Fair Play, Justice, Honor, Courage, Patriotism. These were the standards - these are the standards - of The Royal Society of St. George and of all Englishmen who uphold the Christ, lead lives of purity, and are strengthened in all high resolves by the light of the Cross.

Devotion to death, which gave St. George immortality, is not the possession of any one people or any one clime. It is the inspiration of all everywhere who have been exalted by the light that brightened the martyr path to glory of St. Stephen and St. George.

#

*file  
personal*

*PSE Mexico Folder*

PERSONAL

Mexico, June 6, 1941.

Dear Franklin:

Though far away, and unable to do anything about it, I am disturbed by the strike situation with its ramifications. You have shown such sympathy to workers and procured so many benefits that I hope all will receive your suggestions and carry them out.

Is there not some way that can be devised by which wages will automatically keep pace with the profits of concerns holding orders for national defense materials? or with the increased price charged the Government by those holding contracts for defense productions?

If manufacturers make more profits, the employers ought to give a proportionate increase in wages. Unless they do so, the employees are denied their just rights, and we cannot expect them not to demand what is just.

I observe that the Big Interests in North Carolina, as well as in other States, have had their lobbyists and spokesmen in Washington opposing the proposals of the Treasury Department for what seems to be a just measure of taxation to reach excess profits. There are, of course, hogs in the ranks of both employers and employees, but most men in both camps are undoubtedly patriotic and wish to be fair and just. The way should be found to reach such a situation without cessation of production.

I recall that in the spring and summer of 1917 somewhat the same situation existed as troubles us now, and the Council of National Defense was seeking to compose differences and prevent reduction of production by trouble between labor and capital. In one discussion one of my cabinet colleagues said: "No strike ought to be permitted and the Government ought

The Honorable Franklin D. Roosevelt,  
The White House, Washington, D. C.

ought to outlaw them and punish those who advocate striking." To that suggestion, Billy Wilson, Secretary of Labor, replied: "I am opposed to any swag in production for national preparedness, but if there is to be any swag, labor will demand its share." Baker and I agreed with Wilson. We tried - not always successfully - to prevent any swag, but it was very difficult.

I realize the difficulties when Congress is unwilling to limit profits or to recoup all over 4 per cent as you suggested when I was in Washington, and when some men on both sides are selfish; but if an automatic scale could be devised, there would be no stoppage of work or no injustice.

Public sentiment here by a great majority supports the position clearly set forth by President Avila Camacho last week.

My wife joins in warm regards to you and Mrs. Roosevelt.

Faithfully yours,

Joseph Daniels

México, D. F., June 6, 1941

Personal

Dear Franklin:

In these days I am sure you would like to have "the bodily strength of a gladiator", and to be able to "drive out fear". If so, according to the early Aztec doctors, there is a prescription to enable people in public office to "fortify the human heart" against the ills that assail men in public stations. I am enclosing the prescription, taken from "The Badianus Manuscript" obtained from the Vatican Library. If you cannot obtain these ingredients in the United States, I will seek to obtain them here, if you have faith in their remedial properties. You might show this to Eleanor, as a matter of interest, not because she ever suffers from "weariness". Judging from her activities, nobody thinks she needs any "medicaments" to fortify her spirit.

My

The Honorable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,  
The White House,  
Washington, D. C.

-2-

My wife joins in love to you both.

Faithfully yours,

Joseph Daniels

Enclosure.

Trees and Flowers for the Fatigue of  
those Administering the Govern-  
ment and Holding Public  
Office

The bark of the quetzalylin tree, of the flowers Eloxochitl, yzquioxochitl, of the almond with its fruit, which is tlapalcacauatl, the flowers oacaloxochitl, huacalxochitl, tlilxochitl, mecaxochitl, hueynacatzli, and all good-smelling summer flowers, the leaves of the trees aylin, oyametl, ocotl, axocotl, hecapahtli, tlacoyzquioxochitl, quauhyauhtli, tomazquitl, auatl, tepeylin, ayauhquahuitl and tepapaquiltiquahuitl, flowering summer herbs with their stems, which you are to gather early in the morning, before the winds arise, are to be macerated in clear spring water, each by itself in a new pot or vessel, and this for one day and one night; then to them is to be added huitzquahuitl, a wood of reddish sap, to stain them. Likewise the blood of wild animals, namely, tlatlahuqui ocelotl, cuetlaachtli, miztli, ocotochtli, yztac ocelotl, tlacococeotl, is to be sought, so that the body may be annointed with it together with the above-mentioned juices. In the second place, precious stones, quetzalyztli, extetl, tlahcalhuatzin, tetlahuitl, and white clay, and little pebbles which are encountered in the stomachs of the small birds huexocanauhtli, huactli and apopohtli, should be thrown into water, in which they should be left for one night that their healthful juice may be drawn out, with which the body should be frequently washed. Thirdly, it should be saturated

saturated with both the brain and the bile of animals tlatlahqui ocelotl, yztac ocelotl, cuetlachtlī, miztlī, ocotochtli, coyotl, and then with the brain, bile and crushed bladder of the yztacepatl. Indeed, these medicaments bestow the bodily strength of a gladiator, drive weariness far away, and, finally, drive out fear and fortify the human heart.

In addition, a leading man or any one else, who wishes to obtain this rebuilding of the body, should eat the flesh of a white rabbit or of a white fox whelp, either roasted or boiled.

June 17, 1941

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Chief:

I was indeed sorry to learn from your letter of June 3 that it was necessary for you to forego vacation plans for this period of the year. I had looked forward to seeing you as usual but, much as I personally regret your decision, I understand your feeling that your duty was to remain in Mexico at this time.

It was reassuring to have your estimate that sentiment for collaboration in hemisphere solidarity has become increasingly strong among official and other influential Mexicans and that this sentiment seems to be growing in the population of the country as a whole. I read with satisfaction the recent statement of President Avila Camacho expressing the policy of his Government to collaborate with the United States and the other American Republics in their common defense and his strong remarks as to assuming responsibilities in the face of the danger from totalitarian sources. Thank you for sending me copies of the interesting correspondence between the President and Vicente Lombardo Toledano. Whatever Lombardo Toledano's motives in submitting the questionnaire to President Avila Camacho as to the policy of the Mexican Government, I have noticed that he has expressed complete satisfaction with the President's reply. This would seem to support your general impression of increasing unity in Mexico.

With

*Signed original sent to Hon. Sumner Wells  
for delivery 6/17/41  
JRM*

DEPT. OF STATE

SECRETARY VED

With regard to the question of export control and the securing of strategic and critical materials from Mexico, I am hopeful of results beneficial to both Mexico and the United States from the mission of Mr. Walter Douglas, in representation of the Federal Loan Agency, with the valuable assistance which, I am sure, your staff and Mr. Boal will give him. I feel confident that these and other matters based on cooperation between the two countries will be worked out in a mutually helpful manner. Many of the outstanding problems seem capable of settlement in the excellent atmosphere which you describe and I trust that great progress can be made in coming months on such questions as the oil controversy, allocation of international waters and the final settlement of claims.

Nazi activities of the various sorts mentioned by you throughout the other American Republics have given us much concern. I am glad to have your report that our officials are receiving the cooperation of Mexican officials in following subversive activities. The matter of replacing undesirable German agents of American business by more suitable representatives has also come in for much attention here and I am pleased that it seems to be well in hand so far as the situation in Mexico is concerned.

Your summary of conditions in Mexico is most encouraging to me.

*Love*  
~~With kindest~~ regards to you and Mrs. Daniels from Eleanor and me,

Very sincerely yours,

*(Signed) Franklin D. Roosevelt*

The Honorable  
Josephus Daniels,  
American Ambassador,  
Mexico, D. F.

of Brazil with  
and the signing of  
from Mexico, I am  
both Mexico and the  
of Mr. Miller, possi-  
ly, I am sure, lo-  
I feel com-  
of Brazil with

**Department of State**

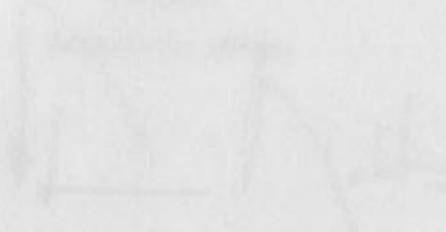
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DIVISION |

**ENCLOSURE**  
TO

Letter drafted.....

ADDRESSED TO

**the President**.....



Enclosure  
The Secretary  
The President  
The State Department

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

PSF Mexico



DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

June 17, 1941

My dear Mr. President:

In accordance with your directive of June 10, 1941 there is enclosed a drafted reply to the letter Ambassador Daniels sent to you on June 3, 1941 with reference to the present general situation in Mexico.

Ambassador Daniels' letter to you and its enclosure are returned herewith.

Faithfully yours,

Enclosure:

1. From Ambassador Daniels  
June 3, 1941, with  
enclosure.
2. Drafted reply.

The President,  
The White House.

Mexico Folder

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

June 10, 1941.

MEMORANDUM FOR  
THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE  
FOR PREPARATION OF REPLY  
FOR MY SIGNATURE.

F. D. R.

Letter to the President  
from Ambassador Daniels, dated  
June 3, 1941, with enclosure.

México, D. F., June 3, 1941

Personal

Dear Franklin:

Nearly every year I have taken my vacation about this time so I could see you and attend Chapel Hill commencement. However, this year it seemed to me that duty compelled me to remain at my post in these difficult days.

I keep in close touch with the President and the Minister for Foreign Affairs and other officials, as well as with influential Mexicans not in official positions, and I am glad to tell you that in these circles the sentiment is increasingly strong against the Nazis, and in favor of collaboration to carry out the letter and spirit of the Panama and Havana agreements for continental solidarity. This sentiment has steadily grown in the country at large, and in the matter of export control, shipping, the production of rubber and quinine, and other tropical and semi-tropical products, our experts

find

The Honorable  
Franklin D. Roosevelt,  
The White House,  
Washington, D. C.

find the best cooperation from Mexican officials. The press, better than ever, is in line with the policy of the Government.

Nazi and anti-American sentiment exists to some extent, but is carried on under-ground, and seldom shows itself on the surface. The American officials here are alert and keep posted as to such activities. The Mexican secret service, not as efficient as that in the United States, is active and furnishes us information of any subversive projects or agencies. Before the war broke out in Europe a large percentage of business houses and manufacturers had Germans as their representatives here. Our Commercial Attaché has devoted his office to ascertaining their sympathies. As a result, in cooperation with Washington, a number of such German representatives have been replaced by Americans, who, after the war, will wish to sell American products here as we believe German agents would be inclined to replace American products with articles made in Germany.

Recently Vicente Lombardo Toledano, head of a Pan American labor organization, addressed a letter, which was published in the press, asking President Avila Camacho some direct inquiries as to the policy of the Mexican Government. The Lombardo Toledano letter appeared

appeared one day and the President's answer was printed the next day. Whether the inquiries were prompted by friendly or critical reasons is an open question here. At any rate, the answer of the President, generally approved by the press and the people, shows that the Mexican Government, while upholding its sovereignty, is committed to the policy of continental solidarity, and against the plans of the totalitarian governments. I talk frequently with the Foreign Minister, and his attitude along these lines is all that could be desired.

You have doubtless seen an extract from the Lombardo Toledano-Avila Camacho correspondence, but thinking you might like to have the full correspondence, I have caused it to be translated and a copy is enclosed. Of course, copies are being forwarded in the pouch to the Department of State.

You are in my mind and heart always, and I pray that you may have divine guidance in these tragic days.

My wife joins in love to you and Eleanor.

Affectionately,

*Josehuerto Daniels*

Enclosure:

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PSF TITANIUM

(Enclosure to Despatch No.                      dated June 3, 1941,  
from the American Embassy at Mexico City).

SOURCE: Excelsior  
6/1/41  
Mexico.

MEXICO'S INTEGRITY REMAINS INTACT

Shall not Turn Over Control to a Foreign Country

The First Magistrate of the Republic Answers  
Questions Made by Mr. Toledano

HAS NOT MADE A SINGLE SECRET PACT

The Works for the Improvements of our Defense  
Measures Shall be Carried Out by  
Mexicans.

The basic points of the answer given by the President of the Republic, General Manuel Avila Camacho, to the questionnaire made by Lic. Vicente Lombardo Toledano, President of the Confederation of Workers of Latin America, regarding Mexico's position on the problems brought about by the European war, are as follows:

There is not a single secret agreement existing between Mexico and the United States of North America.

Mexico has not ceded and shall never cede to any foreign power, transitory possession of any part of its territory for the establishment of naval bases, air fields, or for any other military purposes.

For many years now the Mexican Government has been considering the proper improvement of our ports, not only from the standpoint of providing greater facilities for merchant trade, but also from the standpoint of giving effective protection to the national territory.

The works to be carried out in connection with the improvement of our defenses shall be in the hands of Mexicans, and it shall not be necessary to contract foreign loans for realization thereof, nor a reduction of the allotments corresponding to the constructive work of the Revolution, be needed.

Mexico has not agreed to coordinate the economy of the nation with military aid to some foreign power,

None of the resolutions approved at the Conferences of Ministers held at Panama and Havana oblige our country to intervene in conflicts outside our Hemisphere,

The collaboration of Mexico and the United States is not the result of a military alliance, but the product of a regional understanding of a defensive character.

The

The resolutions approved by the Republics of the Western Hemisphere regarding common defense would lose their entire political significance and moral prestige were they not based, as they are, on the absolute autonomy of the nations which adopted them.

One of the results of the European war has been the reduction of our markets.

The problem of the lack of means of communications which recently acquired such alarming proportions shall be solved, in part, with the utilization of the vessels of belligerent nations standing at different ports of the Republic, which were recently attached.

The exact text of the answer of the Chief of the Nation to Lic. Lombardo Toledano, is as follows:

Mexico, D.F., May 30, 1941.

Sr. Lic. Vicente Lombardo Toledano,  
President of the  
Confederation of Workers of Latin America,  
Ave. Madero No. 74,  
C i t y.

In your courteous letter of the 20th instant you expressed a desire to know what is Mexico's position on the different problems created by the war, so as to inform the groups which integrate the Confederation of Workers of Latin America, and through this organization, all the peoples of the New World.

It is with great pleasure that I comply with your request, for I am convinced that one of the greatest forces behind the international policy of Mexico is its complete purity and having nothing to hide either within or outside the territory, its action can only be strengthened thanks to the complete knowledge of same which the people of the country and the working classes of the Continent, might have.

The line of conduct which Mexico has outlined for itself is inextinguishable and is based on the following fundamental principles: recognition of the democratic equality of nations; respect to the rights emanating from the sovereignty and independence of nations; conviction that peace is not only a regional or local guarantee, but a general condition, indivisible in its consequences, and supported by the collective security of nations; subordination of all private ambitions of each country to the limits defined by Treaties; condemnation of all unilateral benefits imposed by force; and friendly collaboration of the nations, in conformity with the norm, followed in a resolute manner, that no nation--notwithstanding its degree of culture or the power of its economic, technical and military organizations--might take upon herself to intervene in the affairs of others.

Based on these postulates, Mexico has advocated at all times the fulfillment of the spiritual and material duties imposed by inter-dependence which result from the close relations existing between the countries. In view of this concept of conciliation of universal interests, we are strong advocates of all measures tending to place justice above violence. It is only natural, therefore, that we be deeply affected by the tragic circumstances in which the actual international conflict is unfolding.

We are witnessing one of the most turbulent agitations of the world. It is no longer a case, as during the war of 1914-1918, of the clash of a national formula--incipient but strong--against the leaders of other stronger but older national formulae. Today, the phenomenon is entirely different. A mystic negative has put in doubt the most venerable assets of man; respect to the world pledged, the notion of right and of the family and faith in the power of inter-dependence. What runs the risk of tumbling is not only the political policy of the Western Hemisphere--with many of its errors we are not in accord--but the ideologic frame within which the future of our culture should be placed, if conditions were normal. Having been born under the sign of Democracy, the Republics of the American Continent know perfectly well that its cause is the cause of freedom. And this is the interpretation that should be given to Pan-American collaboration, for it is not inspired in any selfish feeling, but in a generous desire for the spiritual solidarity, the economic cooperation and the sincere unity of all men.

In the light of these facts, the scope of which is not restricted to a specific hour of the existence of our nations, but to the integrity of their evolution, actual problems show their true significance and the replies which I am about to give to the questions which you put to me, shall clearly show that the actual position of Mexico is but a logical result of its clear and honest belief in international fraternity.

So as to be more exacting, I shall examine the subjects to which you refer, in the same order followed in your letters.

1. There does not exist a single secret agreement between Mexico and the United States of North America. All the obligations accepted by our country have been duly submitted to the consideration of the Mexican people. Moreover, the international activity of Mexico shuns everything that is not clear and I have the honor to add that nothing is being done and nothing shall be done during my Administration that will not immediately receive the widest and most complete publicity.

2. Mexico has not ceded and shall not cede to any foreign power the transitory possession of any part of its territory for the establishment of naval bases, air fields or for any other military purposes. For considering it just--and to eliminate once and for all, all groundless suspicions--I have great pleasure in stating that no Government has submitted to us territorial requests of any kind, and that, should this occur, they would, of course, be discarded, in the name of our sovereignty.

3. For many years the Mexican Government has been studying the improvement of our ports, not only from a standpoint of affording more facilities to our merchant trade, but also from the standpoint of a more effective protection to the national territory. The seriousness of the menace which the actual conflict might represent for America, compels us to organize the defense of our coasts in such a manner, that these might not be left at the mercy of an audacious act on the part of the belligerents. In fact, should we neglect the security of our Republic, we would be sinning against our own interests and would weaken, in a very dangerous manner, the front lines of Pan American solidarity. In connection

with

with the necessities referred to, special attention is being given to the improvement of the equipment of the Mexican Army. All these measures do not imply, of course, a warring design on our part but the absolutely legitimate desire, to prepare the country for any aggression, and to do honor, within the means at our disposal, to the spirit of cooperation which unites the American nations forming a solid bulwark for the independence of the Continent.

4. The works which shall be carried out to improve our means of defense, shall be performed by Mexican elements under the direction of Mexican technicians and in accordance with the plan which Mexico has outlined for the defense of our coasts.

5. For the realization of the works referred to we have not found it necessary to make foreign loans.

6. The cost of the works shall not imply a reduction on the allotments corresponding to the constructive work of the Revolution. The best reply to those who might think otherwise, is given by the figures of what our Administration is allotting to irrigation, schools, construction and maintenance of roads, railways, credits to the "ejidos", health and public welfare.

7. Mexico is not obliged to coordinate the economy of the nation with military aid to some foreign power. On the contrary: my Government is making the greatest efforts to insure our working classes with an ever increasing utilization of our resources, so as to avoid the possibility that the actual state of war and the economic limitations emanating therefrom be detrimental to our trade and might hinder the development of our industries. In this connection, one must not forget that one of the most important aspects of Pan American cooperation shall be, no doubt, that it shall focus the organization of the economic defense of our Republics during periods of emergency.

8. None of the Resolutions approved at the Conferences of Ministers held at Panama and Havana compels our country to intervene in conflicts of an extra-continental character. In case of aggression against any of the American Republics, Mexico shall not hesitate in participating, with the greatest force, in the common defense necessary for the collection salvation of the Hemisphere; but no international agreement compels it to take part in a war outside of America.

9. The collaboration of Mexico and the United States is not the result of a military alliance but the product of a regional understanding of a defensive character. In such a case, if the North American Government should declare war on any Asiatic or European power, this would not mean that Mexico would be compelled to automatically adopt a similar attitude. But it would be a fallacy to think, that with the present state of things, the destiny of one of the American nations might indefinitely remain isolated from the destiny of the others. Geographically, historically and logically speaking we constitute a democratic unit which the dictatorial powers will no doubt try to destroy in order to obtain a victory which would sooner or later imply the disappearance of the postulates on which our existence of free and sovereign countries, is based. The only ones to be saved from the totalitarian disaster shall be the countries which will courageously assume, in time, the political responsibilities which are their and, should the opportunity present itself, the Government of Mexico shall follow, with the support of national public opinion, the measures which will insure

its children with an honorable and independent future.

10. The resolutions approved by the Republics of the Western Hemisphere in connection with common defense would lose their entire political meaning and moral prestige were they not based, as they are, on the absolute autonomy of the Nations which adopted them. The justification of the sacrifices which that defense would imply is found on the necessity of keeping intact, not only our territory, but the integrity of the democratic spirit of our institutions and the spontaneous determination of our Governments. It would be absurd, therefore, that in the name of these sacred principles, an attempt would be made to lessen our freedom and that, to protect ourselves from a possible attack from abroad, our sovereignty would be unduly restricted. United against the aspiration of a hegemony coming from without, this Hemisphere, the American Nations shall not give way either to a hegemony coming from within the Continent, for only by means of mutual respect, shall our nations be able to establish in an everlasting manner, the basis of their international coordination.

11. One of the consequences of the European war has been the reduction of our markets. To balance the lack of equilibrium which might result from a situation such as this, Mexico has at present the favorable opportunity of increasing its exportations to the Latin-American countries. The Government of the Republic considers with special interest all the possibilities of favoring commercial intercourse with the other nations of the Continent. In this connection, the Higher Council of Foreign Commerce--an inter-secretarial organization recently created--is studying with interest the most adequate measures for this purpose. Through our Embassies and Legations there shall be negotiated the reduction of certain customs duties liable of injuring our products, and whenever possible minimum import duties shall be secured for Mexican products. The making of just and equitable commercial agreements shall receive the utmost attention on the part of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and no effort shall be spared to attain the goal that the spiritual solidarity which unites us with the respect of the American nations might correspond, in practice, with a real intensification of our commercial and financial relations.

12. The problem of the lack of means of communication--which recently acquired alarming proportions--shall be solved, in part, with the utilization of the vessels of belligerent nationality, which were standing in Mexican ports and which were attached in accordance with the Decree issued on April 8, 1941. These vessels shall be administered in such a way as to establish a freight tariff ample enough to facilitate the exportation of our products, and their use might serve to compensate some of the damages suffered by the commerce of the American nations as a result of the war.

I hope that the answers which I have given to the various questions contained in your esteemed communication of the 20th instant shall give you a clear picture of the attitude which governs the activities of the Government of Mexico in international affairs. And--being aware as I am, of the interest manifested by the working classes of America in the discussions

of

of these questions--I am sure that the publicity which the Confederation of Workers which you preside might give to them, shall certainly serve to establish our points of view and to eliminate all erroneous interpretations of the policy adopted by our country.

I take this opportunity to transmit, through you, cordial greetings to the workers of Latin America and to assure you of my most distinguished consideration.

MANUEL AVILA CAMACHO

Translated by: SMB/

Enclosure No. 2 to despatch no. 12905 of May 31,  
1941, from the American Embassy at Mexico City

SOURCE: EL NACIONAL  
May 31, 1941,  
Mexico City.

FULL TRANSLATION OF NEWS ARTICLE

QUESTIONS PUT TO THE PRESIDENT  
BY THE CONFEDERATION OF WORKERS  
OF LATIN AMERICA

Sr. Lic. Vicente Lombardo Toledano, President of the Confederation of Workers of Latin America, addressed the President of the Republic, General Manuel Avila Camacho, in a letter which contains a questionnaire made up of twelve points of international significance. The text of this document is as follows:

"Confederation of Workers of Latin America - Madero 74 - Mexico, D. F. - Office of the President.

"General Manuel Avila Camacho, President of the Republic, National Palace.

"Mr. President:

"The enemies of the Mexican Revolution, knowing full well the moral influence of Mexico in the majority sectors of the countries of Latin America, have always attempted to detract from the more important actions of the progressive governments of our country, lessening their merit before international opinion, by taking advantage of the circumstances which have come about during the course of our national life. They undertake this work not only to sully the prestige of our Nation, but also to prevent the valorous Revolutionary regime of Mexico from stimulating, or serving as an example to, the other countries of Latin America. This systematic attack against the natural course of Mexico has perhaps greater importance now than in the immediate past, because it now refers to a supposed attitude of the Government of the Republic under you as regards the grave international problems of the hour, which must inevitably have tangible repercussions on the majorities' opinions in the other American nations. For this reason, and in my capacity as President of the Confederation of Workers of Latin America, and furthermore, knowing the interest with which your opinion will be received by the working classes of our sister nations, I take the liberty of addressing you that I may know, in a concise manner, the position of the Government of Mexico on the problems brought about by the war, and then inform the workers which integrate the Confederation, and through this organization, all the peoples of the New World.

"QUESTION NO. 1 - Do any agreements or pacts exist between the Governments of Mexico and the United States regarding Mexico's action on the problems springing from the war, of which you have not informed the Mexican people?

"QUESTION No. 2 - Has the Government of Mexico ceded any

part

part of its national territory to the United States of America for the establishment of naval bases, air fields, or for other uses of a military nature, either through purchase, rental, or transitory possession? Should this not have come about, as you have stated clearly and categorically on different occasions, is there any obligation on the part of the Government of Mexico to make any future cession of national territory for the purposes described above, when new problems present themselves?

"QUESTION No. 3 - What purpose does the Government of Mexico have in mind in the construction it has decided to undertake in different sections of national territory, such as the placing of artillery in certain ports, as well as the rapid improvement of the different arms of the Republic's army?

"QUESTION No. 4 - For the construction of these works of a military nature, will foreign elements be employed to direct the work, or will Mexicans be employed exclusively?

"QUESTION No. 5 - Will the Government of Mexico contract for loans from the United States, or from any other country, to undertake this work?

"QUESTION No. 6 - Will the cost of this construction, and the manner in which payment is to be made, be an extraordinary burden on the Budget of Expenditures of the Republic, thus making it necessary to reduce allotments corresponding to the more important aspects of the Revolution's constructive program, such as irrigation works, credits to the 'ejidos', roads, schools, and others?

"QUESTION No. 7 - Is the Government of Mexico obliged in any way to coordinate the economy of the nation and the efforts of all the working classes in Mexico with any military aid to some foreign power?

"QUESTION No. 8 - Do the obligations springing from the recent Pan American conferences bind Mexico to go further than its participation in the collective action of the countries of this hemisphere, and in case of foreign aggression against any of these, to go beyond the limits of the American continent, and, consequently, intervene in the problems of Europe or any other continent?

"QUESTION No. 9 - If the United States of America should declare war on the powers of the Axis, would Mexico in turn then adopt a similar attitude, declaring war against Germany and its allies?

"QUESTION No. 10 - Do not the international agreements which bind the American countries in a stand of common defense against any foreign aggression also imply, for these very countries, absolute respect for the sovereignty of each, in their reciprocal relations?

"QUESTION No. 11 - Has the Government of Mexico given consideration to intensifying its commercial intercourse with the countries of Latin America, as the markets outside of

America have been considerably reduced not only for Mexico but for our sister nations?

"QUESTION No. 12 - Does the Government of Mexico plan to use the recently seized boats for commerce with Central and South America?

I hope, Mr. President, that you will favor me by giving your authorized and valuable opinion on these important questions.

With my deepest gratitude, in the name of the workers of Latin America, I take this opportunity for renewing the assurances of my most distinguished and respectful consideration.

"For the Emancipation of Latin America"

Mexico, D. F., May 20, 1941.

The President

VICENTE LOMBARDO TOLEDANO"

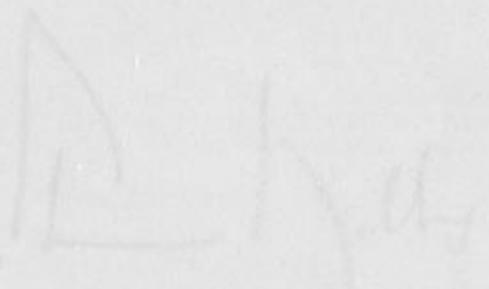
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Published in  
Pearl Harbor  
Hearings

PART 20 PAGES 4375-  
4382

... your memorandum of July 28,  
... letter of July 18 addressed to you  
... Mexico City, were forwarded  
... draft reply to ...  
... letter and its contents are  
... through.

Respectfully,  
To The Honorable  
Franklin D. Roosevelt  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.  
July 17, 1945





DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

July 28, 1941

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

In accordance with your memorandum of July 25, 1941 transmitting a letter of July 18 addressed to you by Ambassador Daniels at Mexico City, there is enclosed for your consideration a draft reply to Ambassador Daniels.

Ambassador Daniels' letter and its enclosure are returned herewith.

Enclosure:

1. To the Honorable Josephus Daniels.
2. From the Honorable Josephus Daniels, July 18, with enclosure.

*R. Kelly*

PSE Mexico Folder  
1-41

*file personal*

PSE Mexico Folder

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

July 25, 1941.

MEMORANDUM FOR

SUMNER WELLES:

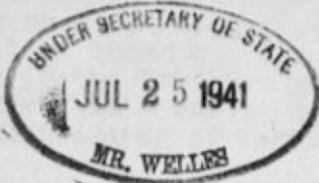
For preparation of reply.

"Dear Chief".

F.D.R.

Ltr to the President from Ambassador Josephus Daniels, Mexico, 7/18/41; encl a private and confidential memo by Dr. Stanley Jones of conversations regarding possible peace between Japan and China.

PSF TITANIUM CO



EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

PERSONAL

Mexico, July 18, 1941

Dear Franklin:

Dr. Stanley Jones, one of the greatest preachers in the world, has been in Mexico attending a religious gathering of more than five hundred religious leaders, mostly from Mexico and the United States. You know his history. As a young Methodist preacher he went as a missionary to India where he has made a place as the leader of American missionaries. A few years ago he declined to accept the office of Bishop to which he had been elected, saying his call was to preach the gospel in India. He knows that country as no other preacher. His long residence in Asia has made him familiar with conditions in China and Japan and he is deeply interested in seeing the war between these two countries brought to a close, as all of us are.

Talking with Dr. Jones yesterday, he told me of recent conversations he had had with Dr. Miao, Secretary of the National Council of China, and Dr. Kagawa, a well-known author of Japan, regarding a possible basis for peace between China and Japan; he became convinced that the situation may be ripe for the United States to mediate between the two countries. He said that "it appears to be the one possible door to peace in the world situation," and added: "If it begins there it may spread."

I know that your heart's desire is to see an end of the tragic wars and would welcome an opportunity to bring about an honorable peace. Because of this I am enclosing for your confidential reading the memorandum which Dr. Jones prepared at my request.

I am not familiar enough with the international situation, or the possible influence of the persons quoted by Dr. Jones, to give advice. I wish I knew  
more

The Honorable Franklin D. Roosevelt,  
The White House, Washington, D.C.

more of the inside situation in those countries. I am passing on this memorandum from a great soul, a friend of long standing, for such consideration as conditions in the Far East may justify. I pray daily that you may find a way to lead the world to peace and permanent ending of war.

In your last letter you expressed the hope that my health was good and I was "not working too hard." As to the first, I was never so well as now. As to the second, though I give myself freely to my duties here, when I think of the heavy burden you bear and strain upon time and mind and heart, I feel that in comparison I am almost only a part-time worker.

My wife joins in love to you and Eleanor.

Affectionately yours,

Josephine

Enclosure.

C  
O  
P  
Y

PSF III (Miao)

[7-18-41?]

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

Memorandum of Conversations Regarding  
Possible Peace Between Japan and China

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In informal conversations between Dr. Miao, Secretary of the National Christian Council of China, and Dr. Kagawa, well-known author of Japan, regarding a possible basis for peace between China and Japan, I found the following:

1. They both agree that the time is ripe for a consideration of a possible peace if a basis could be found. They <sup>were</sup> both speaking individually, of course, and were not representing in any way anyone officially. But each thought that he was expressing the opinions of a large number in each country and possibly on some points the official attitude.
2. Dr. Kagawa said that he thought Japan was prepared to make peace on the basis of four points:
  - a. The recognition of Manchukuo.
  - b. The suppression of Communism in China.
  - c. The elimination of anti-Japanese agitation in China.
  - d. The recognition of the territorial and political integrity of China by Japan.

He suggested that there might be other points raised by some, such as (a) a creation of a joint defense system in Mongolia against Russian Communism, (b) the port of Shanghai under Japanese control, (c) a concession between Hongkong and Indo-China for immigration. But these were subsidiary -- the four points above were the main bases of peace from the Japanese viewpoint.

Dr. Miao said that if the intention of the peace between China and Japan is that Japan's hands may be freed to carry out aggressive intentions elsewhere, then the peace would not be a real peace. China wants real peace. He said that if China could get two things nailed down she would be prepared to negotiate the rest:

- a. The territorial and political integrity and sovereignty of China.
- b. The recognition of Chang Kai Shek as the head of China.

If these two things were agreed upon, China would feel that there is a basis on which peace could be considered, not that she recognizes that the other points raised are necessarily legitimate, but they might be made subjects for negotiation. Dr. Miao suggested, for instance, that some agreement might be worked out for joint control of Manchuria.

It

It will be noted that there is one area of agreement between the two suggestions, namely the territorial and political integrity of China. This is important for this area of agreement is not a marginal matter, it is central.

As to the recognition of Chang Kai Shek, Dr. Kagawa thought it might be brought about in time, but Japan's face would have to be saved in the matter, for Wang Ching Wei had been recognized. He thought it might be possible to solve the matter if Wang Ching Wei should agree to give away to Chang Kai Shek for the sake of peace and the unifying of China. Dr. Miao thought that Wang Ching Wei would have to give way entirely and that there could be no place for him in the government after what he had done. Dr. Kagawa said that the recognition of Chang Kai Shek is not impossible as many Japanese considered him as a great man. Both agreed that peace could be scarcely hoped for if Chang Kai Shek were left out, for he represents China in a way that no one else does.

It was suggested by Dr. Kagawa that if I want to get the official viewpoint it might be well for me to see the Japanese Ambassador. Accordingly, I endeavored to see both the Japanese Ambassador and the Chinese Ambassador during a short visit to Washington. The Chinese Ambassador was absent speaking at the University of Michigan and the Japanese Ambassador was tied up with engagements and could not give me the time during the period at my disposal. But the Japanese Minister invited me to see him instead. Apparently the Japanese Minister is the diplomatic advisor to the Ambassador.

I made it plain to the Minister that I did not represent anything official, that I was only there in the capacity of one who desired to see these two nations come together on a just basis, and that it was also clear that the opinions I was interpreting from Dr. Miao and Dr. Kagawa were entirely unofficial and were elicited by my own initiative. In other words, they did not raise the matter with me -- I raised it with them. I also suggested that I knew the Minister's situation as a diplomatic official and that he need not give anything on the matters raised, but that I would put the matter before him and he could comment on it or not, and I would understand. After I had placed the conversations I had before him, he replied that he would comment on the matter, but in an unofficial capacity.

He said that Dr. Kagawa left out one important point, namely, the economic cooperation of Japan and China. When I asked if the economic cooperation meant  
the

the political dominance of the country by economic control, as many Chinese and others thought it would, he replied that it need not necessarily mean this. He further stated that although the territorial and political integrity of China was not specifically stated in the government statements regarding a basis of peace, it was implied in the other three points, because these points inferred a sovereign and independent China. He also added that the government of Japan had stated that there would be no indemnities and no territory demanded of China. This, too, he said implied the political and territorial integrity of China.

He suggested that Japan would desire a joint defense in Mongolia and North China against possible Russian aggression in these sections. When I pointed out that in the minds of the Chinese this planting of Japanese soldiers in North China and Mongolia would cancel the point about the territorial and political integrity of China, he replied that on the face of it it would, and that the demand might seem to be harsh, but in international law a nation might still be sovereign if she requested another nation to help her in the joint defense of territory.

In regard to the recognition of Chang Kai Shek as the head of China, he stated that the Japanese government recognized Wang Ching Wei because he was willing to accept Japan's basis of cooperation and that if Chang Kai Shek would be willing to do so then Japan would not mind who it was at the head of the government.

It seems to me that this left open the possibility of Japan's recognition of Chang Kai Shek if a new basis could be worked out which the latter could accept.

At the close of my talk one thing seemed to be intact in both viewpoints, namely, the territorial and political integrity of China. Of course, there was the possibility of this being threatened by the proposal of joint action in North China and Mongolia. But on the whole it remained. There was also the possibility of the recognition of Chang Kai Shek under certain conditions -- conditions held by both sides. It was not ruled out.

When I came to the point of the possible mediation of the United States to bring peace in the Far East, I again urged on the Minister that he need not answer, if he did not see fit. He replied that he would comment, not as giving an official but a personal view, that if my suggestions meant that America was to interfere in the Far East and try to impose her own terms, then the reply is, No. But if she should offer her good offices to help China and Japan to settle their own differences, then, Yes.

When

When I asked if I might express the substance of our conversations to anyone of my friends who might be in a position to pass it on to those who would be in a position to do something, he replied that I might, provided it was understood that all of these opinions were simply explorative and were personal and private and not official. He added that the world must have peace and that America is in a position to help toward peace. When I suggested if America offered her good offices to help bring peace between China and Japan it might mean that she would thereby be led to straighten out her own differences with Japan, he agreed.

It seems therefore that the situation may be ripe for America to mediate between China and Japan. It appears to be the one possible door to peace in the world situation. If it begins there it may spread.

E. STANLEY JONES

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[7-25?-41]

Dear Chief:

I much appreciate your thoughtfulness in forwarding with your letter of July 18, 1941 a memorandum prepared by Dr. Stanley Jones suggesting a possibility of peace between Japan and China and of American mediation between those two countries. Dr. Jones is well known to me by reputation and I admire his fine character and high purpose.

Just a week previous to the date of your letter, Representative John H. Vorys of Ohio wrote to me and enclosed a copy of a similar memorandum written by Dr. Jones. Mr. Vorys at the same time sent a copy of Dr. Jones' memorandum to Mr. Dean Acheson. As both Mr. Vorys' letter and Dr. Jones' memorandum were given careful study by officers of the Department of State, I am enclosing a copy of the reply which Mr. Acheson sent to Mr. Vorys.

As you may imagine, the Japanese action in reference to French Indochina has created new problems with far-reaching implications in the Far Eastern situation. You have doubtless read Mr. Welles' statement, as contained in Radio Bulletin No. 176 of July 26, in regard to our attitude toward that development, and the White House press release, contained in Radio Bulletin No. 177, July 26, in regard to the freezing of Japanese assets in this country.

It

It is good to know that you are enjoying excellent health. Eleanor joins me in sending affectionate regards to you and Mrs. Daniels.

~~Sincerely yours,~~

Affectionately,  
JDR

Enclosure:

From Mr. Asheson to  
Mr. Vorys, July 23.

The Honorable  
Joseph Daniels,  
American Ambassador,  
Mexico, D. F.

July 23, 1941

Dear John:

I referred your letters of July 11, 1941 to me and to the President and their enclosures in regard to the question of possible mediation by this Government in the conflict between China and Japan to the appropriate officers of the Department for study and comment.

We have studied with care the contents of your letters and of Dr. Jones' memorandum, and we are very glad to have the benefit of your views and those of Dr. Jones who is well-known to the Department. The various points and considerations mentioned in Dr. Jones' memorandum have been brought to our attention from time to time from various quarters and we have been and are keeping them constantly in mind. In addition to the broad general factors mentioned in Dr. Jones' memorandum, the Department must take into account the fundamental national policies of the various nations concerned, especially as manifested in the acts of those nations and in the statements of responsible officials thereof.

In past public statements and utterances by Japanese officials there has been considerable emphasis placed on terms similar to those referred to in Dr. Jones' memorandum. In this connection it may be observed that the contents of the agreements which the Japanese Government has made with the régime of Wang Ching-wei at Nanking afford some concrete indication of the nature of the settlement with China which the Japanese Government has thus far had in mind.

This Government has during recent years been making earnest efforts to persuade the Japanese Government that the real interests of Japan lie in adopting policies in regard to international relations and conduct which are in line with the thought and procedures in which this country believes.

Should

The Honorable  
John M. Vorys,  
House of Representatives.

Should you feel, in the light of the foregoing comment, that you would still like to discuss this subject with an appropriate officer of the Department, such an officer will be glad at any time at your convenience to place himself at your disposal.

If Dr. Jones should have occasion to visit Washington, officers of the Department would welcome an opportunity to see him and to obtain the benefits through personal conversation of his observations and views.

Sincerely yours,

Dean G. Acheson  
Assistant Secretary



DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

135 F - Mexico Folder  
file personal  
1-41  
August 8, 1941

My dear Mr. President:

In compliance with your directions of August 1, 1941, I enclose a draft of reply which you may desire to send to Ambassador Daniels' letter of July 25, 1941.

For your information I also enclose a copy of my reply to the communication which Ambassador Daniels addressed to me, also on July 25.

I think we are making satisfactory progress in the negotiations with Mexico. There still remain some difficulties to be worked out, of which the outstanding relates to the oil controversy. Within the next few days, I hope to send you, for your approval, the definite text of the proposal for settlement of the petroleum problem.

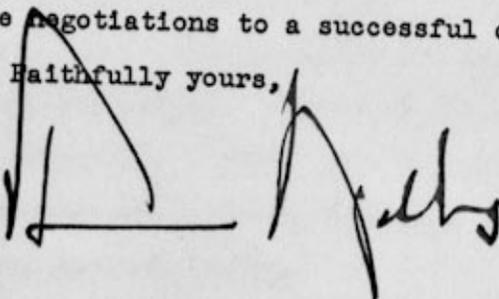
It would be particularly helpful were the settlement of a number of the outstanding problems to be reached before September 1 since Mexico apparently is  
most

The President,

The White House.

most anxious that the negotiations be expedited and since the President of Mexico would be afforded more definite grounds for friendly references to the United States than would otherwise be the case. It may be said that the Department will do everything it possibly can to expedite the negotiations to a successful conclusion.

Faithfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'H. H. Hays', written over the typed name 'H. H. Hays'.

Enclosures:

1. Draft of reply to Ambassador Daniels.
2. Copy of my reply to Ambassador Daniels.
3. Letter from Ambassador Daniels, with enclosure.

AIR MAIL

August 8, 1941

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

My dear Mr. Ambassador:

I deeply appreciate your letter of July 25, 1941 which I read with great interest.

I sincerely hope that before September 1 we shall have reached agreement with the Mexican Government on the various matters which are the subject of the current negotiations. In this event, and I may say that the Department is doing all it can to expedite the negotiations to a satisfactory conclusion, the President of Mexico will, of course, have ample material for that part of his address on September 1 which relates to the relations between Mexico and the United States.

In the event that negotiations have not been brought to a successful conclusion by that time, it will doubtless still be the case that satisfactory progress is being made and the President, if he so desires, will be able to say this in his address upon the opening of the Mexican Congress.

It seems likely that within the next two weeks we shall have a better idea of when the negotiations on most of the pending matters are likely to be concluded. I shall then write to you again on the important matter of the desire of the President of Mexico to be in a position to discuss these negotiations in his address on September 1.

Sincerely yours,

Sumner Welles

The Honorable  
Josephus Daniels,  
American Ambassador,  
México, D.F.

DSF Mexico

VIE XVII

Dear Chief:

I find your letter of July 25, enclosing a copy of your letter of the same date to Mr. Welles, very interesting and helpful.

The Department of State is keeping me informed of the progress of the present negotiations with Mexico and I share that Department's hope that agreement will be reached on a number of these matters in sufficient time to permit reference to them by the President of Mexico in his address to the Mexican Congress on September 1, 1941, if this is his desire.

Mr. Welles informs me that he will write to you again about one week hence regarding the status of the negotiations.

Very sincerely yours,

The Honorable

Josephus Daniels,

American Ambassador,

México, D.F.

PSF Mexico

MEXICO, JULY 25, 1941.

PERSONAL AND ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Dear Franklin:

Knowing your deep interest in everything that looks to strengthening and undergirding the Good Neighbor policy, I am enclosing herewith a copy of a letter I am sending to Acting Secretary Welles.

The Camacho government has been cooperative and Nazi efforts have been smashed when discovered and sentiment for cooperation with us and other Pan American countries to prevent penetration by foreign isms or guns on the Western Hemisphere has grown.

The negotiations about important pending questions have been and are being considered in Washington. I venture to hope that the earnest request of Mr. Padilla may be complied with.

I think of you and the difficult and important decisions you must make in this tragic era and pray that you may be given wisdom equal to your courage.

My wife joins me in love to you and Eleanor.

Affectionately,

Josephus Daniels

The President,  
The White House,  
Washington, D. C.

PS F ITT Mexico



EMBASSY OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Mexico, July 25, 1941.

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Upon my regular call on the Foreign Minister yesterday, Mr. Padilla said that shortly the President must prepare his message which he will deliver in person upon the assembling of Congress here on the first of September. These annual messages by the President are expected to deal with achievements of the year that is past and include recommendations to carry out the policies presented. This year it will deal not only with domestic concerns, but also international matters. As much has been printed about relations between Mexico and the United States, which have cooperated in Pan American solidarity and defense of the Western Hemisphere, the President is very desirous of being able to assure his people that agreements have been reached with reference to matters which have been under negotiation between the two countries for some months.

Mr. Padilla said it was important that President Avila Camacho should be in a position in his message to report concrete conclusions had been reached by the negotiators. I am conveying this to you, as I told him I would do, with the hope that the earnest desire for agreements may be realized. From time to time the papers have carried stories from Washington that progress was being made by the negotiators and that agreements would be shortly reached. I am not unaware of the difficulties of reaching just agreements that will be acceptable to both countries, but, in spite of the heavy burdens growing out of the war, it would have the best reaction here if in his message President Camacho should be able to assure Congress that at least some of the more important matters had been settled.

I am

The Honorable  
Sumner Welles,  
Department of State,  
Washington, D. C.

- 2 -

I am sure this will appeal to you. Please advise what assurance can be given the Foreign Minister in response to his earnest request. It is now only a short time - four weeks - before President Camacho will deliver his message to Congress.

With my high regard,

Sincerely yours,

(2)

JD:HH

Mexico Folder  
1-41

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

August 1, 1941

MEMORANDUM FOR

HON. SUMNER WELLES

To prepare reply.

F. D. R.

**Enclosures**

Letter from Hon. Josephus Daniels, Mexico, D.F.,  
7/25/41 to the President, enclosing copy of his  
letter of 7/25/41 to Under Secretary Welles,  
in re strengthening and undergirding the Good  
Neighbor Policy.

file  
personal

Mexico, September 8, 1941

Dear Franklin:

My wife was truly grieved when the news reached us of the death of your Mother. Both of us held her in a close place in our hearts and cherished a friendship, which was very dear to us. I can sympathize truly with you, for my own Mother died at the age of eighty-seven and I have never been able to recover the sense of my loss. I find myself often, when something concerns me very much, saying to myself "I must write Mother - it will interest her", only to recall poignantly that she is no longer with me to give love and wise counsel.

I am sure you have always felt that you could say of yourself:

"Happy he with such a Mother! faith in  
womankind  
Beats with his blood, and trust in all  
things high  
Comes easy to him; and tho' he trip and  
fall,  
He shall not bind his soul with clay"

I have no doubt her spirit will be with you and her wise counsel will be treasured and give you strength even though she is not at your side.

My wife joins in love and tender sympathy to all who loved your dear Mother.

Affectionately

Joseph Daniels

Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt,  
Hyde Park,  
New York, New York.

PSE Mexico Folder

*file personal*

OFFICE OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Mexico, September 12, 1941.

PERSONAL.

Dear Franklin:

I am very glad you permitted Collier to print your defense of your course in reforming the Supreme Court. The dead hand of precedent has been laid upon progress, not only by members of the Supreme Court of the United States, but by like judges in some of the States. My own State has not always been exempt. My first break with high judicial officers after I became an editor in Raleigh was when I vigorously criticized the majority members of the Supreme Court because they held that where the Constitution had two provisions, one requiring four months school and the other limiting the rate of taxation, the latter provision was held to be paramount, thus giving property rights precedence over just taxation for the education of the people. The result was to deny schools to the children. I predicted that the dissenting opinion of the court would one day prevail, and within ten years, after changes in the court, that very thing happened. If this interests you, the matter is briefly told on pages 323 and 324 of "Tar Heel Editor". If a practice of selecting corporation lawyers for Federal Court Judges should interest you, I relate an incident in the Cleveland administration that is illuminating that came under my observation. It is told on page 33 of "Editor in Politics". It is largely because of such reciprocity in recommendations that the Federal bench was too often packed with lawyers who saw only the side of property. For a long period no lawyer of liberal and humanitarian views, with a few exceptions, could aspire to appointment. Theodore Roosevelt gave us Holmes, Woodrow Wilson gave us Brandeis. It was Borah who forced Cardoza on Hoover. It is a world's wonder that reactionary Coolidge appointed Stone. I am sure "the Puritan in Babylon" would not have let his regard for a college mate have caused him to appoint Stone if he had imagined the present Chief Justice would become a liberal.

You,

The President,  
The White House,  
Washington, D. C.

You, of course, have observed how the reactionary columnists and editors have seized upon your defense of the Court fight to lambast you, stressing that in the present emergency you ought not to present the argument that justified removing the jam which prevented the carrying out of New Deal policies. They support you in national defense and are seeking at the same time to undermine your power to strengthen defense. Of course there are those who were against us in 1933-40 who are moved by patriotic purposes, but many who support your foreign policies are hoping and planning for such undermining as will make history repeat itself, to wit that, as after Wilson, the reactionaries will again obtain control of government. And we must not, even in this grave situation, be too confident that by the use of money and the promise of the moon they may not succeed. It would be a tragedy unspeakable if, taking advantage of their present course of standing by freedom of the seas, they were getting a strangle-hold as Penrose, Lodge, Brandagee and others obtained after the World War. The publication of your Supreme Court article shows that you are resolved not to lose the gains won over the opposition.

I expect to be in Washington about the 28th or 29th and am looking forward to seeing you. My wife has not been so well and I wish Worth to see her and give her such treatment as she may need. She joins in love to you and Eleanor.

Affectionately,

Joseph P. Kamp

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
DIVISION OF PROTOCOL

September 19, 1941

MEMORANDUM FOR GENERAL WATSON

I am returning herewith the telegram of condolence which Ambassador Daniels sent to the President, together with a letter dated September 11 from Mr. Daniels, in the belief that in view of the close association a more appropriate note could be sent from the White House than an official acknowledgment through the Department.

Mr. Daniels left Mexico for the United States on September 16, so I assume that he will be here within a few days.

With reference to the letter which Mr. Daniels addressed to the President, I am making an appropriate acknowledgment to the note which the Hungarian Minister addressed to Mr. Daniels, together with the card which was left upon Mr. Daniels by the former French Minister to Mexico.

  
George T. Summerlin

Enclosures:  
Original telegram and  
letter from Ambassador Josephus Daniels.

*File personal PSE Mexico Folder*

Division of  
PROTOCOL  
SEP 19 1941

Department of State

EMBASSY OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.  
Mexico, September 11, 1941.

PERSONAL.

Dear Franklin:

When the new Hungarian Minister, Mr. Georges de Ghika, called on me today he left the enclosed letter which I thought you would be glad to see.

I am also enclosing a card from the former French Minister and his wife.

The feeling of sympathy for you in your bereavement is general among the members of the Diplomatic Corps and others in Mexico.

With affectionate regards,

Sincerely yours,

*Joseph P. Kamp*

The President,  
The White House,  
Washington, D. C.

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable symbol above or preceding the address.

# WESTERN UNION

1201

SYMBOLS

- DL = Day Letter
- NT = Overnight Telegram
- LC = Deferred Cable
- NLT = Cable Night Letter
- Ship Radiogram

R. B. WHITE  
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER  
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

The filing time shown in the date line on telegrams and day letters is STANDARD TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is STANDARD TIME at point of destination.

SEP 8 AM 3 36

NB79 31 NL=MEXICOCITY 7  
HON FRANKLIN D ROOSEVELT=  
HYDE PARK NY=

*[Handwritten initials]*  
Division of  
PROTOCOL  
SEP 17 1941  
Department of State

MY WIFE JOINS IN LOVE AND DEEP SYMPATHY TO YOU AND ALL  
THE FAMILY YOU KNOW IN THE AFFECTIONATE ESTEEM WE HELD  
YOUR BELOVED MOTHER AND THAT WE SORROW WITH YOU=

Hon. & Mrs. JOSEPHUS DANIELS.

U. S. Embassy  
Mexico City, D. C.

FAST

DIRECT



# RCA



## RADIOGRAM

R.C.A. COMMUNICATIONS, INC.  
A RADIO CORPORATION OF AMERICA SERVICE

TO ALL THE WORLD — BETWEEN IMPORTANT U. S. CITIES — TO SHIPS AT SEA

RECEIVED AT 1112 CONNECTICUT AVE., WASHINGTON, D. C., AT 1941 SEP 20 PM 10 56 STANDARD TIME

WT RW MEXICO 227 MEXGOVT 19 2130

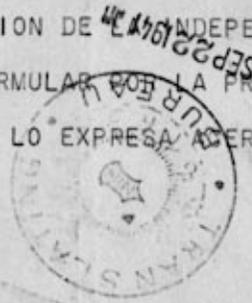
PSF III 241 2

EXCELNTISIMO SENOR FRANKLIN D ROOSEVELT

PRESIDENTE DE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS DE AMERICA

WASHINGTONDC

AGRADEZCO PROFUNDAMENTE A VUESTRA EXCELENCIA EL AMABLE MENSAJE DE FELICITACION QUE SE SIRVIO ENVIARME CON MOTIVO DE LA CELEBRACION DE INDEPENDENCIA DE MEXICO ASI COMO LOS VOTOS QUE TIENE A BIEN FORMULAR POR LA PROSPERIDAD DEL PUEBLO MEXICANO STOP COMO VUESTRA EXCELENCIA LO EXPRESA ACERTADAMENTE LAS RELACIONES QUE EXISTEN



474

Telephone: National 2600

Form 111FWN-TD 117

To secure prompt action on inquiries, this original RADIOGRAM should be presented at the office of R.C.A. COMMUNICATIONS, Inc. In telephone inquiries quote the number preceding the place of origin.

FAST



# RCA

DIRECT



## RADIOGRAM

R.C.A. COMMUNICATIONS, INC.  
A RADIO CORPORATION OF AMERICA SERVICE

TO ALL THE WORLD — BETWEEN IMPORTANT U. S. CITIES — TO SHIPS AT SEA

RECEIVED AT 1112 CONNECTICUT AVE., WASHINGTON, D. C., AT \_\_\_\_\_ STANDARD TIME  
WT RW 2/50

ENTRE NUESTRAS DOS NACIONES PONEN FELIZMENTE DE RELIEVE EN LAS ACTUALES  
CIRCUNSTANCIAS DEL MUNDO EL SINCERO DESEO DE COOPERACION QUE INSPIRA  
A MEXICO Y A LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS EN SU COMUN AFAN DE ROBUSTECER POR  
TODOS LOS MEDIOS POSIBLES LA SOLIDARIDAD DEMOCRATICA DE LAS AMERICAS  
EN DEFENSA DE LOS IDEALES

**Telephone: National 2600**

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# RCA

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## RADIOGRAM

R.C.A. COMMUNICATIONS, INC.  
A RADIO CORPORATION OF AMERICA SERVICE

TO ALL THE WORLD — BETWEEN IMPORTANT U. S. CITIES — TO SHIPS AT SEA

RECEIVED AT 1112 CONNECTICUT AVE., WASHINGTON, D. C., AT \_\_\_\_\_ STANDARD TIME

W1 RW 3/50

DE JUSTICIA Y DE LIBERTAD QUE CONSTITUYEN EL PATRIMONIO TUTELAR DE NUESTRAS  
REPUBLICAS STOP ME COMPLAZCO EN CORRESPONDER A LOS SENTIMIENTOS MANIFESTADOS  
POR VUESTRA EXCELENCIA AL REFERIRSE A LA VOLUNTAD DE ARMONIA Y DE ENTENDIMIENTO  
QUE CARACTERIZA AL GOBIERNO DE MEXICO EXPRESANDOLE POR MI PARTE QUE MI  
PAIS APRECIA DEBIDAMENTE

**Telephone: National 2600**

Form 111WN-TD 127

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AST



# RCA

DIRECT



## RADIOGRAM

R.C.A. COMMUNICATIONS, INC.

A RADIO CORPORATION OF AMERICA SERVICE

TO ALL THE WORLD — BETWEEN IMPORTANT U. S. CITIES — TO SHIPS AT SEA

RECEIVED AT 1112 CONNECTICUT AVE., WASHINGTON, D. C., AT \_\_\_\_\_ STANDARD TIME

WT RW 5/27

DE NUESTROS PAISES, HAGO, A MI VEZ LOS MEJORES VOTOS POR LA VENTURA  
PERSONAL DE VUESTRA EXCELENCIA Y POR LA GRANDEZA DEL PUEBLO DE LOS  
ESTADOS UNIDOS

MANUEL AVILA CAMACHO PRESIDENTE DE MEXICO

**Telephone: National 2600**

Form 112WN—TD 127

To secure prompt action on inquiries, this original RADIOGRAM should be presented at the office of R.C.A. COMMUNICATIONS, Inc. In telephone inquiries quote the number preceding the place of origin.

*Tr*

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

September 22, 1941



Respectfully referred to the Department of State for immediate translation.



SEP 22 1941

M. H. McINTYRE  
Secretary to the President

[TRANSLATION]

RCA  
RADIOGRAM RCA - 3

September 20, 1941 12:56 P.M.

WL RW MEXICO 227 MEXGOVT 19 2130

His Excellency  
Franklin D. Roosevelt,  
President of the  
United States of America,  
Washington, D. C.

I thank Your Excellency deeply for the kind message of felicitation which you were good enough to send me on the occasion of the celebration of the independence of Mexico, as well as the wishes which you were good enough to express for the prosperity of the Mexican people. As Your Excellency fitly expresses it, the relations existing between our two nations fortunately cause to stand out, amidst the present circumstances, the sincere desire for cooperation which inspires Mexico and the United States in their common eagerness to strengthen by all possible means the democratic solidarity of the Americas in defense of the ideals of justice and liberty which constitute the tutelary patrimony of our Republics. I take pleasure in replying to the sentiments expressed by Your Excellency in referring to the wish for harmony and understanding that characterizes the Government of Mexico, and I declare for my part that my country duly appreciates

PSF Mexico folder  
file  
Pers. no ans

appreciates the spirit of friendly cooperation which animates the American administration in the application of the good neighbor policy so wisely begun and maintained by Your Excellency. Feeling certain that this policy of cordial and reciprocal understanding will be the firmest basis for the development and well being of our countries, I in turn express best wishes for Your Excellency's personal welfare and for the greatness of the people of the United States.

Manuel Avila Camacho  
President of Mexico.

TR:JWP:JLW

PSF Mexico

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

October 30, 1941.

Dear Franklin:

It is with sincere regret that I am impelled by family reasons to tender my resignation as your Ambassador to Mexico to which diplomatic post you did me the honor to appoint me in March 1933. The physicians of my wife advise that her health will not justify her continuance in the responsible though agreeable duties which devolve upon the wife of the Ambassador to Mexico. And no one knows better than you that I cannot carry on without her.

It gives us both a sense of the deepest regret to sever the delightful relations with friends in the Mexican Government, colleagues in the diplomatic corps of which I am dean, members of our Embassy staff and many Mexican and other friends with whom our associations have been so pleasant that we will ever cherish them. During our stay in Mexico we have been the recipients of the most gracious hospitality.

When you did me the honor to nominate me to the post I am now relinquishing, I went to Mexico animated by a single purpose: to incarnate your policy of the Good

Neighbor. My constant aim has been to truly interpret the friendship of our country to our nearest southern neighbors. I have visited all parts of the republic as a Good Will Ambassador, never asking anything for any of my countrymen except what our country extends to Mexicans sojourning in the United States. I am glad to report to you that from the day of assuming the duties I have found cordial reciprocation of the sentiment of friendship expressed in your inaugural address.

In laying down the duties, I need not assure you of my appreciation for the opportunity of serving our country in this important post. I know also that I need not tell you of my happiness in having been a part of your administration which has been distinguished by its devotion to the common weal, and which has, in conjunction with the other twenty Pan-American republics, secured continental solidarity. I am happy to tell you that the relations between Mexico and the United States are on the most sincerely friendly basis in their history and that both are firmly united to prevent any infiltration of alien isms or forces on this hemisphere from any quarter.

In the great tasks that lie ahead, I will be

happy, with voice and pen and in any other way that opens, to give any aid in carrying out the great policies for which your administration has won world approval.

Affectionately yours,

Josephus Daniels

Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt,  
President of the United States,  
The White House,  
Washington, D. C.

October 31, 1941.

Dear Chief:

As you know, I have been worried for some time about your wife's health and hoping all the while that it would justify you both staying on in Mexico.

Nevertheless, it comes to me as a real shock that we have to face the situation and that the country will have to do without the services of its Ambassador to Mexico, who perhaps, more than anyone else, has exemplified the true spirit of the good neighbor in the foreign field.

That you have succeeded so completely is the testimony that in a position which, as we all know, was difficult when you first assumed it, our relations with our southern neighbor have, largely because of you, become relations of understanding and real friendship.

I know that you will miss your colleagues and friends in Mexico City and I think you can realize my own feelings in not having my old Chief as an intimate part of the Administration.

However, what must be, must be. I can only hope that your good wife's health will improve in her own home in Raleigh.

I think that it is right that you should make a short trip to Mexico City in order to take farewell of all your friends there, and to present my very warm personal regards to President Camacho and to his Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

- 2 -

I hope, therefore, that it will be agreeable if I do not accept your resignation until you have returned from a short visit to Mexico and completed such leave as may be due you.

With my affectionate regards to you both, I am

As ever yours,

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

Honorable Josephus Daniels,  
United States Ambassador to Mexico,  
Mexico City, Mexico.

(delivered by hand to the Ambassador at the Hay Adams)

Letter A  
Wm. President  
about J.D.



Oct. 31. 1941  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

Dear General:-

This will be presented by  
Mr. Porter McKee, the Washington  
correspondent of The Raleigh News and  
Observer

I am anxious to have some photo-  
stat copies of my letter and of  
the President's answer and will  
appreciate your courtesy.

I wish to take a photostat copy  
with me to Raleigh at 1:30  
today.

With thanks for your unnumbered  
courtesy.

Faithfully

Joseph P. Daniels

Gen. E. M. Watson



DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

Dear Steve:-

Mr. Bursley of the State  
Department met photo-stat  
my letter to the President, in  
cluding my signature. This  
met introduces him and he  
met return it this afternoon -  
I met thank you sincerely - met  
see you on my return,

Sincerely,  
Joseph Daniels

Given to  
Mr. Bursley  
at 3:15 P. M.  
aw.

PSE Mexico Folder  
1-41

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

November 21, 1941.

MEMORANDUM FOR

THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE

The enclosures were brought to me by Ambassador Daniels the other day and, as the Ambassador says, the Mexican Government is really concerned by the delay in the oil matter.

I suppose this requires an answer. Will you be good enough to prepare one for me?

I do hope we can hurry it up.

F. D. R.

Letter to the President from President Camacho dated Nov. 7, 1941 with translation.

Box 76  
Pres. Sec. file

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

November 7, 1941.

MEMORANDUM FOR

ADMIRAL STARK

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND  
RETURN FOR MY FILES.

F. D. R.

Many thanks -  
JFR

AIR MAIL.

PSF: Mexico Folder  
1-41



EMBASSY OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
Mexico, November 4, 1941.

Dear Franklin:

Recalling our conversation touching on Magdalena Bay, when I reached here I asked Commander Andrew Crinkley, Assistant Naval Attaché and Assistant Naval Attaché for Air, who had recently visited the Magdalena Bay area, to give me some information about it. He has made a study of it and taken some photographs. I am enclosing you his letter with the photographs, knowing that they will interest you.

I hope to see you next week. People here received me very cordially and the President was particularly grateful for your cordial message.

My love to you and to Eleanor.

Affectionately,

*Joseph P. Daniels*

The Honorable  
Franklin D. Roosevelt,  
The White House,  
Washington, D. C.

AMERICAN EMBASSY  
OFFICE OF THE NAVAL ATTACHE  
MEXICO CITY, MEXICO

~~Confidential~~

November 4, 1941.

The Honorable,  
Ambassador Josephus Daniels,  
American Embassy,  
México, D. F.

Franklin D. Roosevelt Library

DECLASSIFIED

DOD DIR 5200.9 (9/27/58)

Date- 5/27/67

Signature- *[Handwritten Signature]*

Sir:

I have the honor to report the following observations and opinions upon an inspection of the Mexican Naval Base in the Magdalena Bay area:

On 2 October 1941 the Naval Attaché for Air of the American Embassy (Mexico), flew to Magdalena Bay, B.C., for the purpose of observing the Mexican Naval development in that vicinity.

Nothing was evident of note, or new construction in Magdalena Bay, and the visit was directed to the Mexican Naval Base on Isla Margarita, which lies between Magdalena Bay and the connecting bay, Almejas Bay.

A landing was made at the Naval airport. This airport, one mile east of the Naval Base, has one very long, crushed, packed oyster-shell runway, and another similar cross runway nearing completion. Transport planes and fighting planes could use the field very well. There is not a hangar or other facilities at the airport.

A Mexican Naval officer met the U. S. Navy party at the airport with an automobile. The visiting party was received at the Administration Building by the Commandant, Commodore Mario Rodriguez and his officers. After a short conversation, an invitation was extended to inspect the Base.

DECLASSIFIED

DOD DIR. 5200.9 (9/27/58)

The Ambassador

-2-

Date 5/27/69  
November 4, 1941~~Confidential~~

Signature- JWD

Houses for about 400 people have been built at the Base. A pier, to receive ships, of destroyer class, has been built. A plant for distilling fresh water was built, but has not operated, and the large steel tank is being filled with fresh water from the one sole well on the island. This well is about 5 miles west of the Base. At present, water is transported in drums aboard a Ford truck. Iron pipe has been received to connect the well and the Naval Base.

Two Mexican naval ships were anchored off the Base. One of a small cruiser type and a coast guard cutter. The captain of the cruiser stated that the Bay afforded excellent anchorage and unlimited deep water for arriving and departing. This is confirmed by the photographs taken upon leaving the airport.

The big problem at the Bay is fresh water, as rain scarcely ever falls; once a year, is unusual. Consequently, nothing eatable grows on the Island and the sole source of fresh water is the one shallow well.

The following items of interest were noted at the Naval Base, as of possible use by the U. S. Navy, in the event such a situation should develop:

A landing field is available, sufficient for an aircraft carrier group. The beach is suitable for seaplane operation and ramps could be quickly built to take seaplanes out of the water. The Bay affords good anchorage for seaplanes.

Three large tanks are available for fuel oil or gasoline, and one large tank available for fresh water. A distilling plant has been provided, and although out of order due to broken parts, it could be placed in operating condition.

A machine shop is available. A radio station is also available with a reasonable amount of radio apparatus. An Administration Building and several houses suitable for officer's quarters, and many houses suitable for laborers are available.

Although it was not possible to make an accurate estimate of the anchorage for ships, the water appeared to be sufficient in depth and free from obstacles to accommodate the U. S. Fleet. Six photographs of the Naval Base and vicinity accompany this letter.

find under: Mexico, B.C. Isla Margarita Naval Base

November 4, 1941

~~Confidential~~

A strategic summary of Magdalena Bay is contained in the Monograph on México, 1940, ONI 58. From this summary it is apparent that Almejas Bay could be protected from enemy submarines by a submarine net across the narrow channel connecting Magdalena Bay and Almejas Bay.

The Naval Base is equipped with a light and power system from a Diesel power plant. It was inoperative due to a broken part, which had been shipped to Mexico City for repair. The Base is also equipped with a water system. The Commandant's home had a modern bathroom with all conveniences.

The Commandant stated that his principal difficulty in enlarging the Base was the lack of money. He had an extensive building program but was retarded by the shortage of material and funds with which to acquire material.

Respectfully,

*A. Crinkley*

A. Crinkley,  
Commander, U.S.N.,  
Assistant Naval Attaché &  
Assistant Naval Attaché for Air.

Franklin D. Roosevelt Library

DECLASSIFIED

5200.9 (9/27/58)

Date-

*5/27/69*

Signature-

*J. W. [unclear]*

PSE Mexico Folder 1-42

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
THE SECRETARY

May 30, 1942

MEXICAN DECLARATION OF WAR

Mr. Finley telephoned from Mexico City at 5:45 this afternoon stating that at 2:45 (4:45 Washington time) the Mexican Senate voted unanimously in favor of a declaration of war against the Axis powers. The Senate then recessed and will meet later this afternoon to vote on a decree suspending certain of the constitutional guarantees.

Mr. Finley said that according to the best information he can secure the declaration of war will not become official until published in the Diario Oficial which cannot be done until Monday. It is, however, possible that in a broadcast to the nation tomorrow the President will proclaim the declaration of war.

The Embassy will follow closely and will telephone the Watch Officer any developments.

George H. Winters

RA:GHW:MG:SS

*S/Finley*

x

?

May 30, 1942

HIS EXCELLENCY

GENERAL MANUEL AVILA CAMACHO,  
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED MEXICAN STATES,  
MEXICO, D.F., (MEXICO)

I have been informed that the United Mexican States has made formal declaration of war on Germany, Italy, and Japan, thereby taking up a battle position alongside other freedom-loving nations which have been the subject of criminal aggression by these enemies of human liberties. Mexico, too, became the victim of unprovoked attack and Mexico has, in characteristically resolute and virile fashion, answered this challenge to its dignity and liberty. Once again the Axis tyrants have woefully erred in their appraisal of the temper of a free nation.

The people of the United States share with me the honor of welcoming Mexico to that community of nations united in fighting for the preservation of freedom and democracy. At the same time, I extend to you on their behalf their deepest sympathy to the families of your countrymen who have already given their lives for our

GENERAL  
HIS EXCELLENCY

x

-2-

common cause. By our victory and the use we make of it  
we shall consecrate the memory of their supreme sacrifice.

I take this opportunity to send you my warm personal  
regards and my appreciation of your many and valuable con-  
tributions to our common cause.

Franklin D. Roosevelt

RA:RMH:PWB:GMB  
PA/LD:CW

71/

file personal

PSE  
Mexico folder  
1-42

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

October 5, 1942

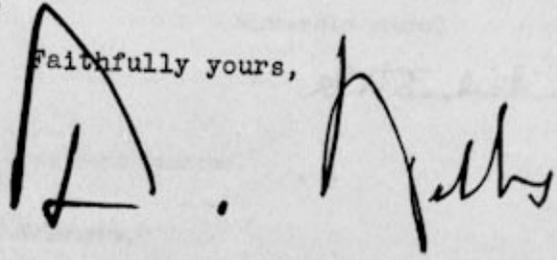
My dear Mr. President:

The letter addressed to you by the President of Mexico transmitted to me with your memorandum of September 30 requires no reply inasmuch as this communication is a reply by President Avila Camacho to your letter to him of September 10.

I am consequently returning the papers sent to me with your memorandum of September 30 herewith for your files.

Believe me

Faithfully yours,



Enc.

The President,  
The White House.

PSF Mexico

JOINT MEXICAN-UNITED STATES  
DEFENSE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

September 22, 1942.

My dear Mr. McIntyre:

When returning from a recent official visit to Mexico City, I was entrusted by President Camacho with the delivery of the enclosed letter to President Roosevelt. An English text is also enclosed.

President Camacho also sent by me a Mexican machine gun as a gift to President Roosevelt. The Mexicans take considerable pride in this gun because it is of Mexican design and manufacture and has proven itself an effective weapon. As per your telephone suggestion, I shall hold this gun until the return of the President and his instructions for its disposition.

Sincerely yours,

*S. D. Embick*

Encl.

Ltr. fr. President Camacho.

Mr. Marvin H. McIntyre,

The White House.



Mexico, D. F.  
September 17, 1942

His Excellency Franklin D. Roosevelt,  
President of the United States of America,  
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. President:

Through the courtesy of Lieutenant General Stanley D. Embick, I was pleased to receive your kind letter of September 10th, and the cordial congratulatory message which you were good enough to send on the occasion of the celebration of Mexican Independence reached me yesterday.

As was foreseen, in view of the close relationship which now exists between our peoples at war, the visit of the members of the Joint Mexican-United States Defense Commission has served to strengthen the bonds of solidarity, affection and understanding which unite the commanders and officers of our two armies.

It has been a real pleasure to me to know and to deal with Lieutenant General Embick as well as Vice Admiral Johnson and their assistants, and, as I expressed when I inaugurated the efforts of the Commission in this Capital during the meeting which took place this afternoon, I am sure that their efforts, oriented by a sense of mutual understanding and of real cooperation, will be extremely useful in coordinating the military efforts of Mexico and the United States of America.

The fact that the visit of these distinguished representatives of the armed forces of the United States has coincided with our national holiday, has surely afforded them an opportunity to observe the enthusiasm with which our people have dedicated themselves to defending the honor of the country and to fighting for the liberty of our hemisphere. In this struggle, it affords us deep satisfaction to be side by side with that great democracy, which finds in you an interpreter so genuine and a President of such patriotic and human vision.

Very grateful for your expressions of congratulation for my country, I, in turn, offer a fervent wish for the triumph of our common cause, and with deep personal regards, I am

Very sincerely,

M. AVILA CAMACHO

*Correspondencia Particular  
del Presidente de los  
Estados Unidos Mexicanos*

PSF III 111111

México, D.F., septiembre 17 de 1942.

Excelentísimo Señor Franklin D. Roosevelt,  
Presidente de los Estados Unidos de América,  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Muy estimado Señor Presidente:

Por el atento conducto del señor Teniente General Stanley D. Embick tuve el gusto de recibir su amable carta del 10 del actual y ayer me fué trasmitido el cordial mensaje de felicitación que se sirvió usted dirigirme con motivo de la celebración de la Independencia de México.

Como era de preverse, dada la estrecha relación de nuestros pueblos en guerra, la visita de los miembros de la Comisión México-Norteamericana de Defensa Conjunta ha venido a robustecer los vínculos de solidaridad, de afecto y de comprensión que unen a los jefes y a los oficiales de nuestros dos Ejércitos.

He tenido verdadero placer en conocer y tratar tanto al Teniente General Embick como al Vicealmirante Johnson y a sus demás colaboradores y, según expresé al inaugurar los trabajos de la Comisión en esta capital, durante la sesión que efectuó hoy por la tarde, estoy seguro de que sus actividades -orientadas dentro de un sentido de recíproco aprecio y de real cooperación- serán en extremo útiles para coordinar los esfuerzos militares de México y de los Estados Unidos de América.

El hecho de que el viaje de estos distinguidos representantes de las armas norteamericanas haya coincidido con nuestra fiesta nacional les habrá permitido advertir el entusiasmo con que toda la población se ha unificado para defender el honor del país y luchar por la libertad de nues-

*mal*

*Correspondencia Particular  
del Presidente de los  
Estados Unidos Mexicanos*

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tro Hemisferio, en una contienda en que nos inspira viva satisfacción el estar al lado de esa gran democracia que halla en usted un intérprete tan genuino y un Presidente de visión tan patriótica y tan humana.

Muy reconocido por sus palabras de congratulación para mi país, hago a mi vez los mejores votos por el triunfo de la causa común que hemos abrazado y, con mis sentimientos de honda estimación personal, me repito de usted muy sinceramente,

*M. C. C. C. C.*

*Correspondencia Particular  
del Presidente de los  
Estados Unidos Mexicanos*

Excelentísimo Señor  
Franklin D. Roosevelt,  
Presidente de los Estados Unidos de Norteamérica,  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

P. M. A. C.