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Mexico

1943

CONTINUED

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DIVISION OF THE AMERICAN REPUBLICS

August 14, 1943.

IMPORTANT

The frank nature of the underlying despatch on "Zoot Suit" Disturbances at Los Angeles makes it necessary to exercise the greatest of care in its distribution. The recipients of copies are therefore requested to limit circulation to interested policy forming officials of this Government.

J. F. McGurk

WGM:JLD

Copy #2

Ciudad Juárez, México, August 3, 1943.

AIR MAIL

~~STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL~~

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

Zoot Suit Disturbances at Los Angeles, California.

I have the honor to report that in compliance with the Department's airgram no. A-33, 3 p.m., of July 7, 1943, directing me to proceed to Los Angeles, California as soon as practicable to confer with state and municipal authorities, and to discreetly interview Mexican consular officers in that city regarding the recent zoot suit disturbances, I arrived in Los Angeles Monday evening, July 12, 1943, and remained there until the evening of July 18, 1943.

Believing that he would be of material assistance, because he is well informed on the conditions in Southern California, and particularly the reaction to the zoot suit problem on the Mexican side of the California border, I requested Consul Gerald A. MOKMA of Tijuana, Baja California, to meet me in Los Angeles to assist in attempting to weed out information in an effort to give the Department as far as possible a correct and comprehensive report of the causes leading up to the zoot suit disturbances, its reaction among Latin Americans, particularly Mexican citizens, and recommendations looking toward amelioration as well as measures to prevent a repetition thereof. Mr. Mokma joined me in Los Angeles on July 14, 1943.

Prior to my departure from El Paso I made arrangements to contact several prominent officials of my personal acquaintance, and also discreetly ascertained the names of others who I felt would be in a position to assist me in obtaining the correct information. The following persons were interviewed: 1) Mr. Eugene W. BIRCAILUZ, Sheriff of the County of Los Angeles who is, by the way, the most prominent and outstanding public official in the City of Los Angeles and its environs. He has been elected to office consecutively for a number of years, and has Latin blood in his veins. He represents a community of approximately 3,000,000 people. 2) The Honorable Fletcher BOWRON, Mayor of the City of Los Angeles, and formerly Justice of the Superior Court of California. 3) Mr. Clem HARRELL,

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HARRELL, Chief of Police of the City of Los Angeles. 4) Mr. Edward DURAN Ayers, Chief of the Bureau of Foreign Relations of the Sheriff's Office. This Bureau was established some years ago by Sheriff Biscailuz with a view to bringing about a better understanding and feeling between Latins and Anglos in Los Angeles County. 5) Mr. Albert DELGUERCIO, District Director of the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service for the Southern District of California. 6) Admiral David W. BAGLEY, Commandant of the Eleventh Naval District, San Diego, California. 7) Commander D. P. HASTINGS, Chief of Naval Intelligence, Los Angeles. 8) Commander Dwight DOUGLAS, District Intelligence Officer, Eleventh Naval District, San Diego, California. 9) Lieutenant Colonel Richard RUDISILL, Chief, Military Intelligence Division, Los Angeles. 10) Mr. Dick HOOD, Chief of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Los Angeles. 11) Inspector William PENPRASE, Chief, Bureau of Investigation, Sheriff's Office. 12) Mr. Harry MILLER, in charge of the special edition department of the Los Angeles Times, who is a close friend of mine and one in whom I have confidence. 13) The Honorable Adolfo de la HUERTA, Inspector General of Mexican Consulates in the United States and former President of the Mexican Republic. 14) Mr. Alfredo CALLES, Mexican Consul at Los Angeles. 15) Mr. Ernesto ROMERO, Mexican Vice Consul at Los Angeles. 16) Mr. Adolfo de la HUERTA, Jr., Mexican Vice Consul at Los Angeles. 17) General Juan Felipe RICO, Commanding Mexican forces in Lower California. 18) The Right Reverend Monsignor Thomas J. O'DWYER, Director of Catholic Churches, Los Angeles. 19) Mr. Maurice HAAZAN, representative of the Coordinator's Office in Los Angeles. 20) Mr. TORRES, head of the Mexican Chamber of Commerce at Los Angeles, and many others.

Prior to the preparation of this report, I was provided with summaries of reports made by the Naval Intelligence Office for the Eleventh District, and was verbally given statements as to the conclusions formed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Military Intelligence Office.

My first interview, upon arriving at Los Angeles, was with the Mexican consular officers mentioned above. I thought that it would be more appropriate to get their views by making a social call using as an excuse for my presence in the City of Los Angeles the launching of the frigate U.S.S. City of El Paso on July 18, 1943. I intimated that I had arrived ahead of the official delegation for the purpose of taking a few days' rest, and also to visit the border offices at Tijuana and Mexicali. I found Sr. de la Huerta and Sr. Calles ready and willing to discuss what they termed the deplorable zoot suit disturbances, but they were reluctant to commit themselves as to what they had really reported to their government. It was obvious that they held the belief that the zoot suit incidents resulted from social and local economic conditions arising from the failure of state and county facilities for juvenile correction to keep pace with the increase in population, and that this afforded an opportunity for Axis propagandists or Fifth Columnists to take advantage of loosely organized gangs in Los Angeles County, composed of a few negroes and a large majority of Latin American children whose fathers and mothers were inferior to them in education, and desired to better their living conditions. Sr. de la Huerta

repeatedly

sanction the criminal attitude of these gangs he felt that the Anglo-Americans and, for that matter, the authorities were largely responsible for their getting out of hand, and for the conditions in which they lived. He invariably referred to the inadequate recreational and trade school facilities. He mentioned the need of stopping hoodlumism, not necessarily by force, but by taking these boys and girls out of their present surroundings and putting them into lucrative work or trade schools along with instructors who could change their views on life. Sr. de la Huerta followed more or less the usual line of discussion that most members of the consular service use in connection with racial discrimination against Latins by Anglo-Americans. He evasively referred to the often-mentioned belief of Mexican consular officers that Mexican children are not given similar rights to education as Anglos, and that as a result there has been built up a generation of Mexicans who have an inferiority complex, because of a denial of full rights and, therefore, in later years become a social, health, and economical problem to the communities in which they may happen to live, as well as to the country in general. He placed part of the blame for this condition on people who might be called exploiters who are after cheap labor. He stated that probably the worst drawback to the whole situation is the segregation of Mexican children from the Anglo children in the elementary schools by the establishment of special schools in Mexican districts, thus leaving the impression that the Anglo children were superior, and that their personal contact with the Mexican children might cause contamination mentally and physically. I am not quoting him verbatim, but I inferred as much from the evasive remarks that he made. He did not seem to think that the Communist groups had had any serious part in the zoot suit problem, although he admitted that they were active. I felt that Sr. de la Huerta was somewhat reluctant to discuss openly and above-board his personal views, because he repeatedly stated that his Foreign Office was very touchy about consular officers making any statements during war time. I also felt that he did not approve of the uncooperative spirit exhibited by the two Mexican Consuls of the Los Angeles Mexican Consulate, namely, Sr. Calles and Sr. Manuel AGUILAR, in their reluctance to assist state and municipal officials in clearing up the zoot suit situation.

From nearly every source, when the zoot suit question was mentioned to officials who had participated in the investigations, I received the impression that Mexican consular officers had not shown a willing disposition to cooperate with police authorities, but to the contrary were prone to seize the slightest pretext to charge racial discrimination. Investigations indicated that the Mexican consular officers disregarded nationality. Out of the 200 odd zoot suiters who were apprehended in the disturbances NOT ONE OF THEM WAS A MEXICAN CITIZEN. They were born in California, but the Mexican Consulate at Los Angeles seems to have assumed that they possessed dual nationality and

to make the investigations. I was told by one member of the consular staff (Vice Consul Ernesto Romero) that the parents of these hoodlums invariably kept in contact with the Consulate requesting assistance on the grounds that they having been born in México or being citizens of México, their children were entitled to the protection of the Mexican Consulate as persons possessing dual nationality. In substantiation of this report, I quote a memorandum prepared for me by Consul Mokma at Tijuana on an interview he had with Consul Aguilar as he passed through Tijuana en route to Ensenada the day before Consul Mokma joined me at Los Angeles.

> "Consul Aguilar had occasion to call at my office in Tijuana prior to my proceeding to Los Angeles in compliance with the Department's instructions. During the course of our conversation he brought up the subject of the zoot suit disturbances with which he stated he was completely "fed up" and that he had found it desirable to proceed to Ensenada for several days' rest. Aguilar stated that he was satisfied that in Los Angeles there were many cases in which there was a display of anti-Mexican feeling or of racial discrimination. With regard to the zoot suiters, however, he blamed the Los Angeles newspapers particularly for the unfortunate publicity which the incidents achieved. He claimed that the newspapers had accepted and published anonymous reports, and that these reports were of such a nature that sailors and soldiers became aroused and precipitated further incidents. In extenuation of his conduct on these matters he stated that he was unable to resist the demands of the parents of the youths involved for assistance and he added that the question of dual nationality was always arising to plague him, but when the Mexican parents of youths involved came to him they insisted that they as Mexican citizens had a right to call upon their Consul for assistance when their American-born children were in trouble. Aguilar professed further to have frequently and strongly recommended to his government that the question of dual nationality should be abolished entirely by appropriate legislation to that effect."

In the interview with Mr. de la Huerta he gave me assurances that the zoot suit problem was a thing of the past so far as he was concerned, and that the Consuls under his jurisdiction had been instructed to do everything

possible

possible to convince Mexicans and people of Mexican origin residing in the area where the disturbances occurred, that any acts against the naval and military officers, and for that matter anyone, were dangerous to the cause of the Allies, and were not only unpatriotic towards the United States but México as well. He inferred that various Mexican societies, of which there are several in Los Angeles, were now holding patriotic meetings in recreational centers with a view to changing the minds of these criminally inclined youngsters who may have been led astray through subversive propaganda. I was particularly amused at Mr. de la Huerta continually referring to his belief that Nazi propaganda was very active in that section, and that he attributed the rebellious attitude of the zoot suiters to some extent to that kind of propaganda. Reports made by officials of our investigative agencies fail to mention any Nazi activity, but express the belief that the Communist groups were, unquestionably, involved, and through their demands for hearings and missionary work among the local swains of the east side of Los Angeles, many have warped their minds to the extent that they felt they were being persecuted, and were the heroes of the times.

Acting on the assumption that the Mexican consular officers had not provided their Foreign Office with full facts in connection with this affair, because of the knowledge that some members of the Mexican Consular Service have for sometime been inclined to agitate racial discrimination, and to not draw the line between class distinction and racial discrimination, I felt that it might be a good idea if Mr. de la Huerta could be provided with further material in showing that American officials were really not prejudiced against Mexican nationals, and were seeking the cooperation of the Mexican consular officers in an effort to ameliorate any unpleasant incidents that may arise or may have arisen in Los Angeles. I suggested to Mr. de la Huerta that we call upon Sheriff Biscailuz the following day. I felt that this official was probably the outstanding American civil authority in Los Angeles County, because of his popularity and having been elected eleven times to office where the vote is distributed among a population of 3,000,000 people. My idea, which I believe that Mr. de la Huerta understood, was to give him sufficient material to again report to his Foreign Office that American officials were cooperating with the Mexican Consular Service, and that there was every intention on the part of American civil officials to be fair in the enforcement of the civil laws regardless of race, creed, or color. Sr. de la Huerta gladly accepted my offer to call upon Sheriff Biscailuz the following day. He had an idea of what I was attempting to accomplish, and handed me a copy of a report that he had made to the Mexican Foreign Office, which was released for publication on June 27, 1943, wherein he lauded the military and naval authorities and the state authorities, but failed to mention the local authorities of Los Angeles. (His statement is attached hereto as Exhibit No. 1.)

I

I then proceeded to meet and confer confidentially with Sheriff Biscailuz who, being my friend, I felt I could depend upon to carry out fully the suggestions of having this meeting in which he was to grant assurances to Sr. de la Huerta, in the presence of representatives of the press of his desire to eliminate any racial discrimination if it existed, and to faithfully give all protection under the law to not only the citizens of México, but American citizens of Latin origin. I felt that Biscailuz was the outstanding person for this job, because of his Basque heritage, and because of the Latin blood in his veins he was in a position to not only show that Latins had equal advantages in California, but that they had a man sympathetic to their minority, if it may be called such. The Department is well aware that the City of Los Angeles has approximately 350,000 persons of Mexican origin within its municipal limits. I felt that if this idea was successful, it could be used advantageously by Licenciado Ezequiel PADILLA in correcting any erroneous press publicity that had been given this disturbance, and which his political enemies had taken advantage of in criticizing the Good Neighbor Policy being followed by the President and his Minister for Foreign Affairs. In other words, I felt it would give Mr. Padilla sufficient material to offset criticism in México. Mr. de la Huerta, whom I have known for a number of years, and who himself had plenty of experience in politics when he was President of the Republic of México, realized the importance of supporting his Chief, who heretofore, in my opinion, appears to have not had the support of his consular officers in the United States in giving him material on the favorable side of the Good Neighbor Policy as far as racial discrimination or class distinction is concerned.

At 10 o'clock a.m., accompanied by Consul Gerald A. Lokma of Tijuana, Sr. Adolfo de la Huerta, Inspector General of Mexican Consulates in Los Angeles, and his son, Adolfo de la Huerta, Jr., who acts as secretary to his father, we called by appointment upon Sheriff Eugene W. Biscailuz, who received us very warmly in his private office in the Hall of Justice. During this meeting we exchanged greetings, and I took advantage of the opportunity to mention that conditions along the Mexican border were better than they have ever been at any time in the history of our relations with México. I pointed out that Mexican and American troops were fraternizing and intermingling in friendship all along the border. Sheriff Biscailuz, in response to my remarks and those of Sr. Adolfo de la Huerta, made the following statement, which he had previously prepared and handed to the press:

> "I fully approve the national Good Neighbor Policy and Governor Warren's recent plea for better understanding between citizens of the United States and of México.
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> "Our County of Los Angeles is perhaps the most populous Spanish-speaking section in the country, and many of our people and public officials, including myself, have Latin-American blood in our veins. I fully

believe

believe that Spanish-speaking peoples have contributed much to the welfare of our state and nation, and many are even now fighting and dying for the principles their forefathers believed in.

"There can be no doubt but that the interests of the Republic of México and of the United States, especially in California, will become more and more closely joined in commerce, industry, agriculture and cultural relations. This is of definite benefit to both Republics, and for that reason, if for no other, may be the target for injury and sabotage on the part of Fifth Columnists or malicious persons.

"As a peace officer, I know it will be the policy of my department to enforce our laws fairly and without prejudice or the singling out of racial groups. Nothing will be tolerated which will endanger the goodwill and understanding between our countries which we are all working to build up and make lasting."

Sr. de la Huerta asked me to translate into English the following statement:

"The entire population of México, and the Mexican nationals in California, are on the alert in this fight for democracy, and they will stand together with the people of the United States."

The leading newspapers of Los Angeles published prominently in its editions of July 15, 1943 and July 16, 1943, our courtesy call upon Sheriff Biscailuz. Clippings from the following newspapers are transmitted herewith as exhibit no. 2:

The Los Angeles Evening Herald and Express;
The Los Angeles Daily News;
The Los Angeles Examiner;
The Los Angeles Times; and the
Mexican newspaper La Opinion.

While I do not know, I sincerely hope that the reaction was favorable in México. I heard unofficially that the story in La Opinion was given publicity in the Mexican newspapers, and that the tone was very favorable. At least I could see no harm in making this Good Neighbor medicine.

I called on Mayor Bowron, who is a former Superior Court Judge of California, and for whose views I have considerable respect. Mayor Bowron very kindly received me, and expressed more or less the following views: He claimed that in his opinion Communistic influence had been very active in the situation and, unfortunately, the Los Angeles newspapers had taken advantage of the opportunity to increase sales by making a mole hill into a mountain in stressing unimportant points. In other words, completely yellow-paging and making an international affair out of a local incident that

might

might occur anywhere, particularly in Los Angeles where this local criminal element has existed for some years and, unfortunately, got out of hand because of a shortage of 500 men on the police force. Through the newspapers the public had received an erroneous impression of the actual conditions involved. He went on to state that these hoodlums had been ganging up fighting among one another and gate crashing dances in their communities for a number of years, and that when the sailors, with plenty of money in their pockets and seeking thrills and girl associates, invaded their domain and enticed their lady loves away, the local swains resented it and fights ensued, which from lack of police patrol, got out of hand and increased in proportion as sailors and soldiers went to the aid of their buddies. As to the Communistic side of it, he felt that Josephine Bright and the reluctance of the Mexican consular officers to offer any real assistance to the police force or to the sheriff's department, added fire to the coals. He expressed the view that the Communists took advantage of an opportunity to put into the minds of these young hoodlums, and for that matter their parents, that they were being terribly persecuted and abused, thus conveying the idea to the hoodlums that they were the real heroes of the day. He felt that the rebellious attitude of these youngsters could be attributed to some extent to those causes. While Mayor Bowron was very discreet in his statements, I got the impression that he was disappointed, if not somewhat disgusted, with the attitude of the Mexican consular officers, particularly Consul Aguilar who, although continually charging the police with inefficiency and bringing up the question of underprivileged people not being properly cared for by the California authorities, could not offer any helpful suggestions, and when called upon from time to time by both the sheriff and the chief of police to point out any case where Mexican citizens were involved, he very evasively replied that he had not as yet been able to prepare his report, and that at present could not say whether Mexican citizens had been members of any of the gangs participating in the disturbances. Mayor Bowron stated that he was having a complete report prepared on the zoot suit situation, and that he intended to furnish all government agencies interested with a copy thereof. A copy of the mayor's report, including investigations made by the police department, and the Grand Jury's findings are attached hereto as exhibit no. 2-1/2. THE REPORTS ARE VERY IMPORTANT, AND IT IS SUGGESTED THAT THEY BE STUDIED CLOSELY.

Prior to my call upon Chief of Police Clem Harrell, of Los Angeles, Consul Mokma had interviewed this official. Quoted below are the remarks made by Chief Harrell to Consul Mokma.

> "Chief Harrell stated that so far as he was able to learn there was no racial discrimination involved whatsoever, that the youths involved were hoodlums, members of gangs who over a period of years had caused trouble, largely among themselves. Others became involved during recent months, because with the large number of sailors and soldiers in Los Angeles many of the latter sought out Mexican girls who were attracted by the ready money most of them had in their pockets. The preference of the girls

irritated

irritated their former swains and occasionally a sailor or a soldier was involved in a fight or was mishandled by a gang. The newspapers presented the picture in such a way as to give the public the impression that the police were unable to cope with the situation and the sailors, particularly, felt that they were coming to the aid of the police in breaking up the gangs of zoot suiters.

"Chief Harrell stated that the police force was sadly undermanned, because of the large numbers that had been inducted into the armed forces and other usual methods by which the police force was depleted, such as resignations, sickness, and deaths and the inability to recruit adequate personnel at this time. He claimed, however, that the police force had never mistreated youths of Mexican origin or any of the zoot suiters, for that matter, of which many were of the colored race and some of other racial groups. Chief Harrell felt that the home background of the youths in question was largely responsible for the difficulties which had been experienced. In the cases of those of Mexican origin, he stated that the parents as a rule were unable to speak English, that because they were often called upon to interpret for their parents and because they were given privileges in this country which had never been available to their parents, the majority of the youths felt that they were superior to their parents and, therefore, no longer amenable to such discipline as they might wish to carry out with regard to their children. Since their standard of living was low and little in the way of recreational facilities was provided for them, the formation of gangs was the natural consequence. To endeavor to correct the situation, however, a committee had been formed and when one of the youths is involved in trouble approaches are made to the parents, to the priest, to the school teacher, and to any others who may be in a position to have some influence over him. Considerable success along these lines has already been accomplished.

"Chief Harrell stated that so far as his records showed there were no Mexicans involved in the disturbances. He stated further that the Mexican Consul, although he had stated that he had numerous cases in which Mexican citizens were involved, had been unable to submit any case to prove his contentions. In this connection he also stated confidentially that the Mexican Consul had shown little disposition to cooperate

with

with the authorities but that, on the contrary, he was prone to seize the slightest pretext as a basis of complaint charging racial discrimination.

"Chief Harrell added also that the unfortunate publicity given to the disturbances was entirely out of proportion to their seriousness and contributed very largely, in his opinion, to the extension thereof."

After calling on Mayor Bowron, accompanied by Consul Lokma, I also paid my respects to Chief of Police Harrell, who confirmed in substance the report he made to Consul Lokma. It will be noted that again Mexican Consul Aguilar, who appears to have been the Mexican official prominent in the zoot suit situation, is charged with failure to co-operate with the authorities, and prone to seize the slightest pretext as a basis to place charges of racial discrimination. As I stated before in this report, I found this opinion to exist not only in the sheriff's department and the police department, but also in our federal investigative agencies such as Military Intelligence Division, Naval Intelligence, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, as well as the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service.

In my discussion of this problem with Sheriff Biscailuz, and the members of his staff, particularly Captain Edward Duran Ayers, Chief of the Bureau of Foreign Relations of the Sheriff's Office, and Inspector William Penprase, Chief of the Bureau of Investigations, Sheriff's Office, it was their unanimous opinion that there were no cases reported involving Mexican citizens.

The sheriff's department at Los Angeles has for several years been doing a great deal of social work among the underprivileged Mexican element in the so-called east end of Los Angeles. Sheriff Biscailuz, up until the beginning of the war, personally supported a boys' camp for underprivileged youngsters, 98 percent of whom were of Mexican origin, in order to give them outings in the mountains and an opportunity to hear lectures on moral issues, as well as good conduct. Biscailuz stated to me that he felt this was very necessary, and that he was very much pleased with the success of his work. He lamented the fact that due to the war time conditions he was unable to carry it on at the present time. Sheriff Biscailuz and his aides were like Mayor Bowron, and others who I discussed the situation with in that they were firmly of the opinion that the prominence given the zoot suit riots by the press was responsible for a large part of the difficulties. They accused the newspapers of presenting the picture in such a way as to give the public the impression that the police were unable to cope with the situation, and that the sailors came to the aid of the police in breaking up the gang of zoot suiters. The press play-up of the disturbances was an opening for political accusations and a fertile seed bed for the Communists to sow seeds of distrust in the civil government and charges of persecution of minorities. Sheriff Biscailuz stated that over a period of years members of gangs of hoodlums in Los Angeles have caused trouble largely

among

among themselves, and that the city and state authorities fully understood the need of social reforms, but that he doubted seriously whether anything could be done for those youngsters between the ages of 16 and 20 who already had criminally-warped minds; however, he felt that through the establishment of boys' camps, trade schools, work shops, and recreational halls properly conducted, the coming generation of this type of people could be wielded into respectable law-abiding citizens, and that was one of the first jobs to be done in line with bringing about a better feeling and understanding among Anglos and Latin American citizens in the state. He went on to state that the City of Los Angeles is the second largest city in America in Spanish-speaking population. He admitted that socially and economically these Spanish-speaking people form one of the most submerged groups in our country. They are near the bottom of the lowest income group, usually live in miserable slums, work as casual laborers or subsistance farmers, receive inadequate education, and are subjected to social and economic class distinction. Very few of these people have become proficient in English or gained an understanding of our way of life, our ideals, or of the workings of our democratic form of government. The direct results of their enforced isolation from American life are wide spread diseases, unemployment, and incomplete education. Sheriff Biscailuz well understands the seriousness of this situation and its affect on our relations with Latin America, particularly with México. He knows that incidents such as the zoot suit riots are open to charges of discrimination and directly injurious to our relations with México, and that they may have supplied material for Axis propaganda aimed at driving a wedge between the United States and the peoples of Latin-America. He feels that the Office of the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs would spend money wisely by working in this field and by forming clubs and organizations stimulating local discussions of these problems and educating Anglos in the patriotic reasons for improving relations with Spanish-speaking citizens and residents. Sheriff Biscailuz is extremely interested in doing something for these people, and particularly in cleaning up the criminal element amongst them. He assured me that every cooperation would be given the government agencies who might ask him for such assistance.

In my interview with Commander Hastings, who is in charge of the Office of Naval Intelligence at Los Angeles, he gave me more or less the same information as furnished me by Mayor Bowron, the sheriff's department, and the police department at Los Angeles as to the causes of the conditions. There is attached hereto a copy of a confidential summary of the zoot suit riots prepared by Commander Hastings of Los Angeles, and Commander Douglas of San Diego, which will give the Department a very good idea of the Navy's views thereon. In my opinion it can be used as a criterion of actual conditions leading up to the riots, the Communistic side of it, and the participation therein of various municipal, state and government agencies, as well as the political side that may have some bearing on the problem. This report is exhibit no. 3.

Commander Hastings was exceedingly cooperative in introducing me to the other government investigative agencies

such

such as the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Military Intelligence Division who gave me more or less a similar statement as set forth in the confidential report prepared by the Office of Naval Intelligence.

Mr. Albert Delguercio, Chief of the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service, also confirmed the views set forth by the sheriff's department and the police department.

Mr. Harry Miller, in charge of the special edition department of the Los Angeles Times, admitted that the newspapers had probably been responsible for the prominence given this incident, and his version thereof was more or less along the lines of the report furnished by Mr. Clem Harrell, Chief of Police.

In an interview with the Right Reverend Monsignor Thomas J. O'Dwyer, Director of the Catholic Charities at Los Angeles, I was told that in his opinion the Catholic Church had not been as active as it should have been in working among these people as regards to uplifting their economic and social status. He felt that religious organizations should do everything possible to assist in stimulating and coordinating public and private rehabilitation programs among the Spanish-speaking people to participate more effectively in American life and economics, and to educate English-speaking citizens to discontinue discriminatory practices that bring about an inferiority complex among Latins and resulting in their isolating themselves from other groups of our conglomerate citizenry. Father O'Dwyer stated that, unquestionably, some Communistic influence existed in the zoot suit riots, and that, obviously, the police had let these young hoodlums get out of hand; that they were criminally inclined, and had to be dealt with severely; that this, however, did not excuse the need of immediate action on the part of social welfare workers, and particularly church organizations, because there is much to be done to correct poverty, tragedy, diseases, delinquency, and deaths. He stated that his organizations in California were getting down to some hard work, and that he hoped to develop leaders among Spanish-Americans, and perhaps in time to divert those who have let evil sway them from the paths of decency that they might become representative citizens of this country. I believe that Father O'Dwyer's views appear to be those of the Catholic Church as interpreted by the National Catholic Welfare Society, which organization recently held a convention at San Antonio, Texas. The Most Reverend Robert E. LUCEY, Archbishop of San Antonio, made one of the most outstanding speeches I have ever listened to on this subject. A copy of his address is attached hereto, and it will also be included in a separate report to the Department on my observations at that conference. I felt that it is so good, a copy should be attached to this report. Copy of Archbishop Lucey's speech is exhibit no. 4.

In a conversation with Mr. Maurice Haazan, who is of Mexican origin, representing the Coordinator's Office at Los Angeles, I was informed that in his opinion therewas no racial discrimination involved. He placed the blame for the disorders on the police, who had not kept adequate control over these hoodlums for several years. He felt that an

improvement

improvement of the social and economic conditions must enter into any solution of the problem.

Practically all those interrogated gave me more or less a story of loosely organized gangs of young hoodlums, composed of a few negroes, the largest membership being Mexican-Americans born in California, committing petty thievery and gate crashing just within and without the pale of the law, which have existed to some extent in other cities in the country. All seem to have attributed the principal cause to the local economic and social conditions, residing in slum centers, insufficient juvenile detention institutions in keeping pace with the increase in population, abandonment of school for work in the defense plants, sensational journalism, legal loopholes in the prosecution of minors, inadequate recreational and trade schools, and lastly, but probably very important, educational barriers between Mexican laboring parents and second generation Mexican-American children. Many comments were heard on the lack of leadership among Mexican-Americans, especially leadership that was not tinged with political ambitions.

Having known General Juan Felipe Rico, Commander of the Mexican Military Zone of Lower California, for a number of years, and inasmuch as he was in Tijuana, I thought it a good opportunity to also interview him, as I have a great deal of confidence in his judgment. Consul Mokma and I called on General Rico at Tijuana on July 19, 1943. General Rico was quite emphatic in his contention that there was no racial discrimination involved. He stated that to him it appeared quite clear that the zoot suiters were mere hoodlums, the result of social conditions in the City of Los Angeles. He expressed the belief that the police were to blame for the disorders in that they had let the situation get out of hand when by prompt and corrective methods the difficulties could have been kept under adequate control from the very beginning. He stated, that as a soldier and being one who has had a great deal of experience in handling men, the police should have treated the hoodlums as hoodlums, and as potentially dangerous elements in society. He gave as an example of what could be done by citing the treatment accorded to certain zoot suiters who came to Tijuana. They were promptly disrobed, put across the river, and told to get out of town and stay out. He recommended similar measures for Los Angeles.

CONCLUSIONS

In summarizing the results of my investigations through interviews with the persons named above, and investigations made by various United States government agencies, and by the state and municipal law enforcement officers in California 1) I am constrained to express the belief that race hatred had nothing to do with the zoot suit disturbances in Los Angeles. 2) It appears to be common knowledge that for a number of years trouble has been brewing in the slum districts of Los Angeles, because of the laxity of the police in controlling the restless, trouble-making, youthful element that has been permitted to gate crash dances, commit petty thievery, fight amongst themselves, and practically rule the social activities of the underprivileged people residing in those district. 3) These gangs naturally resent any interference on the part of outsiders. With the coming

of

of the war and the granting of shore leave to the large number of sailors in Los Angeles, many of them seeking entertainment sought out these localities and, naturally, the Mexican girls were attracted by the ready money most of them had in their pockets. The preference for the uniformed men by the girls irritated their local swains that resulted in an occasional fight wherein the sailors and soldiers were mishandled by the gangs of hoodlums. Typical of boys in the Navy, others came to their rescue, and the situation grew out of control. 4) The chief of police in Los Angeles more or less admitted that this condition existed, and that due to the shortage on the police force of some 500 men, he was not able to effectively control it without possible loss of life, which he was doing everything he could to prevent.

5) It being an off news week, the newspapers resorted to sensational journalism, and presented the picture in such a way, likely to increase sales, as to give the public the impression that the police were unable to cope with the situation, and that they were in need of assistance from the armed forces in breaking up the gang of zoot suiters. This statement appears to be borne out by Mr. Eduardo M. QUEVEDO, President of the Latin-American Coordinator's Council for Youths in the Mexican colony. Mr. Quevedo has publicly expressed the opinion that these situations were brought on in retaliation, which was urged by the local press who virtually dared soldiers and sailors to mete out punishment to zoot suiters. 6) Mr. Quevedo admits that the Mexican community was at fault for permitting the zoot suit element to exist in its midst, and blames the police, because they took no steps to prevent the disorders to protect law-abiding Mexicans and, therefore, hints that there is some discrimination in the city, which has been allowed over a long period of time. I understand that he has pointed out on several occasions that although the Mexican community in Los Angeles numbers about 350,000 people, the Los Angeles police force includes no representative group of Spanish-speaking officers, and as a result the police department does not have representation familiar with the Mexican people.

7) Obviously, the disturbances resulted from service men frequenting the slum districts, crashing Mexican-American parties, and paying too much attention to Mexican-American girls.

8) Considerable blame may be given to the Los Angeles newspapers for the unfortunate publicity which the incident achieved. This publicity obviously aroused sailors and soldiers and the civilian population who participated in further incidents. The newspapers may also be blamed for the international concern given the situation by México.

9) The background to the trouble may be attributed to the result of slum conditions existing in the City of Los Angeles, for which corrective measures had not previously been taken.

10) There is nothing to indicate that the Axis powers were involved in any way, but there is a strong possibility that some of the undesirable publicity given the affair, the dissemination of some propaganda among the hoodlum

element

element and their parents may have emanated from the Communist party group headed by one Josephine Bright and a Mr. Connally. They appear to have attempted to introduce the racial angle in these riots, and to have attempted to make heroes out of the hoodlums by demanding hearings on persecution of minors, et cetera. In connection with this angle of the case, please refer to pages 1, 2, and 3, of the report submitted by the Office of Naval Intelligence.

11) It seems to be generally believed by those who have made a study of the zoot suit problem in Los Angeles that sociologically it can be attributed to the local economic, social, and political conditions brought on by neglect of state, county and city governments to take proper community action free from politics in introducing a remedy to solve these conditions, which have been wisely pointed out as follows: Establishment of recreational and trade school facilities, increase in facilities for juvenile detention and correction, urging of religious and charitable institutions to give more attention to the improvement of the slum conditions, and of selecting and finding middle class leadership among Mexican-Americans in the community, which now appears to not exist. If it does, they are saturated with political ambitions.

12) It appears to be the unanimous opinion of all the investigative agencies and law enforcement officers I interviewed that Mexican Consul Aguilar, of the Mexican Consulate at Los Angeles, did not show any disposition to cooperate with the authorities, but to the contrary was prone to seize the slightest pretext as a basis of complaint charging racial discrimination. When called upon practically daily by the police department and the sheriff's office to furnish them with a list of any Mexicans involved in the zoot suit disturbances, he was unable to do so, but appears to have attempted on several occasions to assume the role of the protector of people of Latin extraction, and to have made reports to his government intimating racial hatred and racial discrimination by the police department and apathy in granting the proper protection to law-abiding Mexican citizens. The Mexican Consulate, working in connection with the Mexican colony, appears to have taken the view that the Los Angeles police knew that the riots of June 7, 1943 were on the way, but took no steps to prevent them, or to protect law-abiding Mexicans, thus alleging that doubtlessly the primary phase of the affair was discrimination, which the City of Los Angeles has over long allowed. The Mexican Consul also is said to have reported to the Mexican Foreign Office that Axis subversive influence existed and was inspired by sensational newspaper reports on the disturbances. From the best I can understand, after talking with Consul General de la Huerta, no reports were made to the Foreign Office indicating Communistic agitators, although our investigators feel that there was some activity of this kind shortly after the disturbances. I am constrained to express the belief that the Mexican Consular Service has not only in this case, but in many cases along the border and adjacent to the border, been too overzealous in alleging racial discrimination against American citizens of Latin extraction who had no claim to call for consular

intervention.

intervention. I am also inclined to believe that Mexican consular officers have on frequent occasions resorted to too much publicity when presenting cases to the authorities alleging racial discrimination when they were pure and simple cases of class distinction liable to be found in any country, and particularly in México where class distinction exists. I feel that if the truth were known, persons of the "peon" type have been used as test cases by Mexican societies acting in connection with the Consulate to prove racial discrimination; in other words, they have stepped down in the lower strata of their people who are themselves underprivileged in México as far as class distinction is concerned in attempting to force acceptance of these people upon the higher intellectual element in communities in the United States.

13) I am confident that there is no basis for the Mexican Government to file indemnity claims, although it is clearly stated in the telegram of Mexican Consul General de la Huerta that he was looking into this phase of the situation.

14) I do not believe that the Sinarquist element had any connection with the affair.

15) It appears to be the unanimous opinion of all whom I interviewed that the situation is well under control, and there should not be a recurrence of these riots.

16) The Department can expect that Mexican consular officers and probably the Foreign Office will shortly bring up alleged cases of discrimination in and around the vicinity of Ventura County, Los Angeles County, and in small towns south of Los Angeles. Mr. de la Huerta intimated to me that several Mexican societies were preparing lists of racial discrimination cases in those communities wherein Mexicans are segregated in the schools, and not given equal rights and privileges in beauty parlors, cafes, et cetera. I asked him if class distinction which, unfortunately, exists not only in México and the United States, but other countries might possibly be the answer. He answered that it probably was, but that Mexicans were Mexicans and were entitled to similar privileges throughout the world, although he admitted there was class distinction and that while it should not apply it was practiced even in his country but only outside of public places, which were open to all classes of people who had the money to purchase what was offered.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1) The police department in Los Angeles should by all means, in view of the large Spanish-speaking population, have on the police force a good representation of Spanish-speaking officers.

2) The state, county and city of Los Angeles should begin stimulating and coordinating public and private rehabilitation programs aimed at preparing our Spanish-speaking people to participate more effectively in American life and economy.

3) Those who are criminally inclined and too far gone to retrieve should be removed from the vicinity where the

disturbances

disturbances occurred, and sent to a juvenile correctional institution if sufficient evidence is obtained to warrant such action.

4) Educate English-speaking citizens to discontinue discriminatory practices by appealing to their patriotism.

5) Educate Latin American citizens along the lines of our constitution and way of life with special attention to eliminating inferiority complexes which, obviously, exist.

6) That the Mexican Government be informed that so far as it can be ascertained, no Mexican citizens were involved in the zoot suit disturbances, and that this Government fully realizes the need of corrective measures in various sections of this country in improving the living status of its Spanish-speaking citizens, and has advocated an approach to the problem on the basis of it being one of the minority problems which should get appropriate attention on the communities' planning for its civilian population, pointing out that steps have been taken through health, educational, and social agencies to provide service in some of the areas largely inhabited by Spanish-speaking people. It may also be stated that considerable progress has been noted particularly in the nutritional and healthful aspect of these people. Reference should be made to the efforts of the State of Texas so far as its laws will permit to bring about a better understanding and feeling through the recent proclamation of the Governor, and the interchange of notes between the Mexican Foreign Minister and the Governor of Texas; that the Department hopes eventually to be able to inform the Mexican Government of the existence of hearty cooperation between all law enforcement agencies and sociological organizations in California in an effort to not only improve the living conditions of those of Mexican origin in that state, but to bring about a better understanding and feeling between Latins and Anglos as a whole.

7) That the findings of the Grand Jury of Los Angeles County for 1943, based upon its inquiries into juvenile crime and delinquency in that county, be closely studied and sponsored.

Respectfully yours,

William P. Blocker
American Consul General

Enclosures:
Exhibit No. 1, statement made by Sr. de la Huerta to Mexican Foreign Office;
Exhibit no. 2, (five) newspaper clippings;
Exhibit no. 2-1/2, reports of Mayor of Los Angeles, Chief of Police, and findings of Grand Jury;
Exhibit no. 3, confidential counter intelligence summary, and chronological outline of zoot suit riots, prepared by Naval Intelligence Office;

Exhibit no. 4,

Exhibit no. 4, copy of address made by The Most Reverend Robert E. Lucey.

840.1
WPB/bbl

In original and hectograph master sheet to the Department; Copy to the American Embassy, México, D. F., México.

Enclosure No. 1 to despatch No. 1899, from William [illegible] Blocker, American Consul General at Ciudad Juárez, México, dated August 3, 1943, on subject of "Zoot Suit Disturbances at Los Angeles, California".

FROM: EL NACIONAL of June 27, 1943

APPARENT ACTIVITY OF THE NAZI-FASCISTS
IN THE LOS ANGELES INCIDENTS.

Interesting Report Submitted by Señor de la Huerta Inspector General of Consulates.

Fraces between the Sailors and Soldiers with Youths of Mexican Origin, but in the Majority Born in the United States, Ended 10 days ago. - Timely Action.

In connection with the incidents which occurred in Los Angeles, Señor Adolfo de la Huerta, Inspector General of Consulates of Mexico in the United States, has rendered the following telegraphic report to the Ministry of Foreign Relations.

"Reading the newspapers of that capitol and being acquainted with the mistaken rumors and opinions concerning the action of the Ministry of Relations and its representatives in this country, I feel obliged to make statements relative to the unfortunate incidents occurring in this city which I happened to look into from the very beginning in collaboration with this office, the same day that I returned from my last Consular trip. The conflicts arising between sailors, soldiers and some civilians and youths of Mexican origin the majority born in this country - and from which resulted excesses which affected some of our nationals, ended 10 days ago and complete tranquility reigns at present, which I hope will not be altered in the future. Confirming my previous telegrams and telephone messages, I inform you again that faithfully following your instructions this Consulate, when the aggressions started, addressed messages to all the civil and military authorities urging immediate action to stop the disorders provoked by the acts of the sailors and soldiers based on real or supposed provocation on the part of the so-called Zootsuiters, these youths in their majority being partly adolescent but some of them involved in the past in minor transgressions against the law. Our reports, judgments and opinions were also made known by telephone and telegrams to our Embassy in Washington which acted promptly and efficiently. Following express instructions

from you

from you to give maximum protection to our nationals, personal representations were made before the authorities and the committees efficiently cooperating with us, such as the local office of the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs. "Actas" (official reports) have been made concerning damages inflicted against our nationals in order to prepare effective claims which you have ordered. I report further that the favorable and determined action of the Government in Washington and the wise and strong measures taken by the Commandant of the Pacific Zone, General DeWitt as well as the prompt action of General Murray, Chief of the Southern Sector of California and of Admiral Bagley, Chief of Naval Forces in San Diego, were most opportune. The just statements and orders of the Governor of the State, Mr. Warren, in order to rush the investigation by the Attorney General and the impartial and honest attitude of the District Attorney in Los Angeles, resulted in neutralizing the apparent activity of the Nazi-Fascists scattered everywhere and who intend to destroy continental understanding by provoking racial antagonisms which characterize Hitlerite politics. I shall continue to report to you to receive your superior instructions."

Copied: ec

Exhibit no. 2 1/2 to despatch no. 1855, from William P. Blocker, American Consul General at Ciudad Juárez, México, dated August 3, 1943, on subject of "Zoot Suit Disturbances at Los Angeles, California".

DEPARTMENT OF POLICE
Los Angeles, California
C. B. Harrell, Chief

In replying please give
our reference No. 1.5

July 21, 1943

Honorable Fletcher Bowron
MAYOR OF LOS ANGELES

Dear Mayor Bowron:

Complying with your request for complete data concerning the origin and development of the Juvenile gang problem I have caused a factual report to be compiled, copies of which are herewith attached.

I wish to emphasize certain points most of which are treated to some extent in the report:

First. It should be pointed out that the problem is not one of race. During the recent "zoot-suit" disturbances, according to police records, no Mexican National was arrested by the Police Department and, insofar as it can be determined, no Mexican National was assaulted by sailors, soldiers or civilians. The Mexican Consul, Mr. Aguilar, refused to give any information that his office might have in this connection, saying that it was a matter of state and the information was being forwarded through diplomatic channels to Washington, D. C.

Second. As a routine matter of training, all police officers have been advised that racial discrimination will not be tolerated under any circumstances and have been carefully instructed to act in all matters of law enforcement without reference to race, color or creed; they have been instructed to respect the constitutional rights of all citizens and to carefully and fully protect the rights of Mexican as well as other Nationals, and all of these instructions were reiterated daily throughout the "zoot-suit" disturbances.

Third.

Third. The Police Department has attempted to prevent crime, enforce the law and keep the peace. This has required vigorous and forthright action because of the nature of the activities of the persons involved. It is true that many youths of Mexican descent have been arrested in the suppression of gang activities. It is only regrettable that so many young men of Mexican blood should have violated the law. However, it is the conduct of the persons involved and not their citizenship, their Latin descent, their color nor their economic status that has resulted in their arrests.

Fourth. There has been a working agreement between the Police Department, the Military Police and the Shore Patrol that the conduct of service men, while on leave in Los Angeles, would be supervised as much as possible by these latter two agencies. To this end, offices and communications have been provided and detention facilities made available to the Military Police and Shore Patrol units. The Shore Patrol did not have a sufficiently large force to control the sailors who were involved in the disturbances. The Military Police were able to more adquately control the army personnel. The Naval and Military Authorities have been unable to give an estimate of the number of soldiers and sailors on leave in the city at any one time; however, the U. S. O; reported that in the month of June they had in attendance at the "centers" only 480,883 service men, and that 158,576 attended various programs and entertainment.

Fifth. In the attached report you will note that reference is made to the committee which you formed in an effort to combat the rising tide of gang activities. Perhaps you will recall that this committee was formed as a result of representations made by substantial local citizens of Mexican descent that the Mexican youth gangs were fighting among themselves and breaking up gatherings of Latin-American groups, usually dances, weddings and other social affairs. You will also remember that Anglo-Americans were never the victims of the depredations committed by these Latin-American gangs; however, it was not uncommon for their crimes against persons of their own descent to go unreported. Property has been stolen or destroyed and acts of violence committed, and no reports made by the victims because of threats and intimidation by the gang leaders. All of these facts were recognized and reported by the representatives of the Latin-American colony, who asked that a coordinated effort be made between the community and the Police Department to bring about greater law observance on the part of the Latin-American youth.

Sixth

Sixth. Reference is also made in the report to an incident at Venice when a gang attacked police officers. Another incident which occurred in Venice about the same time was the eviction of a gang of Mexican "zoot-suiters" from a U. S. O. dance. This was followed by a number of fires apparently of incendiary origin, one of which burned down an entire block before it was brought under control by the Fire Department. Investigators believe the "zoot-suiters" gang responsible. Only last week five Mexican "zoot-suiters" were found guilty of several counts of arson in another case.

Finally, I wish to call to your attention the statistical tables which are included in the report. The offenses listed are those which are common to group violence. You will note that rape is included. This was done only because the incidence of this crime tends to increase with any up-surge of mass excitement. Roughly, the statistics indicate an increased activity on the part of the Police Department of approximately 40 percent for the fifteen day period from June 1st to June 15th, as compared with the five months period from January 1st to May 31st. The breakdown of the racial descent of persons arrested for these offenses discloses that arrests of Anglo-Americans during the "zoot-suit" disturbances increased from 42 percent to 44 percent of the whole, while the arrests of negroes decreased from 31 percent to 28 percent and the arrests of persons of Mexican descent increased from 26 to 27 percent. This clearly indicated that there was no racial discrimination on the part of the Police Department in the control of the "zoot-suit" disturbances.

In conclusion, it must be said that those who insist that the "zoot-suit" problem is a racial affair and that it has international implications, do so either through ignorance or because of some ulterior motive. However, we appreciate the fact that so long as such interpretations are made the complications that arise therefrom must be recognized and dealt with to some extent as a reality.

Respectfully,

(signed) C. B. Harrell
Chief of Police.

DBH:fc

Copied: ec

Exhibit no. 2 1/2 to despatch no. 1855, from William P. Blocker, American Consul General at Ciudad Juárez, México, dated August 3, 1943, on subject of "Zoot Suit Disturbances at Los Angeles, California".

July , 1943.

SOME ASPECTS OF THE YOUTH GANGS

IN LOS ANGELES

The history of neighborhood gangs, composed for the most part of youngsters of Mexican descent, extends back for many years. As early as 1927, inter-gang fighting was common among some of these groups, notably the "Macy Street Gang", the "Ann Street Gang", and the "Yale Street Gang". Even then the girls took an active interest in the neighborhood feuds that grew up, and on more than one occasion participated in street fighting. The more or less constant friction caused considerable uneasiness among school teachers and playground supervisors in the affected areas. However, no serious crimes of violence were attributed to gang activities at that time.

It should be remembered that these so-called neighborhood gangs have always been very loosely organized, the leadership devolving upon the most strong-willed individual in the group on any given occasion. Generally, there is a common meeting place on some street corner, where the group gets together after dinner each evening, and it is there that decisions are made as to where to do and what to do. Despite the fact that many of these youngsters have been arrested for various offenses, mostly for theft and stealing automobiles, there is no known instance where crimes of acquisitiveness appeared to be one of the objectives of the gang. In other words, the criminal activities of the group have always been incidental to its operations, and ordinarily affects a minority of the members, with the exception, of course, of the disturbances created in the breaking up of parties, dances, etc.

The "Macy Street Gang" built up quite a reputation

for both

for both offensive and defensive action, and, as its reputation spread, other neighborhood groups gradually formed themselves into gangs for self protection at first, then later to win recognition and prestige. By 1937, neighborhood gangs of this character were common to practically every community in the city where the population was predominantly of Latin-American extraction. It was during this year that the activity of the "Clanton Street Gang" became quite alarming to the social agencies of Los Angeles. Up to this time, the activity of the various gangs had centered around neighborhood feuds and squabbles among the various leaders. However, the "Clanton Street Gang" was unorthodox in this regard, and seemed to like nothing better than getting from thirty to fifty members together to deliberately break up organized group entertainment wherever it might be found. In other words, no previous trouble was requisite to a visit from this marauding gang, nor were its activities confined to neighborhoods contiguous to their own. They were quite mobile, always using autos, and found it quite convenient to raid dances, parties, weddings, etc., several miles from their own district. All of their escapades were confined to assaults upon groups of Mexican descent, with the exception of an occasional sortie against playground activities in the Negro district.

The size, strength, and fearlessness of the "Clanton Street Gang" soon became legendary, and, as its reputation spread abroad, this type of activity became the general pattern for all such groups.

These developments brought home to the social agencies of the community, both public and private, the necessity for counter-action. A special committee, called the "Clanton Street Committee", was appointed jointly by the Council of Social Agencies and the Executive Board of the Coordinating Councils. A great deal of research, relating to housing, health, religion, and law observance, was undertaken in the ClantonStreet area. After months of study, in 1939 a specific remedy was undertaken. Two police officers, with wide experience in juvenile work, and a probation officer, were assigned full time to the Clanton Street project, with instructions to organize boys and girls clubs, and secure local institutional sponsorship for all clubs organized. The objective was to provide interesting activities under dynamic leadership, so that basic urges which motivated gang escapades might find expression in wholesome worthwhile programs. Marked success attended this effort from the beginning.

The cooperation of school personnel, particularly

the men

the men and women assigned to the physical education section, gave their wholehearted support, while Father Arthur, a Catholic priest at St. Turibius, located in the heart of the district, became the sponsor of most of the clubs. A special athletic league, known as the "Catholic Youth Mexican Association", was formed, and through it organized athletic programs were successfully conducted on a seasonal basis, Social dancing, beach and mountain excursions, were among the many additional activities which proved popular with the members.

From the very first, gang activities were eclipsed by the new program, and, in addition, ordinary acts of delinquency decreased markedly in the area.

The assignment of these officers continued for a year and a half until July of 1941, when, on the basis of this experiment, the Chief of Police called together one hundred leaders among the Latin-American colony of the community, reviewed for them the details of the Clanton Street project, and asked them to organize themselves into an agency to carry on this same type of work among all of the other neighborhood gangs in the city. The group enthusiastically endorsed the plan, and set up their own organization, which they called "Coordinating Council for the Latin-American Youth".

About this time, the personnel shortage began to be felt in the Police Department. It had become necessary to set up civilian defense organizations, to recruit, train, and supervise volunteer auxiliaries. The military services had begun to draw men from the Department's ranks, and it appeared more and more necessary that the organization, supervision, and control of these youth groups should become the responsibility of other agencies than the police. It was on this basis that police officers were withdrawn from this type of endeavor. However, it should be remembered that from the very beginning it was not contemplated that the police would have a permanent place in the plan, but their activities would be confined to the launching of the program and the securing of adequate sponsorship in the form of local institutions and indigenous leadership.

About this time some unfortunate events occurred which occasioned a great deal of publicity on the so-called "Mexican youth gang" situation. On August 16, 1941 there were two parties in progress, one a wedding in the Palos Verdes district and the other a part in the Rose Hill District. Sometime during the evening,

the Rose Hill

the Rose Hill Gang beat up a member of the Palos Verdes gang. Information reached this group that the Rose Hill boys were looking for a fight, whereupon five or six automobile loads of youngsters drove to the party on Rose Hill. Arriving at the party, the group went into the house looking for the Rose Hill members who had started trouble. Finding them gone, they returned to their cars and went to a pool hall on Mercury Street, searched that place, re-entered their cars and were enroute to their own district when a collision occurred in which two members of the Rose Hill Gang were killed.

According to witnesses, members of the Rose Hill Gang, in a Model A roadster in which the two decedents were riding, left the party apparently in pursuit of the Palos Verdes Gang, and this car was followed by other cars until at the above intersection the fatal collision occurred. The other car involved in the accident was operated by members of the Palos Verdes Gang. This car was immediately backed up and, as the crowd began to gather, the driver sped away, driving up on the sidewalk at a fast speed and nearly running down several pedestrians. At the scene of the collision one member of the Palos Verdes group was severely beaten, but escaped and returned to his district on foot; while a second member of the gang was picked up by the ambulance about four blocks from the scene of the accident and taken to the General Hospital in a serious condition from stab wounds and a possible fractured pelvis.

A number of arrests were made as a result of the police investigation, including arrests in connection with the fatal accident itself. All of the parties arrested were youths in their teens or early twenties. All were American youths of Mexican descent.

This case drew a great deal of publicity concerning the organization and operation of youth gangs. A few other gang escapades were attended by publicity so that a growing consciousness of gang activities was developed on the part of the public and the members of these neighborhood groups as well. This situation was finally climaxed by the so-called "Sleepy Lagoon" murder.

On August 1, 1942, a party was being given at the Williams Ranch in Los Angeles County which was attended by a large crowd of Americans of Mexican descent. Early in the morning of August 2nd this party was invaded by members of the "38th Street Gang", and a fight took place in which one Jose Diaz, a Mexican National, was killed. Twenty-two youths were arrested, twenty of whom were Americans of Mexican descent, while two were Mexican Nationals. These youths were tried in Superior Court where three were convicted of first degree murder, nine of second degree murder and five of assault; while five were found not guilty.

The sensational

The sensational treatment of publicity in connection with the "Sleepy Lagoon" episode created a very tense situation in which the press and the general public on the one hand accused law enforcement agencies of mollycoddling hoodlums and criminals; while the champions of the so-called minority groups on the other hand charged the same agencies with discrimination in matters of arrest and prosecution. However, the law enforcement groups coordinated their efforts and held their policies on a steady course which resulted in a minimum of gang activities.

The Mayor of Los Angeles formed a committee of responsible leaders of Latin-American descent, and a program was immediately launched to deal primarily with these gang activities. The work of the committee has proved to be very constructive. In cooperation with the police, it has handled many cases by making direct contacts with individuals and with such agencies as the home, the school and the church.

Police officials brought together recognized leaders of the more notorious gangs and encouraged these representatives to discuss fully their problems. Police officers were assigned to work with these various neighborhood groups, giving counsel and advice to minimize friction on the one hand, while investigating individual acts of crime among the members of the various groups on the other hand.

Thus comparative peace and quiet reigned until the latter part of May and the early part of June, 1943, when clashes occurred between members of various neighborhood groups and military personnel. It is believed that this friction had its origin in the relationships that grew out of the location of the Naval Reserve Armory, which is located immediately adjacent to a community wherein the residents are predominently of Mexican descent. Quite naturally, girls in this neighborhood became acquainted with sailors attached to the Armory. On some occasions, when sailors walked home with these girls they were set upon by the neighborhood swains, who were identified only as youths of Mexican descent, dressed in "zoot suits". Retaliatory measures were pursued by the victims and their sailor friends. The natural development of these clashes was a general spreading of the activities of both groups until gangs of "zoot-suiters" were attacking any service man they happened to run across, while groups of service men were battling "zoot-suiters" where ever found.

The climax came quickly upon the heels of publicity which exaggerated the seriousness of the situation. On Monday, June 7, 1943, headlines in one Los Angeles paper stated that the "zoot-suiters" chose to fight the police (see attached clippings). The sensational

publicity

publicity drew many civilians to the downtown business district, both on foot and in automobiles. The service men, encouraged no doubt by the newspaper headlines and incited by the citizens, became bolder and indiscriminately attacked "zoot-suiters" throughout the city. This necessitated placing the Police Department on an emergency basis and calling out the entire personnel for duty. Between the night of June 7th and the morning of June 8th nine people were treated at the Receiving Hospital for minor injuries received in the fights between the gangs and military personnel. However, most of the so-called rioting consisted merely of groups of service men catching a "zoot-suiter" here and there and removing his trousers, while receiving the plaudits of numerous citizen spectators. These crowds were not at all belligerent but were in a holiday mood. At no time did they offer resistance to police authority. The only serious difficulty which confronted the police in controlling spasmodic disturbances in the downtown area resulted from the congestion of traffic occasioned by the thousands of spectators who were swarming the streets. This made the effective dispersal of the alleged rioters practically impossible.

The Naval Authorities, in order to stop the ganging up of the sailors, declared Los Angeles out of bounds. The downtown area was thoroughly policed and after the Monday night incidents there was very little, if any, fighting. Police officers blockaded bridges with instructions to search all cars bearing five or more youths. Many arrests were made through this blockade and dangerous and deadly weapons were found in possession of potential rioters. (See pictures attached.)

During the period of June 1st to 10th, there was a total of 187 juvenile arrests (all American citizens, although many of Mexican descent) for the following violations:

48 - Section 700, Welfare & Institutions Code
8 - Assault with Deadly Weapon
9 - Battery
56 - Section 407 Penal Code - Unlawful Assembly
3 - Concealed Weapons
25 - L.A.M.C. 55.05 - Loitering
38 - L.A.M.C. 45.03 - Curfew
187 Total

(200 juveniles were released to parents without being booked.)

Following

Following is a statistical report of adult arrests from June 1st to June 15th, inclusive:

AGE	RAPE	A.D.W.	BATTERY	SIMPLE ASSAULTS	REFUSAL TO DISPERSE	RIOT INCITING
18	6	3	-	-	11	3
19	1	1	3	-	7	1
20	3	2	1	-	6	-
21	1	3	1	-	-	-
22	1	3	2	-	-	-
23	-	1	-	-	-	-
24	1	1	1	-	-	-
25-29	4	11	3	1	6	3
30-34	4	10	2	-	3	-
35-39	-	3	3	-	-	-
40-44	1	3	1	-	-	1
45-49	-	2	1	-	-	-
50-over	2	6	2	-	-	-
TOTAL	24	49	20	1	33	8

RACE	RAPE	A.D.W.	BATTERY	SIMPLE ASSAULTS	REFUSAL TO DISPERSE	RIOT INCITING
Anglo-Amer.	14	20	11	1	10	4
Negro	2	18	1		15	2
Mexican	8	11	8		8	2
TOTAL	24	49	20	1	33	8

Arrests on gang activities January 1 to June 20, 1943 (Incl.)

Felonious Assaults

Negro Male Juveniles	2
Mexican Male Adult	4
Mexican Male Juvenile	4
Mexican Male Adult & Male Juv.	1
Mexican and Black Male Adult and Male Juvenile	2

Simple Assaults

White Male Juvenile	1
Black Male Adult	2
Black Male Juvenile	1
Mexican Male Adult	1
Mexican Male Juvenile	3
Mexican Male Adult & Male Juv.	3
Mexican & White Male Adult and Male Juvenile	1

Fights

Mexican Male Adults	4

Rapes by Gangs

Mexican Male Adults	13
Mexican Male Juveniles	7

Refusal to Disperse and Riot Inciting

White Male Adult	3
Mexican Male Adult	18
Black Male Adult	5

Arrests January 1 to May 31, 1943, (Incl.) Adults Only

AGE	RAPE	A.D.W.	BATTERY	SIMPLE ASSAULTS	REFUSAL TO DISPERSE	RIOT INCITING

AGE	RAPE	A.D.W.	BATTERY	SIMPLE ASSAULTS	REFUSAL TO DISPERSE	RIOT INCITING
20	13	15	6	-	-	-
21	17	15	2	-	-	-
22	5	16	1	-	2	1
23	8	18	3	-	-	-
24	7	9	5	-	1	-
25-29	25	82	27	2	2	3
30-34	15	49	29	1	-	-
35-39	11	45	18	1	-	1
40-44	5	38	19	3	-	-
45-49	3	24	15	-	-	1
50-over	5	27	6	-	-	-
TOTAL	153	385	147	8	14	12
Ang-Amer.	70	122	104	6	3	-
Negro	32	172	17	1	-	5
Mexican	51	91	26	1	11	7
	153	385	147	8	14	12

Many military and naval personnel were apprehended and brought to Central Division, and released to Military and Naval Authorities.

Over the period of years many police officers have been injured in suppressing gang activities. On one occasion seven youths of Mexican descent fought two officers outside a dance hall at Venice, using saps and "brass knuckles", and injuring one of the officers seriously. On another occasion when officers attempted to arrest juveniles for consuming liquor on the premises of a cafe, they were attacked by approximately fifty "zoot-suiters", bottles, and other missiles being thrown at the officers, and it was necessary to call for additional help. These are only two of innumerable instances where police officers have been injured by these youthful hoodlums.

The great publicity given gang activities and the manner in which the stories have been printed and pictures published increased tremendously the problem of police control. At least this has had the effect of making these hoodlums notorious in their own eyes and in the eyes of their friends. Much has been made of the arrests of these youths by certain individuals and organizations claiming to be champions of the so-called minority groups. These organizations are composed largely of sob-sisters and radicals who have done much to hamper the effectiveness of law enforcement.

While practically all of the members of the various neighborhood gangs are American Citizens of Mexican descent, and while delinquency on a percentage basis is considerably higher among youngsters of Mexican descent and also among the Negro youths when compared with Anglo-Americans, it must be remembered that the vast majority of both Mexican and Negro youngsters are law abiding and are not associated with gang activities. Nor does the fact that the per capita delinquency rate show a higher percentage of

delinquency

delinquency among these minority groups mean that such groups have a greater tendency toward delinquency and crime than anglo-Americans. On the contrary, it is believed that if all of the factors making for delinquency were operating to the same extent that the percentage of delinquency would be the same regardless of race, color or creed. The factors which appear to have the greatest weight in the development of delinquency among the children of Mexican descent appear to be overcrowded, inadequate and colorless homes, lack of parental control and supervision, the low standard of neighborhood morals (one study revealed that an ex-convict was living in every fourth house in an area wherein approximately two hundred families resided). Although racial discrimination undoubtedly plays a part in the total picture of delinquency, particularly as it tends to cause individuals to feel inferior and defensive, there is little doubt that its importance has been grossly exaggerated, especially by those who would attempt to solve all of the ills of minority groups through any available vehicle that might be prostituted to further their cause. Juvenile delinquency has made it possible for many such persons to speak and write on their favorite subject of race discrimination while making it appear that their sole concern lies in the prevention of delinquency and crime.

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(Exhibit no. 2-1/2 to despatch no. 1855 from William P. Blocker, American Consul General at Ciudad Juárez, México, on subject of "Zoot Suit Disturbances at Los Angeles, California".)

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE GRAND JURY OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY FOR 1943, BASED UPON ITS INQUIRY INTO JUVENILE CRIME AND DELINQUENCY IN THAT COUNTY.

Between June 15 and July 15 of this year, the Grand Jury of Los Angeles County for the year 1943 conducted an extensive inquiry into various phases of the current juvenile delinquency problem.

Its purposes in this inquiry were to obtain firsthand factual information concerning the underlying causes of the present serious situation and to ascertain, in so far as possible, the best practical means for combating it.

The Grand Jury was prompted to initiate this inquiry by two impelling considerations, namely, by the growing number of felony cases coming to the attention and heard by the Grand Jury in which youths between the ages of 15 and 21 were involved in such serious crimes as murder, forcible rape, and felonious assault with deadly weapons, and by the recent disturbances between members of the uniformed services and juvenile zoot suit wearers, which have resulted in much unfavorable national publicity for this county.

In the course of this inquiry numerous witnesses testified before the Grand Jury. These witnesses were selected as carefully as possible on the basis of their personal knowledge of the facts involved. In an effort to obtain an impartial appraisal of the situation, these witnesses were called from white, negro and Mexican groups. They included police officials, both city and county, probation officers, school officials, social workers, officials of the State Youth Authority, representative churchmen, and others.

The Grand Jury did not undertake this inquiry with the idea that anything very new or very startling would be developed by it. It did hope, however, that it might properly evaluate the factors involved and thereby reconcile some of the differences of opinion existing on the subject and, by its recommendations, contribute something toward the correction of the serious problem of juvenile delinquency, which must be met and handled by this great community.

Although juvenile delinquency is a continuing problem and undoubtedly will always be with us, and the amount of such delinquency generally will be roughly proportionate to the population, the Grand Jury finds that, in spite of the growth of our population, there has been no substantial increase in the last decade in the facilities for handling delinquents.

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The delinquency problem has been aggravated, moreover, in recent years by the abnormally rapid influx of people brought here on account of the war effort. Many of these people, especially among the Negro and Mexican elements, came from localities where their economic and social surroundings were entirely dissimilar to those that exist here. To a problem that was critical before Pearl Harbor therefore has been added a strain that appalls the person who familiarizes himself with the present situation.

The problems of properly handling and preventing this increasing load of delinquents is at present aggravated by the exigencies of the war. The police force has lost over 500 of its members to the armed forces and is unable to recruit acceptable replacements. Every corrective agency is today understaffed and the lack of properly trained personnel is universal.

Going back no farther than 1941, the Jury finds that there was a considerable increase in the delinquency in that year over 1940. There was also a further increase in 1942.

In analyzing the figures for these two years, the Jury finds there is a great disparity between the percentage increase in the juvenile court filings and that of the juvenile arrests by the Los Angeles city police department and sheriff's office.

To illustrate: In the case of boys, the juvenile court filings in 1942 were only 3.5% greater than in 1941, while the juvenile arrests increased 35%, or ten times as much. In the case of girls, the juvenile filings in 1942 were 22.8% over 1941, while the arrests increased 41.4%.

The Grand Jury sought to discover the underlying causes of this startling shift in the proportion of arrests to juvenile filings and believe it to be due to practices of the juvenile authorities, which will be discussed later.

With the advent of the war there has also been a decided shift in the character of the offenses committed. While auto thefts involving juveniles declined 22% in 1942, juvenile assault cases filed increased over 40%, with a much greater percent increase in the number of arrests for that character of crime.

The records of the Los Angeles Police Department for 1942 reveal that juvenile arrests for assault increased 171% over 1941. The increase in the sheriff's office was 82%.

The Los Angeles School District population in 1942 was composed approximately of 81% white, 15% Mexican, and 4% negro.

The juvenile court records disclose that Mexican boys, although representing but 15% of the city school population, constituted 34% of the juvenile arrests in the city in 1942; and negro boys, representing 4% of the school population, constituted 14.9% of the juvenile arrests.

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It is, therefore, apparent that this latter group of negro boys in the metropolitan area of the city of Los Angeles presents a serious juvenile delinquency problem.

This is in a measure due to the recent influx of negroes to the locality, most of whom come from rural areas in the south and are of a low economic and educational status. There is no evidence before the jury that negro or Mexican youths in general are inherently more prone to delinquency than are white youths of the same economic status.

The jury believes that the higher percentage of delinquency at present obtaining among these two groups is therefore a reflection of their present lower economic and educational status relative to the average conditions prevailing among the white members of our society. Any permanent reduction, therefore, in the disproportionate delinquency rates of these groups must be sought by continuing measures tending to raise the economic standards of the groups as a whole up nearer the community average.

From all the evidence before it, the Grand Jury feels that the so-called zoot suit problem is merely one manifestation of a disturbed time in our national life. The jury is of the opinion that it is but a passing fad that will disappear within a comparatively short time, and that there is no inherent connection between wearing zoot suits and juvenile delinquency or crime. Unfortunately, however, zoot suits have temporarily become emblematic of crime in the eyes of the public.

Although the records of the police department contain but few references, prior to January 1, 1943, to crimes committed by persons wearing zoot suits, since that date the records show a large number of crimes of violence have been committed by persons so garbed.

According to police department records, between Jan. 1, 1943 and June 16, 1943, 23 felonious assaults were reported to the police in which uniformed service men were assaulted by wearers of zoot suits. During the same period six misdemeanor assaults, so committed, were reported and also 14 fights. Most of these, however, were committed by adults.

Also, according to the Los Angeles Police Department records, during this time a total of 316 persons wearing zoot suits were involved in the commission of felonies, many of these being associated in gangs. The records of the sheriff's office of Los Angeles County also show that a considerable number of zoot suit wearers were involved in gang criminal activities during the same period.

It is, therefore, little to be wondered that a zoot suit has become, in the eyes of many, an emblem of gangsterism and crime; the gangsterism feature being accentuated by the fact that in many instances anywhere from several up to 20 or 30 zoot suit wearers were involved in a single crime.

There has been a disposition to attribute the outrages committed by these zoot suit gangs (composed mostly of Mexicans, although occasionally we find white and negro boys participating in their activities) to the dislike or hatred

created

created in the minds of the Mexican youth by repressive and discriminatory treatment inflicted upon them by the Anglo-Americans. The Grand Jury found no evidence to substantiate any such belief. They found no evidence that these activities were in any sense due to or incited by race prejudice or anti-Mexican feeling. The Grand Jury also found no evidence that the juvenile delinquency or the gang problem is due to any extent whatever to any enemy subversive actions or mechanations.

The crimes committed by these loosely organized gangs have in the main been committed by boys of Mexican descent, born in the United States, and, therefore, American citizens. They have been committed almost exclusively against fellow Mexicans, either native-born or citizens of México.

For the sake of illustration, attention is called to a few of the outstanding cases arising in this county in the last year and a half, in which gangs of Mexican youths were involved.

In the case known as the Sleepy Lagoon Murder Case, in which 23 Mexican youths were indicted by the Grand Jury of Los Angeles County in 1942, the offenses of murder and felonious assaults were charged. The victim of the murder was one Jose Diaz, a citizen of México. The victim of one of the assaults was Joe Manfredi, reputed to be of Italian lineage. The victim of another assault was Cruses Reyes, born in the United States of Mexican descent.

In yet another case, three brothers, all of Mexican descent, while attempting to enter a restaurant located in a Mexican district other than the district in which the three brothers lived, were assaulted without cause or provocation on their part by a group of Mexican youths lounging around the restaurant. This assault was so violent that one of the brothers was brutally beaten to death.

In yet another case, one Andrew Diaz of Mexican descent, was killed as the result of a brawl arising out of an attempted crashing or raid upon a party by other persons of Mexican descent.

In yet another case, as the result of another fight between two rival Mexican gangs, two Mexicans were killed.

In yet another case, after hearing testimony including the admissions of the accused themselves, this Grand Jury indicted 11 Mexican youths for the forcible raping of two Mexican girls. The victims of this rape and all of those indicted were native-born American citizens. In this case it is significant that all but one of the criminals involved were but 17 years of age, or less, and that many had previous juvenile court records ranging all the way from car theft to felonious assault.

These cases are moreor less outstanding examples of the typical run of criminal cases involving Mexicans, which have arisen in Los Angeles County during the past two years.

The jury finds that juvenile crimes do not have for their motive or reason class or racial hatred or discrimination. Ill-informed and reckless persons, by unfounded charges of

racial

racial discrimination against the Mexican people, have done little to promote harmony between this nation and our sister republic to the south.

The jury finds, from evidence submitted to it, that the use of liquor to a large extent and marihuana to a small extent are major causes of juvenile crime.

The jury finds that the strictly gang problem amongst the negro youth, while serious, has not reached the proportion of the problem amongst the Mexican youth. The juvenile crime situation among the negro youths, however, is a matter of serious concern.

It has been estimated that from 5000 to 10,000 southern negroes have come to Los Angeles County in each month for more than a year past, and that this influx is continuing.

Responsible authorities estimate that the negro population in the City of Los Angeles has doubled within the past two years. These new citizens, who in all reason will remain here permanently, are mostly living in areas which were overcrowded before they came. The housing situation in these congested colored districts has, therefore, reached an intolerable condition.

This bad situation is aggravated by the fact that the recreational and playground facilities in these areas are inadequate in area, physical equipment and personnel.

Such conditions breed crime, especially among juveniles.

Many of these recent arrivals come from localities where their educational opportunities have been much less than those prevailing here. They bring with them children whose school progress is far less than that of California children of the same age. They have shifted from a rural to an urban environment.

City life is a new and exciting experience for many. This situation presents a tremendous problem to the school authorities, the police, and the community at large.

It is common knowledge that boys have always been prone to gather together in local groups or gangs, have followed the leadership of their more dominant members and absorb and are influenced to a great extent by the outlook upon life and ideals of these leaders.

The influence of such leaders of gangs for evil upon their younger fellow members is tremendously increased when there is a decline or absence of parental or home authority and discipline. Such a breakdown of home influence has been especially noticeable in the case of many of our native-born adolescents of Mexican descent whose parents still speak Spanish, live under alien social conditions, and attempt to preserve family traditions foreign to the American mode, with which the children come into contact at school. For these reasons the so-called Mexican youths have been prone to seek their social activities on the street with other of their kind and form into neighborhood groups.

The gangs were not and are not gangs in the sense that

they

they have been or are closely knit organizations. Rather they appear to be more or less spontaneous groupings of Lexican boys in a particular community for the purpose of the moment. They appear to have no leaders in the sense that any person is elected by vote to head the organization. Inherent and natural qualities of leadership at the time of a particular group assembly determines who the leader for the time shall be.

In the beginning these community groups or gangs had for their principal activities the raiding or crashing of dances and parties held outside the bailiwick of the gang. These anti-social activities developed an increasing enmity between Lexican residents of different sections of the city resulting in numerous fights, in which anywhere from several to 30 or 40 boys on each side were involved. In many cases these fights became violent, knives, guns, tire chains, broken glass bottles, and other dangerous weapons, being used and deaths and serious injuries resulted.

The point has now been reached where it is dangerous for one Lexican youth to go on a lawful and innocent mission into a district other than his own. As time went on, the activities of these community gangs have been extended to robberies, burglaries, forcible rapes, and other serious felonies.

The police have had experience with such gangs for many years and have had no particular difficulty in handling them up until recently. It is only within the past two or three years that they have become a serious police problem. Witnesses before the jury have ascribed this later development to several causes: The lack of police personnel, due to the draft, to properly oversee and check upon the incipient activities of the various gangs; the failure of the juvenile authorities to instill a proper respect for constituted authority in the minds of juvenile delinquents, and their failure to provide for the elimination of juvenile criminals from association with and dominance over the other boys in their neighborhood.

Police officers and officials, social service workers, playground directors, and many others in direct contact and experience with juvenile delinquents, have testified before the Grand Jury that there has been developing for sometime past among juvenile offenders, a marked contempt for law and law enforcement officers, and that this contempt of lawful authority seems to be accentuated among those involved in gang activities.

This contempt seems to have been brought about by the failure of those responsible for the administration of corrective procedure to properly or, in many instances, to at all discipline by means of some definite punishment those boys and girls who have consistently committed crime.

The Grand Jury has been repeatedly told by many witnesses that after advice, cajolery and threats have failed to deter the criminal tendencies of these youths and arrests for serious crimes have become necessary, that the arrested individual, notwithstanding that the evidence of guilt was available and clear, has received nothing

more

more than lectures from the juvenile court authorities; and that these criminal delinquents, even after repeated arrests, have been permitted to return to their communities and carry on their criminal career.

The very fact that they have been arrested not once but repeatedly, and each time released without definite punishment, clothes them with glamour, especially appealing to younger and less hardened boys and girls. They have beaten the rap, and they think they are bigger and better, and above the law, and act accordingly.

Thus the gangster and criminal tendencies of pre-delinquent youths with whom they associate, are developed and enhances by these flaunted examples of the failure of the law to punish law breaking. Such procedure, instead of inculcating the lesson that wrong-doing is certain to be definitely followed by punishment, breeds the reverse and dangerous belief by many boys in their formative period, that they can do what they please and get away with it.

The juvenile authorities, in extenuation, say that they have been hampered by lack of suitable places of detention and that they have, therefore, been compelled to release many juveniles who would otherwise have been subjected to restraint and remedial treatment, because of lack of facilities for their detention.

There seems to be a more or less general acceptance of the philosophy that it is the obligation of the state to assume charge of and attempt the rehabilitation of the older and more vicious types of juvenile delinquent, who should more aptly be termed juvenile criminals, and that, in the metropolitan County of Los Angeles, it is the obligation of the county to provide care and rehabilitation for the less serious types of juvenile offenders, requiring comparatively short periods of custodial correction.

In connection with the discharge of this latter obligation, the Grand Jury is of the opinion that the type of camps now being maintained by the probation department of the county are properly conducted and serve a very useful purpose in the treatment of juvenile delinquency and should be expanded.

The jury views with approval the actions of the California Youth Authority in the opening of its boys' camp in Calaveras County, and a proposed development for delinquent girls near Santa Rosa, similar to the Ventura institution.

The jury believes that the members of the California Youth Authority are alert to the entire juvenile situation and are realistic in their approach to the problem.

Upon a consideration of all the evidence before it, THE GRAND JURY RECOMMENDS:

1) That a realistic attitude be adopted towards the removal from the community of those boys and girls who have demonstrated their disregard and contempt for law

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and order by the repeated commission of crimes, and who exert a destructive influence upon other boys and girls in the community.

That the California Youth Authority, as rapidly as possible, provide the necessary facilities for the custodial care, detention and rehabilitation of this type of delinquent, employing for this purpose, temporarily for the duration, any existing available and suitable city or county facilities.

The Grand Jury wishes to make it clear that it is its belief that unless a respect for law is restored by the prosecution and punishment of juvenile criminals who are now running loose, no hope exists for betterment from the application of such recommendations as follow.

2) That the County of Los Angeles increase its camp facilities under the jurisdiction of the County Probation Department in a manner commensurate with the needs.

The jury is unable to suggest the amount of such needs, because of conflict of testimony in this regard. We, therefore, recommend a conference be held between members of the Board of Supervisors, Judges of the Juvenile Court, Probation Officers, City and County Police Officers familiar with this problem, to determine the immediate requirements.

It is further recommended that road camps used for adult prisoners, which are now in commission but are not now used to capacity, be devoted, so far as is practical, to the carrying out of this program. This can be done by regrouping their present occupants, thus making some camps available exclusively for juvenile offenders.

3) The Grand Jury is convinced that the over-all problem of juvenile delinquency in this county is so serious, and that the administration of the juvenile court is so intricately involved in any possible solution, that it merits the considered attention of all the Judges of the Superior Court of Los Angeles County.

4) The problems of juvenile delinquency in Los Angeles County, its prevention and cure, are extremely complex and include so many and such diverse factors and agencies that it warrants the most detailed objective consideration and study over long periods of time extending beyond the life of this Grand Jury.

No body or agency for such objective over-all study now exists. As the problem affects the welfare of the entire state and is fundamentally concerned with state-wide policies, and embraces state agencies, this Grand Jury recommends to the Governor of the State that he appoint a committee of broad-visioned citizens of Los Angeles County to carry on this investigation, and to report its findings and recommendations as arrived at from time to time.

The members of such a body, in the opinion of the Grand Jury, should have no connection with any agency, public or private, connected with any phase of the problem, but should call upon the officials of all agencies concerned

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for information and advice.

5) It is recommended that the personnel of the Crime Prevention Bureau of the Los Angeles Police Department, and of the County Sheriff's Office, be increased as soon as trained personnel is available.

That such additional personnel devote its time to crime prevention work in its broadest sense and be not hampered in these activities by time consuming case load burdens.

It is further recommended that, so far as is practicable, such crime prevention officers be selected from persons belonging to the racial or national groups predominating in the districts in which they work.

6) That there be a better enforcement of the anti-narcotic laws and the penal provisions of the liquor laws of the state, with especial reference to the supplying of liquor to minors.

7) That all industries employing women ascertain how many women are employed who have children under 14 years of age, who are unsupervised during the mother's absence from home; that any such women be required to arrange for the proper supervision of such children as a condition to remaining employed; that no woman be employed in the future who does not meet with this requirement.

8) That the school authorities make a greater utilization of existing school and recreational facilities, especially in the congested areas, and that the Los Angeles School District give its considered attention to the assignment to the more congested districts of teachers who are genuinely interested in the social welfare of their pupils, and who give promise of possessing ability to develop local leadership in these communities.

It is suggested that assignment to schools in these more congested and critical areas should be regarded as a recognition of exceptional ability and a promotion rather than a demotion.

9) The housing situation in the negro and Mexican districts is a disgrace to this great and wealthy community. This problem demands the attention of its best thought.

It cannot be solved overnight or within the lifetime of this Grand Jury. A start, however, can and should be made now. For immediate relief during the present emergency, it is the opinion of the Grand Jury that the district on the east side, largely occupied by negro citizens, including the Little Tokio district, should be included within the War Housing Conversion Program, to permit the modernization of many substandard dwellings and buildings into habitations fit for human beings, and to increase the housing capacity of the districts.

10) The moral and economic necessities of a long-range housing program for negroes are in our estimation

imperative.

imperative. We recommend, therefore, that the Los Angeles City Planning Commission and the Los Angeles County Regional Planning Commission give this problem their immediate and continued attention.

The jury is furthermore of the opinion that the negro housing problem has reached such a degree of aggravation that it seriously affects the business and social life of the entire community. It is, therefore, recommended that the Chamber of Commerce of the City of Los Angeles, the most powerful civic group in this area, devote its facilities to a solution of this problem, commanding and coordinating therefor the facilities of all existing agencies.

11) That negro and Mexican citizens be given impartial opportunity for employment and advancement in industry, and that members of all races and nationalities be permitted the use of public facilities without discrimination.

Exhibit No. 2 1/2 to despatch no. 1855, from William P. Blocker, American Consul General at Ciudad Juárez, México, dated August 3, 1943, on subject of "Zoot Suit Disturbances at Los Angeles, California".

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY HALL
Los Angeles, California

Fletcher Bowron
Mayor

August 3, 1943

State Department
Washington, D. C.

Attention of Mr. Philip W. Bonsal
Chief, Division of American Republics

Gentlemen:

Relative to disturbances in the City of Los Angeles during the month of June, referred to in the press as "zoot suit" riots, I have caused a careful investigation of the facts and circumstances to be made, and, after mature inquiry and consideration, I make the following representations:

(1) That the acts of local citizens, the local police, and members of the armed forces, regrettable though the occurrences may have been, were not prompted by prejudicial or even unfriendly feeling toward the Mexican people;

(2) That, so far as has yet been determined, no Mexican nationals or citizens of the Republic of Mexico were involved, either as aggressors or victims, in the street fighting, bodily assaults, or the public undressing of wearers of "zoot suits" on the part of those misguided persons, both in civilian attire and in the uniform of the armed forces, who, either in the quest of excitement or to attract public attention, interferred with the liberties and rights of others;

(3) that accounts appearing in the public press, which apparently were transmitted to Mexico and other Latin American countries, were, in many respects, either wholly untrue or were misleading, garbled, and colored.

Residents of the City of Los Angeles or surrounding areas ordinarily referred to as Mexicans are, for the most part, American citizens. The disturbing element is represented largely by the membership of gangs that have been formed during the past several years. These are youth and young men most all of whom were born in this community, educated in our local schools, and have been subjected to such conditions and lack of restraint and discipline as has generally affected the growing population

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of the community.

I refer primarily to laxness in the enforcement of law, with particular reference to any form of punishment under the juvenile laws of this state. Unfortunately, a large proportion of the membership of these gangs is made up of boys, and some girls, of Mexican blood. It is not because they are Mexican, but because of their conduct that action has been taken against them by the local police.

In confirmation of my averment that there is no substantial evidence of anti-Mexican feeling and that all those involved have been treated alike, regardless of race, color or creed, permit me to refer to several facts that should be convincing.

The gangs referred to in their operations have not, except in isolated instances, preyed upon any other local residents than members of the Mexican race. They fought among themselves and practically all of the disturbances reported to the police had to do with acts of lawlessness at weddings, dances, and other social gatherings where practically no one other than persons of Mexican descent were present. Those who made reports to the police and identified the aggressors and consented to act as witnesses at trials were beaten up and intimidated so that many acts of violence were unreported.

A committee composed entirely of Mexicans called on the Chief of Police and asked for protection. The action of the police was in response to this request and reports subsequently received and was for the protection of the Mexican people themselves.

Thus it may be seen that, while the Los Angeles Police Department may have directed a rather vigorous campaign of law enforcement against Mexican youths, it was for the protection of Mexican people and at their request rather than for the protection of other local citizens.

As a result of this contact with the Police Department, I formed a committee composed entirely of local citizens of Mexican blood, one of whom was a Mexican citizen, some of whom were born in Mexico and naturalized, others born in this country of Mexican parents.

In making up this list, I conferred with the Archbishop of the Catholic Church for this archdiocese, since most of the Mexicans are of the Catholic faith, and the church has rendered full cooperation and assistance. Through the Superintendent of Schools and the Board of Education, I secured a full time employee of the School Department to work with the

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Committee.

This committee, working closely with the Los Angeles Police Department and with the School Department, was endeavoring in a very practical and effective way to get at the bottom of the gang problem and the causes of local juvenile delinquency among Mexican youth and had been so engaged for many months prior to the June disturbances.

The so-called "zoot-suit" riots resulted from sporadic street fighting, which in turn resulted from individual fights between sailors and young Mexicans over girls. Undue publicity, indicating that local Mexicans wearing "zoot suits" were, without sufficient cause or provocation, indiscriminately attacking service men, was unquestionably the principal inciting cause for the participation of other local citizens and service men in the unseemly exhibitions on our city streets, in cafes, and in a few theatres, that have been made to appear as a demonstration prompted by prejudice against Mexicans in this locality.

I want to give assurance that our relationship with all representatives of the local Mexican population and with official representatives of the Mexican government have always been most friendly and cordial. It is very significant that within a few weeks following the so-called "zoot suit" occurrences a Fourt of July patriotic demonstration was held in front of the City Hall participated in by representatives of the Army and Navy and local Mexican population and it is of particular insterest that the demonstration was arranged and conducted by a committee of local citizens every member of which was of Mexican parentage. I enclose a report of this Fourth of July demonstration which should be rather convincing proof of the fine citizenship on the part of the leaders of the local Mexican colony and of the friendly relationship existing.

I also hand you a copy of a report dated July 21, 1943, prepared for me by C. B. Harrell, Chief of the Los Angeles Police Department, to which is attached a detailed statement prepared by Assistant Chief of Police E. W. Lester, entitled "Some Aspects of the Youth Gangs in Los Angeles".

I also am enclosing for your information a copy of a report of the Los Angeles County Grand Jury entitled "Findings and Recommendations of the Grand Jury of Los Angeles County for 1943, Based Upon Its Inquiry into Juvenile Crime and Delinquency In That County". I particularly call your attention to those portions of the report relating to the so-called "zoot suit" problem, beginning on Page 3 thereof, from which I quote a few statements as follows:

"There

"There has been a disposition to attribute the outrages committed by these zoot suit gangs (composed mostly of Mexicans, although occasionally we find White and Negro boys participating in their activities) to the dislike or hatred created in the minds of the Mexican youth by repressive and discriminatory treatment inflicted upon them by the Anglo-Americans. The Grand Jury found no evidence to substantiate any such belief. They found no evidence that these activities were in any sense due to or incited by race prejudice or anti-Mexican feeling. The Grand Jury also found no evidence that the juvenile delinquency or the gang problem is due to any extent whatever to any enemy subversive actions or mechanations.

"The crimes committed by these loosely organized gangs have in the main been committed by boys of Mexican descent, born in the United States and therefore American citizens. They have been committed almost exclusively against fellow Mexicans, either native born or citizens of Mexico".

I am taking the liberty of sending a duplicate of this letter and attachments to the Office of War Information because that bureau was sufficiently interested to send a representative to Los Angeles. Inasmuch as I am informed that the representative spent most of his time while here with well-meaning persons who have apparently been doing their best to make a racial issue out of this disturbance, I have some doubts whether the Office of War Information has yet acquired the correct picture.

There are certain organizations in Los Angeles that have been endeavoring to collect and make public evidence of anti-Mexican feeling. They rightly and laudably assume to call attention to the fact that Mexicans are our allies, that we must not have a misunderatanding, and that any anti-Mexican feeling or demonstration will hurt the war effort. Agreed, but their very efforts to make a racial issue out of something that can just as easily and more truthfully be explained as something that would have happened regardless of the race, color or creed of those involved, are doing irreparable damage, interfering with proper understanding and friendly relations between ourselves and the Mexican people, and at the same time hurting the war effort.

I trust that the information supplied may be of some assistance to you in setting forth the simple and provable facts to the official representatives of the Mexican Government, in order that their opinions and conclusions may not be based upon inflammatory and colored press reports or statements of those who are still trying to fan into flames the dying embers of the unfortunate and regrettable occurrences of a few days in June in the City of Los Angeles.

Yours very truly,

FB:M

MAYOR

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Exhibit no. 3 to despatch no. 1855, from William P. Blocker, American Consul General at Ciudad Juárez, México, dated August 3, 1943, on subject of "Zoot Suit Disturbances at Los Angeles, California".

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

COUNTER-INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY June, 1943
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ZOOT-SUIT RIOTS
(B7N)

Zoot-suit hoodlumism has been reported in Baltimore, Toronto, Detroit, West Texas, Arizona, and several California cities, but it has been particularly dangerous in Los Angeles since the autumn of 1942, reaching a new peak of violence early in June 1943. Since their founding a few years ago by adult petty criminals, according to recent estimates there are between one hundred and three hundred loosely organized gangs in Los Angeles County, composed of a few negroes and of a large majority of Mexican-American most of whom are minors born in California.

The recent Los Angeles disturbances seem to have been the result of local economic, social, and police conditions. Among plausible causes are: slum conditions; failure of state and county facilities for juvenile detention and correction to keep pace with increase in population; zooters' abandonment of school for money in defense plants; sensational journalism; legal loopholes in the prosecution of minors and of adults working through minors; inadequate recreational and trade school facilities; broken homes; differences between Mexican laboring parents and second-generation Mexican-American children; and lack of middle class leadership among Mexican-Americans. Several committees, official and otherwise, are now seeking remedies for these conditions.

Despite repeated assertions to the contrary emanating from Communist sources, there seems to be little or no evidence that the recent Los Angeles zoot-suit riots were race riots. Although most zoot-suiters in Los Angeles seem to be Mexican-Americans, servicemen went after zoot-suiters of any and all races, and apparently had no intention to molest persons of any race not so clad; the police claim to have arrested

rioters

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rioters regardless of race or costume; and the general feeling in Los Angeles, including that of Mexican-Americans, is that the riots were primarily an exhibition of hoodlumism and were tainted, if at all, only accidentally and to a minor extent by deliberate race prejudice.

Communists strive to keep discord alive. As they have not failed to bring to the attention of the highest politicians, labor leaders, and the press, every seemingly racial angle in these riots, any undue stress on race discrimination suggests possible Communist influence. At first the attitude of LA OPINION -- one of the two newspapers of the LOZANO Press, the most influential Spanish language press in the United States, serving approximately 400,000 Mexicans and Mexican-Americans in the Southwest--favored the pachucos and blamed the sailors for most of the trouble. For more than a year LA OPINION has exaggerated and harped on alleged race discrimination, apparently trying to create in the minds of otherwise satisfied Mexican residents the idea that they were being persecuted. The paper has quietly ignored advantages Mexican-Americans enjoy here but not in México. Although local Mexican-Americans had protested that the American press was over-featuring the zoot-suit riots, LA OPINION in the issues 7, 8, 9 and 10 June carried full-page banner headlines about the events. After 10 June, emphasis on servicemen's so-called "aggression" was toned down and the racial angle was said to be practically non-existent.

The 10 June issue of EXCELSIOR, Mexico City daily, quoted Carey MC WILLIAMS, President of the "National Lawyers' Association" (probably a slip for the Communist-influenced Los Angeles branch of the National Lawyers' Guild), as criticizing "provocative methods" used by the Los Angeles police against Mexicans. In the 12 June issue, Mrs. Josephina Fierro de BRIGHT Los Angeles Communist suspect, was quoted as stating that the disturbances constitute an aid to fifth columnists. The 15 June issue stated that "if the good neighbor policy is not a myth, the United States government should proceed with energy against those guilty of attacks against Mexicans, and the Los Angeles Press should not continue a campaign of calumnies against Mexicans, as Dr. Carey MC WILLIAMS

so aptly

so aptly expressed it." On 16 June, Foreign Minister Ezequiel PADILLA announced, according to the newspapers, that the Mexican Government has formally asked the United States government to punish persons responsible for the riots, granting "just indemnities" for "the innocent victims."

The account of the disturbances in the 21 June 1943 issue of TIME, with its significant reference to "EDUARDO QUEVEDO, a plump, cigar-chewing, shock-headed amateur sociologist, president of the Coordinating Council for Latin Americans, member of the Citizens' Committee on Latin American Youth," also suggests a somewhat Communistic source of information.

A few figures (often taken from the press, since complete records are not yet available) may give some indication of the gravity and proportions of this juvenile crime wave. Since 1940, crimes committed in Los Angeles County by boys thirteen to seventeen years old are said to have increased more than seventy-five per cent, and crimes by girls of the same age, still more than that. The Los Angeles Juvenile Court is reported to be burdened far beyond its capacity, having handled more than 5,200 new cases last year. According to the newspapers, Mayor BOWRON, of Los Angeles, declared that juvenile detention homes are so crowded that the courts have no place to put zoot-suiters. Zoot-suiters apparently know this and take advantage of it. After the murder by pachucos of Jose DIAZ, at Sleepy Lagoon, Los Angeles, 2 August 1942, and an outbreak of other gang crimes, by 9 August 1942 about three hundred gangsters from fourteen to twenty-two years old, including several girls, were under arrest, and one hundred deadly weapons were confiscated. By 17 August 1942, following another flare-up of juvenile crimes, forty-two more were under arrest. Another outbreak netted sixty-nine additional arrests between 22 and 24 August 1942. On 12 January 1943, twelve zoot suit youths from seventeen to twenty-three years old were found guilty of Jose Diaz's murder. Of these twelve, three were convicted of murder in the first degree, with the recommendation of life imprisonment. The remaining nine were found guilty of second degree murder. Three other youths were convicted on two counts of assault with a deadly weapon with intent to commit murder and two others were convicted of assault. The Los Angeles Sheriff's Office reported that between 1 January and 8

June

June 8, 1943 three hundred and seventy-one native born Mexican-American male juveniles and twenty-two female juveniles were arrested. Among the boys' commonest crimes were auto theft (65), burglary (56) assault with deadly weapon (42), vagrancy (33), petty theft (30), robbery (23), drunkenness (16), and rape (9). According to the newspapers, since October 1942 the Los Angeles police arrested among zoot-suiters one hundred and sixty-five of Mexican ancestry, one hundred and thirty three negroes, and eighteen others. Los Angeles police records for the period from 1 March to 6 June, 1943, are said to show complaints of twenty-six service personnel assaulted by zooters and fifty-three robberies of servicemen. Between 4 June and 10 June, 1943, one hundred and twelve persons are reported to have received emergency hospital treatment in Los Angeles for serious injuries received in the zoot war, of which eighteen were servicemen. At least one hundred and thirty-five others who did not report for treatment were estimated to have been injured. In that period ninety-four civilians (chiefly zooters) and twenty servicemen were arrested, and about five hundred persons were taken into police custody without formal charges.

It has been estimated that of a hundred-odd zooters arrested and interrogated about 11 June 1943 in Los Angeles, eight-five per cent of those of draft age had been deferred or rejected by the army as undesirables. According to the press, the Office of War Information announced about 18 June that these zooters were described by a Japanese commentator on the Tokio radio as "strong, courageous young men who have banded together into a nationwide army to express by physical force their disapproval of the war. They are not afraid to spill blood--even their own blood--but they are intent on spilling it in their own country for their own sacred ideals."

TIME, in the issue referred to above, devoted part of a sentence to the immediate cause of the conflict between zoot-suiters and servicemen, in a casual reference to "several occasions when zoot-hoodlums had attacked and robbed" soldiers and sailors. It has been frequently asserted that servicemen started the trouble by crashing Mexican-American parties and, despite alleged race prejudice, by paying too much attention to Mexican-American girls. Since last autumn, however, reports have come in of about eighty menacing incidents said to have been unprovoked by enlisted men, between single or greatly outnumbered enlisted men and bands of zoot-suiters. And these are

presumably

presumably only a fraction of all the cases that occurred. About a tenth of these resulted in serious injuries. Most of them might easily have gone beyond the vituperative stage and led to physical harm, had not the enlisted men temporized and escaped at the first opportunity. But after months of increasing, unprovoked, and unpunished zoot-suit attacks on civilians, friends, families and members of the Army and Navy, servicemen meted out corporal punishment indiscriminately to all zoot-suiters they could find. In this they were continually abetted by civilians, who followed them about, aiding, cheering, and egging them on. In a short time zoot-suiters were hastily buying overalls with which to disguise themselves. The local press, barring Communist influences, seemed well disposed towards the servicemen. "When the menace had all but gotten out of control," ran an editorial in the San Diego Tribune, 9 June 1943, "servicemen took the law into their own hands..... Perhaps it was wrong for soldiers and sailors to deal with the zoot-suiters on this basis, but the measures taken by the servicemen were highly effective."

In connection with the zoot-suit riots the Communists have clearly had at least three aims: to agitate minority groups, especially the Los Angeles negroes and Mexican-Americans; to appear to champion these minority groups, with the design of extending Communist influence over them; and to attack their enemy, SINARQUISM, by charging it with instigating the riots.

Until Mexico entered the war, the SINARQUISTAS, a nationalist and isolationist group, were for Mexico first, last and always, and were opposed to giving any aid to either the Axis or the United Nations. Doubtless this stand indirectly had a dampening effect on the pro-Allied enthusiasm of Mexicans and Mexican-Americans in the United States, but there seems to have been no deliberately subversive action involved. They are a conservative, strongly Roman-Catholic group, and as such are anti-Communist. As most of the Mexican American Roman Catholic priests sympathize with SINARQUISM, it is possible that some diluted SINARQUIST propaganda reaches the pachucos from this source. But nothing more direct than that seems to be likely.

About two years ago numerous Mexican persons appeared in southern California and Texas, attempting to consolidate the Mexican groups in Texas with those in this area. Texas pachucos are said to be in part controlled by the Spanish FALANGISTS in Mexico. The Texas pachucos reportedly bring marijuana to Los Angeles. The zoot-suiters are known to use marijuana, and on 14 August 1942, a dope smuggling ring was smashed,

which

which had been supplying marijuana to juvenile gangsters. At present there are said to be numerous young Mexicans in this area from Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona, but they do not appear to be sufficiently well organized or intelligent to be used by subversive interests. On 5 June 1943, two unidentified Mexicans about eighteen years old were overheard discussing the recent altercations between zooters and military personnel in Los Angeles. One of the Mexicans remarked that things would be all right soon, since they had sent to El Paso for help. Although there appears to be some slight contact between the FALANGISTS and the SINARQUISTAS, there seems to be no evidence that Nazi agents are working to any noticeable extent through the SINARQUISTAS for the overthrow of the United States government.

On 16 May 1943 at a meeting of the Casa de Espana at the Sons of Hermann Hall, 120 East 25th Street, Los Angeles, a number of pachucos were observed dancing. The Casa de Espana is alleged to be the FALANGE nucleus in Los Angeles. A number of sailors were dancing there too. It is not clear that the pachucos or the sailors attended for anything more than diversion.

On the whole, the evidence for any direct or important participation by SINARQUISTAS and FALANGISTS in instigating the zoot-suit riots is so tenuous as to be negligible.

The Communist party "line" in connection with the recent zoot-suit disturbances appears to be a continuation of that adopted following the arrest in 1942 of a number of pachucos and their subsequent trial and conviction for murder in the Sleepy Lagoon murder case. At that time many known Communists and fellow-travelers organized the "Citizens' Committee to Defend the Mexican Youth." This committee was used as a vehicle for Communist propaganda and an attempt was made to raise the issue of racial discrimination and other social evils, in an effort to make this another "Scottsboro Case." Several known Communists and others who are active in the "Citizens Committee" have interested themselves in the recent disturbances, and it may be safely forecast that the Communist party will make full use of all possibilities in claiming to stand as a champion for the oppressed and down trodden.

On 5 June 1943, Churchill MURRAY (a liberal but presumably not a radical, Pacific Coast Director for the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs, said

to have

to have a brother who is an executive in the Office of War Information in Washington, D. C.) brought Eduardo QUEVEDO and three Mexican boy gang leaders to a conference with the Los Angeles Police Department. MURRAY stated that his chief concern was lest news reports of zoot riots be used as propaganda in Latin-America against this country's interests.

On 9 June 1943, a delegation of the Civil Liberties Union, led by A. L. WIRIN, the Union's attorney, called on U. S. Attorney Charles CARR and demanded that he protect the civil rights of zooters. WIRIN remained silent when questioned about civil rights of civilians and servicemen. Other members of the delegation were Philip M. CONNELLY, Eduardo QUEVEDO, and Ben MARGOLIS, C. I. O. counsel, retained by the Citizens' Committee for the Defense of Mexican-American Youths to appeal the Sleepy Lagoon murder case to higher courts.

10 June 1943, a meeting of about fifty people, believed to have been sponsored by the Mexican-American Youth Victory Club, was held in Los Angeles, under the chairmanship of Raymond E. B. WELCH, an employee of the Douglas Plant, Long Beach, California, and the organizer of the East Los Angeles Branch, 19th Congressional District Section of the Los Angeles County Communist Party. The principal speakers were WELCH and Gray BEMIS, a Communist Party member, an official of the International Workers Order in Los Angeles, and a member of the Citizens' Committee for the Defense of the Mexican-American Youth. The meeting adopted proposals to send a delegation to the Los Angeles Committee for American Unity, originated by Carey MC WILLIAMS, to arrange for a huge rally in Los Angeles, at which Army and Navy representatives, minority groups, labor, and civil officials would participate, in order to bring the problem of minority groups before the people and show up alleged discrimination, neglect, and police brutality; to send a delegation to the press, to state the Committee's position on publicity; to send a delegation to the Board of Supervisors of Los Angeles County; to publish a pamphlet in English and Spanish for mass distribution in Los Angeles, sympathizing with the Mexican-Americans and showing the purportedly true causes of the riots.

11 June 1943, a meeting of about twenty people was held by Benjamin Margolis, the law partner of Charles KATZ and Leo GALLAGHER. Carey MC WILLIAMS, the principal speaker, said that he had learned that the Governor's committee to investigate the zoot-suit riots would hold no public hearings concerning the disturbances; that, on behalf of the Los Angeles

Committee

Committee for American Unity, MC WILLIAMS had telegraphed the Governor protesting the refusal to hold open meetings; and that MC WILLIAMS's Committee would open an office and obtain a secretary, in order that the public would have a central place to send its complaints and information. Clore WARNE then led the meeting in a discussion. The following were nominated as an executive committee to draft a report for the Governor's Committee investigating the zoot-suit disturbances: Chairman, Vincent Monroe TOWNSEND, Jr., negro attorney, 2510 South Central Avenue, Los Angeles; Charlotta BASS; AL WAXMAN; Manuel AVILA, secretary of the Hollywood Bar Association; and Eduardo QUEVEDO. It was announced that QUEVEDO had agreed to see the Mexican Consul, Manuel AGUILAR , to arrange an exchange between the executive committee and the Mexican Consul of affidavits supporting charges made by zoot-suiters against servicemen and others. It was announced also that Wendell BERGE, Assistant United States Attorney General, had given assurances that the federal government would take an active interest in the investigation of the disorder.

About 12 June 1943, Josephine de BRIGHT was reported by a government agency to be in New York, trying to organize a committee to contact Vice-President WALLACE in connection with the zoot-suit riots.

CHRONOLOGICAL OUTLINE OF ZOOT SUIT RIOTS

In this outline, "zooters" are to be understood as being supposedly of Mexican ancestry, unless stated to the contrary. Events occurred in Los Angeles, unless otherwise noted. Civilian aspects of the situation are scarcely referred to here, since this office has been concerned chiefly with the naval angle.

8-2-42	Zooters murder Jose DIAZ, at Sleepy Lagoon.
8-9-42	Three hundred gangsters arrested since 8-2-42.
8-14-42	Dope smuggling ring, which had supplied boy gangsters with marijuana, was smashed.
8-17-42	Forty-two more gangsters arrested since 8-9-42.
8-24-42	Sixty-nine more arrests of pachuco gangsters since 8-22-42.

Dean HEATHMAN,

10-18-42	Dean HEATHMAN, a soldier, and Francis FLYERABEND, and corporal BYFIELD, and two naval enlisted men were attacked by zooters, their car was smashed, and their injuries necessitated emergency hospital treatment.
10-21-42	Communists organize Citizens' Committee to Defend the Mexican Youths (In the Sleepy Lagoon murder case).
10-25-42	Sgt. J. PAUL almost run down deliberately by zooters and later hit by rock or club, necessitating hospital treatment.
10-31-42	Andrew MADRID, Sea. Lc., was beaten by zooters.
11-2-42	Delegation from Citizens' Committee to Defend the Mexican Youths met with the Los Angeles police commission.
11-30-42	Communists raise money to defend Mexican youths accused of Jose DIAZ's murder, at Beverly Hills, California.
12-1 -42	Charles L. TEMPLIN, Sea. 2c., USN, attacked from rear; fight; San Bernardino, California.
12-7-42	Communist committee calls on Sheriff of Los Angeles County, urging dismissal of some deputies charged with mistreating "Mexicans."
12-9-42	J. B. TENNEY's committee found that Communist charges that Sinarquistas instigated zooters were groundless.
12-27-42	Jack T. ROBBINS, Sea. 2c., slugged to ground and robbed. H. V. EGGLESTON, M2c, assaulted and badly beaten at Port Hueneme.
12-30-42	Watler CLYDE, Y. 2c;, USNR, attacked by three zooters in San Pedro. Several clashes between pachucos and enlisted men in San Pedro.
1-12-43	Three zooters convicted of first degree murder, and nine others of second degree murder, in connection with murder of Jose DIAZ.
1-18-43	Citizens' Committee for the defense of Mexican-American Youth planned to appeal convictions in Sleepy Lagoon murder case.
4-1943	Robert J. SHORT, Sea. 2c., USN, struck in jaw. Bruce MC LEEN, Sea.2c., USN, assailed with bottles and stones.

Richard R. HERMANN

4-13-43 Richard R. HERMANN, EM 1c, cursed by zooters.

4-17-43 Several enlisted men cursed by zooters, including Kenneth W. ARNOLD, Sea.2c., V-6 USNR.

5-1-43 Wife of Charles J. THOMAS, Sea.2c., V-6, USNR, accosted and insulted, and again on 5-3-43.

5-6-43 Richard S. HAYNES, Sea.2c., V-6, USNR and Benny C. Boatright, Sea.,2c., V-6, USNR, insulted by zooters.

5-9-43 Riot between zooters and servicemen in Venice, California.

5-10-43 Donald MAC PHERSON, Sea.2c., USN, threatned by zooters but rescued by a passing motorist. Harris A. MELBYE, Sea.2c., V-6, USNR, stoned by zooters.

5-14-43 William J. LEONARD, Jr., Sea.2c., V-6, USNR, pursued and cursed by zooters.

5-17-43 Wallace STETICH (negro), Sea.2c., V-6, USNR, and Robert L. CALKINS, Sea.2c., V-6, USNR, insulted by zooters.

5-22-43 Dale C. HENDERSON, Sea.2c., V-6, USNR, attacked by zooters. Donald E. GRIFFIS, Sea.2c., USN, insulted by zooters.

5-24-43 Robert L. CALKINS, Sea.2c., V-6, USNR, Wallace STETICH (negro), Sea.2c., V-6, USNR, and BOATRIGHT, an enlisted man, were threatened by zooters.

5-25-43 Richard L. SLATER, Sea.2c., V-6, USNR, pursued and cursed by zooters. Robert C. PERRINS, Sea.2c., V-6, USNR, (SV), cursed by zooters.

5-27-43 Wife of George R. KING, C. C. M., accosted and insulted by zooters.

5-29-43 Unprovoked assault on Cecil MAGGARD (negro), Sea.2c., USN., and Charles G. LEE, Sea.2c.,V-6, USNR, James J. GRANNER, Sea.2c., V-6, USNR., James A. HOUSTON Sea.2c.,V-6, USNR., and Domenick VALLETTA (negro) EM3c, insulted by zooters. Richard A. BAKKEN, Sea. 2c., USN, attacked by zooters.

5-30-43 Two naval enlisted men attacked by zooters at Ocean Park; witnessed by Billie J. HOLLEY, Sea.2c.,V-6 USNR.

5-31-43 J. D. COLEMAN and Homer C. DRAPER, Sea.2c., V-6, USNR, attacked and injured by many zooters. COLEMAN knocked unconscious and jaw broken. Charles E. LEE, Sea.2c., V-6, USNR, F. W. BULLARD, K. S. MYSINGER, and H. C. DRAPER cursed and threatned by zooters in a restaurant.

Francis H. LLOYD

6-1-43 Francis H. LLOYD, Jr., Sea.2c., USNR, Cursed by zooters.

6-3-43 Alvin L. HERSCHMAN, Sea.2c., V-6, USNR, cursed by a group of zooters and girls, who raised their hands in Nazi salute and said "Heil Hitler?" Morris G. WATKINS, Sea.2c., V-6, USNR, and SLATER, HOLMES, MC PHERSON, MATTHEWS, and SICHROVSKY, all naval enlisted men cursed by zooters. Several other clashes between zooters and servicemen.

6-4-43 Pvt. Homer GRENIER knocked down and robbed by zooters. Leslie M. WILSON, Sea.2c., V-6, USNR, E. P. CHAMPAGNE, J. B. CHIAPPETTA, and C. V. CANOVA threatened and their car attached by zooters. John A. HRUSA, and Richard W. PATTERSON, Sea.2c.USN, cursed by zooters. Several other clashes between zooters and servicemen.

6-5-43 Chauncey A. BENGIVENO, RM3c, V-6, USNR, and several other naval enlisted men threatened in a trolley car by zooters. Claud J. DAVIS, Jr., Sea.2c., USN, threatened with knives by zooters. Arthur W. JUDD, Jr., Sea.2c., V-6, USNR, cursed by zooters. John K. DE WEES, Sea.2c., USN, and J. D. GOFF and H. W. LAUTHNER, threatened and cused in a theatre by zooters. Jacque A. SMITH, Sea.2c.,USN, pursued and cursed by zooters. John F. SMITH, Jr., Sea.2c.,USN, tripped, attacked and threatened with knife by zooters. William H. BUSHMAN, Sea. 2c., V-6, USNR, cursed by zooters in Long Beach. Other clashes between zooters and servicement.Some zooters tried to run their car over Charles G. LEE Sea.2c.,V-6 USNR, and John T. REYNOLDS, SK2c. Churchill MURRAY brought Eduardo QUEVEDO and three Mexican boy gang leaders to a conference with Los Angeles police.

6-6-43 Raymond R. REED and James L. Stubbart, enlisted men, USN, car smashed, attacked, and REED's leg broken. Two other enlisted men assaulted by zooters in Los Angeles. Ralph L. CROLDER, Sea.2c., USN, threatened by zooters with knife. Zooters attempted to run over J. H. BRADFORD, Sea. 2c., USN, and Lloyd L. SMITH, Sea.2c., V-6, USNR, Lester PETERS, Sea.2c, V-6, USNR, stoned by zooters. Earnest F. MITCHELL Sea.2c., V-6, USNR, Gordon W. SPENCER, Sea. 2c., V-6, USNR, and George R. KING, C.C.M., cursed by zooters. Raymond F. DENNIS, Sea.2c., V-6, USNR, Kenneth L. BATES, Sea.2c., USN, Shirley T. MONROE, Sea.2c., USN, Richard D. MURRAY, Sea. 2c., USN, and Morris G. WATKINS, Sea.2c., V-6, USNR, Raymond D. Henson, Sea.2c., V-6, USNR, Sidney D. BERRY, Sea. 2c., V-6, USNR, Bobby HENRY (negro), Sea.2c., V-6, USNR, and Jacque A. SMITH, Sea.2c., USN, Louis SANDOVAL, JR., Sea.2c., USN, and Jack P. BOWLIN, Sea. 2c., V-6, USNR, cursed by zooters. Rutherford J. MAHAN, Jr. Sea.2c., V-6, USNR, pursued by zooters but rescued by a taxi. George H. BERNUIS, Jr., Sea. 2c., USN, and other servicemen, attacked by zooters in Venice, Calif.

Jack FORSTER

6-7-43 Jack FORSTER, F2c, attacked. Daniel C. LLOYD, Naval enlisted man, assaulted. Servicemen scoured Los Angeles, beating and disrobing zooters. 1000 police summoned to special duty. Navy shore Patrol reinforced. Many arrests. This marks the peak of mass violence.

6-8-43 Donald J. JACKSON, USCG, in company of James R. PHILPS, USCG, attacked and JACKSON stabbed in abdomen. Donald R. MAINHURST, Sea.2c., knocked to the ground and attacked. Woodrow W. WOODROME, GM3c, assaulted at Pomona, Calif. The wife of Lt. Henry A. TURNER, D-V(S), USNR, whose pregnant condition was apparent, was pushed into the street by a "Mexican" boy as she was wearing a naval pin. Louis ANTORINO, Sea. 2c., USN-SV, cursed by zooters. Conference of law-enforcing officers met in Mayor's office. Scattered demonstrations in Los Angeles, Long Beach, Compton, South Gate, Lynwood, and Colton. Naval authorities declare Los Angeles out-of-bounds. Three enlisted men attacked by fifteen or twenty negroes in Los Angeles. Some enlisted men arrested in Los Angeles by Short Patrol for violation of out-of-bounds order.

6-9-43 One hundred and fifty servicemen fight 125 zooters in Los Angeles. Enlisted men involved were rounded up by Short Patrol. Scattered clashes in suburbs. Commandant of LLND orders officers to instruct naval personnel on proper behavior in public. Arthur HINTON, RM3c, Jasper D. HUTCHISON, RM3c, and Fred HERETH, Jr., RM3c, assaulted. Steve STURDIVANT, Y. 3c. halted and threatened. Civil Liberties Union calls on U. S. Attorney Charles CARR, C. C. YOUNG, San Pedro secretary of International Longshoremen and Warehousemen's Union, telegraphed Harry BRIDGES and Robert KENNY, California Attorney General presenting Communist picture of zoot riots.

6-10-43 Meeting held in Chamber of Commerce Building by civilian, Military and Naval authorities and Mexican Consuls. Citizens' committee of five members appointed by Governor WARREN, of California, to investigate zoot-suit riots, met at house of Bishop J. T. McGUCKEN. Bands of service men seeking zooters in San Diego are rounded up by Shore Patrol. Naval authorities extend out-of-bounds area to include suburbs of Los Angeles. Occasional clashes between zooters and enlisted men in travel status, in Los Angeles, and between zooters and civilians. In San Diego, four servicemen attacked by four Mexican-Americans wearing United States Army uniforms.

6-11-43 Shore Patrol further reinforced. Zoot demonstration in Pasadena. Zooters parade in Los Angeles with American flags and white flags of truce. Robert E. CATTS, C.G. injured by zooters. District

Attorney

Fred N. HOWSER announced that all phases of the zoot riots had been laid before the county grand jury.

6-12-43 Two enlisted men attacked by nine zooters.

6-15-43 Naval restrictions on Los Angeles lifted.

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Exhibit no. 4 to despatch no. 1855, from William P. Blocker, American Consul General at Ciudad Juárez, México, dated August 3, 1943, on subject of "Zoot Suit Disturbances at Los Angeles, California".

This is the story of a large minority group in the United States, our Latin-American brother, generous and warm hearted, simple charming and lovable yet segregated, persecuted and submerged. It is the story of many Anglo-Americans who have shown stupidity, ignorance and malice in treating their Mexican brethren with injustice, discrimination and disdain. It is not a lovely story; it is profoundly disturbing because it tells of poverty and tragedy, of disease, delinquency and death.

During the past quarter of a century many good citizens of our country sincerely believed that the race question might well be let alone to work itself out to a happy conclusion by the slow, sure formula of peaceful evolution and patient progress. It was a comfortable philosophy and if not very hopeful to the minority groups it largely satisfied the master race.

But the present worldwide and devastating conflict has disturbed peaceful consciences, opened unseeing eyes and posed stubborn questions that simply will not be downed without direct and adequate answers. Some of these questions sound like this: Why did the Burmese natives refuse to fight for England? What truth is there in the Japanese contention that the white races despise the yellow men? Can we keep our self-respect if we demand that the colored American fight for freedom in Africa and deny him freedom at home? Can we make the western hemisphere a bulwark of liberty and law while we maim and mangle Mexican youth in the streets of our cities? Can we condemn our Latin-Americans to starvation wages, bad housing and tuberculosis and then expect them to be strong, robust soldiers of Uncle Sam? Can we tell our Spanish-Speaking soldiers that dishonorable discharge from the army will deprive them of civil rights when they never had any civil rights? In a word, can we, the greatest nation on earth, assume the moral leadership of the world when race riots and murder, political crimes and economic injustices disgrace the very name of America?

These sharp questions are getting under the skin of every decent American and all are agreed that something has got to be done about it.

I take it that in a keynote address the speaker is not expected to cover the whole agenda of a four-day conference. You have gathered here to pool your

knowledge

knowledge and experience of Spanish-American conditions that out of a complete and integrated picture you may draw definite conclusions and recommendations looking to the amelioration of those conditions. For my part I shall confine my remarks to a few broad considerations leading the way to further thought and analysis by the members of this conference.

Before referring some of the darker details of our subject may I mention that the good effect of the war on the thinking of our citizens is not the only bright spot in a rather somber picture. It may not be generally recognized, and yet it is very true, that during the past half century our ancient Church has stood almost alone in the field of constructive effort in behalf of our Mexican brethren. Unthinking persons, friendly to our Mexican people, have declared that in the past no one has done anything for them. The truth is that while some counties and some states have contributed generously to the material welfare of our impoverished Mexicans the Catholic Church, through Diocesan Welfare Bureaus, Chancery Offices and the Extension on Society of Chicago, has poured out millions of dollars for both the spiritual and temporal welfare of these children of the Church. I think it is fair to say that the Catholic Church in the Southwest and on the Coast has expended more of Her funds on Her beloved Mexican people than on any other group in our population.

But now we no longer stand alone. The administration in Washington, through the Office of the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs, is showing an intelligent and helpful interest in these problems. State officials and citizens generally are aroused over the lethargy and mistakes of the past. Now, at long last, we see the dawn of a better day for our Spanish-American people. But this new interest will not automatically lift the burden from the shoulders of this oppressed minority. That interest must be informed and directed to achieve its proper purpose. The proceedings of this conference will contribute greatly to that end.

If I were asked to mention one outstanding problem that weighs most heavily upon our Mexican people I would say that it is the burden of undeserved poverty. I stress that word--undeserved. I suppose that among all peoples one can find examples of solemn myths, folk lore and bits of popular nonsense. One of the myths seriously entertained by some English-speaking Americans is that Mexican workers are lazy, slow and improvident. He would indeed be an optimist who would declare that no Mexican workers deserve that description. But the same is true of all nationals--a few are improvident but the vast majority are normal, hard working people.

And right here a thought occurs to me which I believe has validity. How hard would an Irishman work

if you

if you paid him twenty cents an hour? How much exuberance, vitality and enthusiasm could any people show who had been underpaid, undernourished and badly housed for half a century? If the Mexican is sometimes illiterate, whose fault is it but the fault of those who denied him an education and drove him out to work in the days of his youth? If the Mexican is sometimes diseased and delinquent, whose fault is it but the fault of those who from his birth condemned him to the unwholesome atmosphere of poverty and squalor? If the Mexican is sometimes not a good American, what can you expect from a man who during all his life was socially ostracized, deprived of civil rights, politically debased and condemned to economic servitude. If some Mexicans seem to be inferior it is because we made them so. God gave them rights and gifts like all the rest of us but we have degraded them.

The truth is that the majority of Mexican laborers are honest, industrious and hard working if treated in a civilized manner. Many of them have developed highly technical skills when given the advantage of training. Unfortunately, poverty and race discrimination have robbed many of them of educational opportunities. They are mostly unskilled or semi-skilled. In normal times they are given the worst jobs with the lowest pay. Many have been unemployed; others have had seasonal labor with substantial intervals of idleness.

During this conference you will consider conditions among rural communities of Mexicans, the subsistence farmers and the migratory workers in agriculture. You will note that a large number of the agricultural workers are really residents of cities and towns who leave home and church and school to become wandering nomads on the highways of our country. Home life is wrecked, school work is disrupted and parish loyalties are suspended or broken. How fine a thing it would be if these patient, hard-working families could have a little land of their own where they could settle down, earn their bread and save their souls.

To hold this large segment of our population in poverty is false economy. To pay miserable wages to our Spanish-speaking workers is a luxury which our business men can hardly afford. If the purchasing power of this great group of people were equal to their capacity to consume our business men would enjoy the greatest prosperity that they have ever known. If three-quarters of a million of Spanish-Americans in Texas receive honest wages the products of our fields

and factories

factories would be purchased as never before.

To deny adequate relief to dependent citizens is also false economy. Here in Texas our program of public relief to indigents is pitiful. A very general lack of labor organizations, the absence of good social legislation and the greed of powerful employers have combined to create in Texas dreadful and widespread misery. The evil men who are driving tens of thousands of our poor people into slow starvation will be held to strict accountability by the God of eternal justice.

A third type of false economy is the refusal to employ truent officers for the compulsory education of our children in public or private schools. A study of school enrollment in the City of Dallas was made recently and it was found that 3800 children were not even registered in school. Many of them were Latin-Americans. In this Archdiocese we estimate that there are 10,000 children of grammar school age not enrolled in any school. Most of them are Spanish-Americans. By refusing to employ attendance officers we may save a few hundred dollars annually but we spend all of that and much more to provide jails, juvenile courts and probation officers for delinquent youth; and the loss in social values is beyond estimation.

From all of this it will be seen that poverty walks hand in hand with a host of spiritual and physical tragedies--bad housing, poor education, crime and juvenile delinquency, disease and early death, loss of religious loyalties and the crushing of the human spirit. But we English speaking people are also the losers for we are deprived of the music and laughter, the art and culture, the skills and achievements of a people who could add so much to the richness and fullness of our lives.

It is passing strange that we should consider these Spanish-Americans as aliens and foreigners in this great Southwest. They are native to this land. It was theirs alone when this vast region was the distant border of the Spanish empire. It was theirs before Columbus and before Cortez. It was theirs when Junipero Serra established the old missions of California. It was theirs when the Alamo was the center of a community in a circle of missions along the winding river of St. Anthony. They and their ancestors were here before the Spaniards brought them the cruel burden of western civilization, but brought them also the saving grace of Christ. They have named our cities, Santa Fe, Los Angeles, San Diego and San Antonio. They have named our rivers, Rio Grande, Guadalupe, San Pedro and Colorado. This is their country.

These people are our people. They are the most numerous body of Catholics in the whole Southwest. They are God's children created to His image and likeness.

All of us

All of us, English and Spanish-speaking Catholics, have been blessed with the same heritage of Christian faith. We receive with them the same sacraments, at the baptismal font, at the altar, in the tribunal of repentance and the last anointing on our bed of death. With them we believe, we pray, we are governed. With them we strive for salvation in a blessed immortality.

But there is another tie that binds us to them; all of us are Americans. The Spanish-speaking were here first. We, in a certain sense, merged with them. This is their country and ours. God gave them pleasant fields and lovely rivers to all of us. Unfortunately this whole Southwest lives an unstable existence. But our Spanish-speaking brothers suffer from its instability worst of all. There are poor English-speaking people here --poor Germans and Czechs and Poles; but none are so numerous, none have so suffered as those whose forbears were here before Coronado and Columbus. Completely to cure the insecurity of the Mexicans means curing also the basic insecurity of this whole area. It is a difficult task, but not impossible. Without delay we must devise ways to save them from the worst features of this insecurity.

I would be unfair to truth if I did not add another word. We of the ancient Church must develop leaders among our Spanish-American brothers and we must persuade their ablest men and women who have achieved a measure of prosperity not to abandon their own brethren. Through our Catholic Action organizations we should be able to develop leaders among our Spanish-Americans and perhaps in time we may win back those who could have made a contribution to their own race but who in an evil day separated themselves from their ancient culture, their traditions and their people.

If in the past our English speaking Catholics have not seemed to cooperate intimately with our Latin-American brothers it surely was not entirely their fault. Worthwhile inter-American relations require leadership, action and organization. If these have not always been available we intend to supply them now. Our Anglo-Catholics must give to our non-Catholic fellow citizens a good example of sincere, wholehearted cooperation with Spanish-Americans here and throughout the hemisphere.

Before concluding I wish to make three definite recommendations. Organization is needed here in the Southwest to solve our basic problems of insecurity. It would be ideal if a statewide or even an interstate organization could be formed to analyse and attack our problems of industry, agriculture, relief, housing, race discrimination and such like. If this ideal is not now feasible we should support existing organizations and create new ones when possible.

Here in

Here in Texas Junior Chambers of Commerce are studying inter-American relations. The Coordinator's office in Washington is setting up a statewide advisory committee to help solve these problems. Here in San Antonio a planning committee is being organized to coordinate the social welfare programs of our community. A statewide legislative committee for better social legislation is also under way. Our Mexican people have a stake in all of these forward looking movements. We must not refuse our cooperation.

My second recommendation has already been mentioned. We must labor in season and out of season to develop loyal, intelligent leaders among the Spanish-Americans themselves. And my final word is this. All of us, Catholics and non-Catholics, must think and plan and live like Christians. I am convinced that the present worldwide conflict was caused in part by the sins and the lethargy of part-time Christians. And doubtless here in the Southwest if we shall only live as Christians we shall witness less of tragedy and a larger hope.

I bid you welcome to this conference and I thank you for your coming. May your deliberations be rich in God's blessing and fruitful in achievement.

Copied: ec

Mexico folder 1-43

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

Confidential

file

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

708 Hill Building
17th & Eye Sts., N.W.
Washington 6, D. C.

September 1, 1943

My dear Franklin:

I am enclosing herewith a summary of recent reports on the Pan American Highway in Mexico, bringing the information practically up to date as to developments on the road.

The most important development is that the road is now open to Oaxaca, 555 kilometers south of Mexico City.

It also contains certain interesting suggestions for pioneer type of roads for quick connection between Mexico and Guatemala with a map showing these new projected roads. These pioneer road connections, however, are by no means decided upon officially by either Mexico or Guatemala.

If this is attached to a copy of my report made to the Secretary of State on roads in Mexico, dated April 7, 1943, it will give a complete picture of the road status in Mexico as we now have it.

Yours as ever,

J. Van Ness Philip

The President,

White House.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By J. Schauble Date FEB 10 1972

August 30, 1943

To be attached to Report on the Pan American Highway and other roads in Mexico - by J. Van Ness Philip, dated April 7, 1943.

Summary of the following reports and letters relative to the Pan American Highway bringing information as to the condition of the Highway up to June 9, 1943 and information as to suggested road connection between Guatemala and Mexico -

May 18, 1943	Report from the Embassy in Mexico to the Secretary of State by C. Norman Frees.
June 9, 1943	Report of Military Attaché in Mexico,D.F., Military Intelligence Division, W.D.G.S.2034
July 1, 1943	Letter from United States Ambassador in Guatemala to the Secretary of State, No.152
July 23, 1943	Letter from United States Ambassador in Guatemala to the Secretary of State, file 814.154/145, No. 222.

Map made by John W. Carrigan, Esq., RA, showing certain suggested roads connecting Mexico with Guatemala other than by the accepted route of the Pan American Highway.

[redacted]

Under date of May 18, 1943 the Embassy in Mexico reports that

the Highway from Mexico, D.F. to Oaxaca is open the entire distance for all-weather traffic;

that the contractors hope for additional funds so that by the end of 1943 a gravel provisional road will be opened from 55 km. south of Oaxaca to 136 km. for dry weather travel -- that is from near San Dionisio to 14 kilometers north of Nejapa;

that the use of the irrigation road, paralleling the above section, as a link in the Pan American Highway has been definitely given up by the Mexican Government, and the road will be built on higher ground;

that construction in spots has been started between kilometer 55 south of Oaxaca and kilometer 136 on this road but very little headway made as of the date of the report, May 18, 1943;

that for the section between Tequisistlan and Tehuantepec on the Pan American Highway from Oaxaca to Tehuantepec, approximately 60 kilometers, a contract appropriating 1,000,000 pesos was let late in April 1943 by the Mexican Government for the completion of a provisional gravel road to be finished by the end of 1943. It is noted there is no bridge for automobiles over the Tehuantepec river at Tehuantepec;

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By J. Schauble Date FEB 10 1972

that the Mexican Government has decided to improve an old road said to exist from San Christobal Las Casas to Comitán so that this road can be used provisionally in all weather.

The most interesting part of this report is the very recent decision of the Mexican Highway Department to construct a provisional pioneer road to the Guatemalan border to be finished in 1943, this pioneer road to run from La Trinitaria, 15 kilometers south of Comitán, to Gracias á Dios on the Guatemalan border. (There is an old road between Comitán and Trinitaria, which is to be improved for rainy season travel.) It is stated the Guatemalan Government plans to build a road from San Mateo, Ixtatan to the border town of Gracias á Dios. It is also stated there is a serviceable road between San Mateo, Ixtatan and the Guatemalan section of the Pan American Highway. See in this regard letter of the United States Ambassador to Guatemala of July 23, 1943 as to a road to San Mateo, Ixtatan.

An outline map of this and other suggested routes is attached.

With the exception of the above notations, the report from the Mexican Embassy of May 18 substantially agrees with my report dated April 7, 1943.

[redacted]

Military Intelligence Division D.G.S.

Report from Military Attaché in Mexico
dated June 9th, 1943

Huajuapan to Oaxaca on the Pan American Highway north of Oaxaca, distance of about 152 kilometers. The road has been graded and ditched but surface varies from earthwork to gravel and crushed rock. The road now open but is exceedingly rough. The completion of a good gravel surfaced road over this section believed possible by August 1, 1943.

The balance of this report agrees with the reports of April 12 and May 18.

This report also refers to the projected pioneer road from Comitán via Trinitaria to the Guatemalan border at Gracias á Dios and states that the Guatemalan Government has agreed to run a road from the Pan American Highway in Guatemala to meet the Mexican road at Gracias á Dios. Again attention is called to the letters from the United States Embassy in Guatemala in this respect. See map attached.

The report gives:

List of construction companies at work on the Pan American Highway;

The value of outstanding contracts for construction work;

Data as to the movement by railroad of machinery and

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 5(B) or (E)
OSD letter, May 8, 1972
By JS, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

equipment transhipped through Mexico for the Pan American Highway, a total of 731 carloads;

A detailed kilometer report from Mexico City to Oaxaca;

Inventory of machinery and equipment in hands of construction companies now at work on the Pan American Highway showing as well the amount of machinery out of use due to breakdown. In this regard the report states approximately 1/3rd of the heavy machinery is now idle due to lack of spare parts.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

No. 152 Guatemala - July 1, 1943
Letter from the U. S. Ambassador to Guatemala to the Secretary of State
Subject: Guatemalan Highway

The letter states nothing found out about the immediate construction by Guatemala of the link of road from San Mateo, Ixtatan (presumably to Gracias á Dios on the Mexican border - the suggested Mexican pioneer road to run to Gracias á Dios and from there to San Mateo, Ixtatan, Guatemala).

Work is said to continue on the road between Huehuetenango and San Mateo, Ixtatan, but only 16 miles have been built in the last four years.

The letter states from information of a reliable source that Guatemala has in view three main roads connecting Guatemala with Mexico:

No. 1 - The Pan American Highway on Guatemalan route No. 1 (via Talisman bridge)

No. 2 - From Amatenango, Mexico, through Ciulco, Guatemala, to Huehuetenango and thence on to Sacapulos, Panzas, Lake Isabel to Livingston. Presumably the connection with the Pan American Highway will be made by the road from Huehuetenango to Quetzaltenango which place is on the Pan American Highway.

No. 3 - The Pioneer Highway (also crossing by the Talisman bridge)

This letter continues with information concerning the Pioneer Road being built by the U.S. Army in Guatemala and the reason for the seeming disinclination of El Salvador for the pioneer road to run from Escuintla to Pijiji and connecting with Sonsonate, El Salvador.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By J. Schauble Date FEB 10 1972

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Letter from the United States Embassy, Guatemala, July 23, 1943, to the Secretary of State

No. 222 File 814.154/145

This letter refers to Despatch No. 152 of July 1, 1943, which despatch relates in a general way to a highway connecting San Mateo, Ixtatan, via Gracias á Dios (Guatemala) with Comitán, Mexico. It now develops there is no road to San Mateo, Ixtatan.

It is suggested a road for quick connection with Mexico might be made from Chemal, Guatemala, (about 18 miles north of Huehuetenango) in a more or less straight line toward Comalapa, Mexico (about 45 miles, or 70 kilometers south of Comitán). The distance is about 40 miles through a valley country with no large bridges to be constructed. The rough estimate of cost is $350,000. No suggestion is made that Guatemala has even thought of this route.

In a report made to the Ambassador through the office of the United States Resident Engineer in Guatemala City, a road is mentioned from Comitán, Mexico, through Chicomuselo, Mexico, to the River and then into San Mateo, Ixtatan, Guatemala, called the all-weather road. A man who came across it in 1941 described it as a "hell of a road".

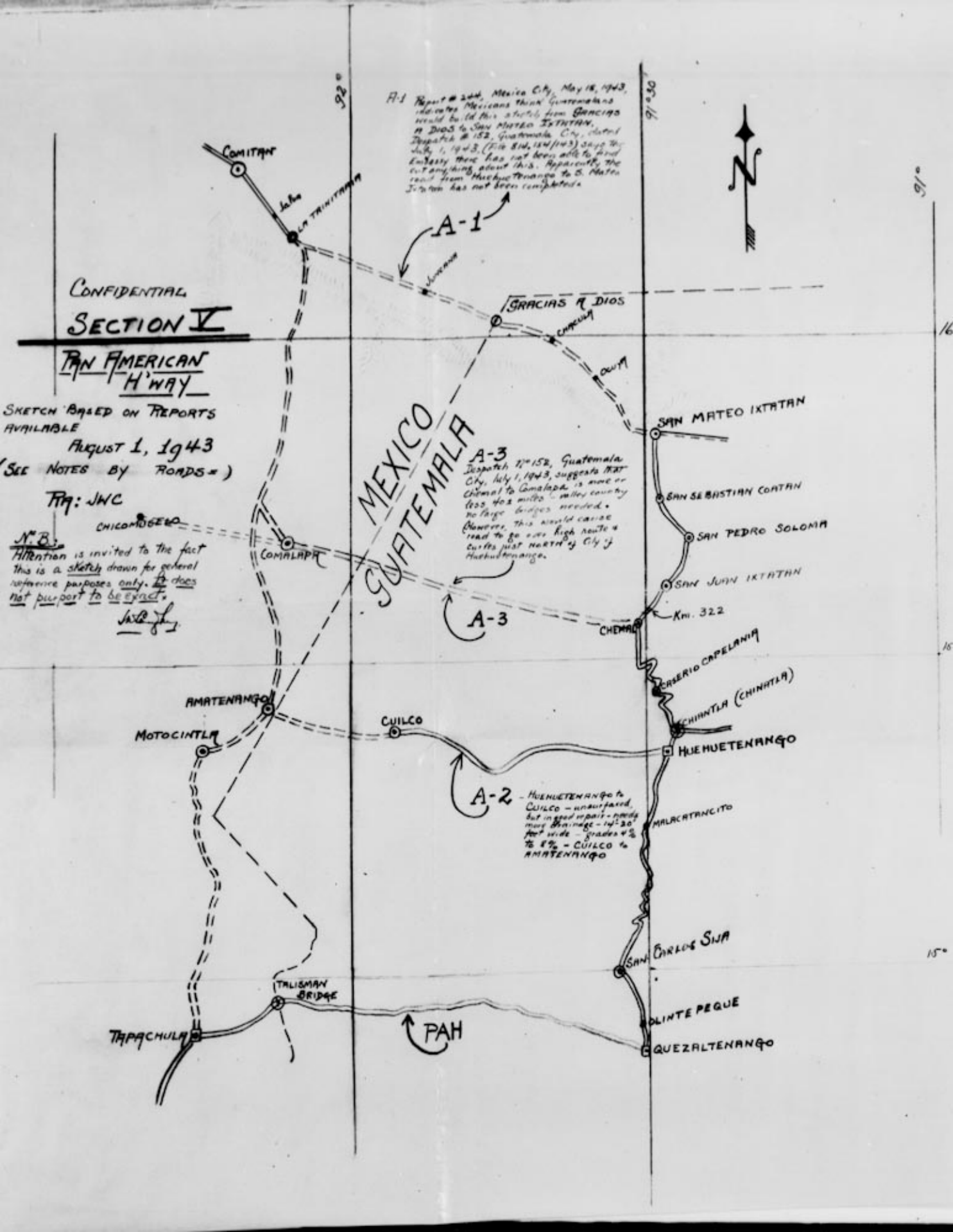
Another road starts near Chicomuselo, Mexico, and comes out at Huehuetenango, Guatemala. It is said main-

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
FEB 10 1972

tenance work only is being done on this road.

The opinion of the writer of the report to the Resident Engineer in Guatemala City is that "if there is going to be a road it will be by way of Chicomuselo, Mexico, to Huehuetenango, Guatemala". See map attached.

The report of the Ambassador also contains data on the condition of sections of the various roads above.


CONFIDENTIAL
SECTION V
PAN AMERICAN H'WAY
SKETCH BASED ON REPORTS AVAILABLE
AUGUST 1, 1943
(SEE NOTES BY ROADS #)
PAA: JWC
N.B.: Attention is invited to the fact this is a sketch drawn for general reference purposes only. It does not purport to be exact.
A-1 Report # 244, Mexico City, May 18, 1943, indicates Mexicans think Guatemalans would build this stretch from GRACIAS A DIOS to SAN MATEO IXTATAN. Despatch # 152, Guatemala City, dated July 1, 1943 (File 810.124/1943) says the Embassy there has not been able to find out anything about this. Apparently the road from Huehuetenango to S. Mateo Ixtatan has not been completed.
A-3 Despatch #152, Guatemala City, July 1, 1943, suggests that Chimal to Comalapa is more or less 40 miles - valley country no large bridges needed. However, this would cause road to go over high route & curves just north of City of Huehuetenango.
A-2 - HUEHUETENANGO to CUILCO - unsurfaced, but in good repair - needs more drainage - 14'-20' feet wide - grades 4% to 8% - CUILCO to AMATENANGO
PAH
MEXICO
GUATEMALA
COMITAN
LA TRINITARIA
GRACIAS A DIOS
SAN MATEO IXTATAN
SAN SEBASTIAN COATAN
SAN PEDRO SOLOMA
SAN JUAN IXTATAN
Km. 322
CHEMAL
CASERIO CAPELANIA
CHIANTLA (CHINATLA)
HUEHUETENANGO
MALACATANCITO
SAN CARLOS SIJA
OLINTE PEQUE
QUEZALTENANGO
CHICOMUSELO
COMALAPA
AMATENANGO
MOTOCINTLA
CUILCO
TALISMAN BRIDGE
TAPACHULA
92°
91°30'
91°
16
15°
N

RDJB -

Please put with
Mr. Crowley's letter
referred to in the memo -

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 4, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR GRACE:

Mr. Markham in Mr. Leo Crowley's office called and asked if the following could be added as a P.S. to Mr. Crowley's letter sent over today:

A representative of the Foreign Minister's office stated that the proposal "was one of the finest and most understanding proposals ever made to the Mexican Government by the United States".

djb

Mexico Folder 1-43

file

OFFICE OF
ALIEN PROPERTY CUSTODIAN
WASHINGTON

September 3, 1943.

MEMORANDUM TO THE PRESIDENT:

I am glad to report to you that a satisfactory program has been worked out with the Mexican Government in connection with the German-owned industrial properties seized by that Government. Following your letter to President Comancho, we sent our men to Mexico and the resulting program seems to have been not only entirely satisfactory to the Mexican Government, but one over which they appear to be very enthusiastic.

The program contemplates the creation of a Mexican holding company which will own all of the German companies as subsidiaries. The holding company will function as a managing company, each of the subsidiaries thereof operating separately. We will be represented in the management of the holding company. The holding company will appoint a man to represent it in this country, who in consultation with our representative will contact American concerns in connection with the procurement of management and supplies for the subsidiary companies. Also, they have agreed to consolidate their chemical and pharmaceutical companies with those which we have seized in the United States. I believe this arrangement definitely carries out your wishes.

Leo T. Crowley

Leo T. Crowley

OFFICE OF

ALIEN PROPERTY CUSTODIAN

WASHINGTON

September 3, 1943.

Miss Grace Tully,
Secretary to the President,
The White House,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Miss Tully:

Will you kindly see that the enclosed memorandum is called to the attention of the President.

Thanking you, I am

Sincerely yours,

Leo T. Crowley,
Alien Property Custodian.

Enc.

(1944)
hmo

Signed original of this letter sent to the Under Secretary of State for delivery.
hmo

PSF: Mexico folder
1-43

October 15, 1943

Dear George:

It was a real pleasure to have your full letter of October 2 telling me of your conversation with President Ávila Camacho. During the brief time that the President and I were together along the border I developed a high regard for his sound statesmanship. He took hold of his country at a time when it was being rent asunder by internal dissensions and welded it together behind progressive and practical policies.

I am fully aware of the import of the political maneuvering now going on that has as one of its objectives the elimination of Dr. Padilla from the Cabinet and was glad, therefore, to have your opinion that the President will maintain him in his position. In the field of foreign relations Dr. Padilla has collaborated fully and effectively in the implementation of the policies of his chief. His departure would be a loss not only for us but for all the American Republics.

I fully agree with the President that it is of the utmost importance that our two countries continue in the peace the collaboration that has been so fruitful during the war. They can set a standard of cooperation that will have far-reaching effects on the other countries of this hemisphere. I was delighted to learn that the Economic Commission produced results

and that the new Industrial Commission is taking up where the Economic Commission left off.

I discern between the lines of the reports that reach me that to you is due considerable credit for the improvement in relations between Mexico and the United States during the last two years. Keep up the good work!

Very sincerely yours,

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

The Honorable
George S. Messersmith,
American Ambassador,
México, D.F.

Personal

México, D.F.,
October 2, 1943.

Dear Mr. President:

On the day following the Independence Day celebrations here on September 16, I had a very long talk with President Avila Camacho - in fact, for over two hours. The conversation was interesting in many ways and I should like to write you a full resume of it, but I shall confine myself to just the most significant things which the President said.

In the first place, I must tell you that he was deeply pleased and honored by the brief visit which General Marshall made here to be present during the Independence Day celebrations. It was a fine thing for General Marshall to do, and it has had a deep and lasting effect here. As the President is very much interested in questions of military strategy and has, as you know, a very real understanding of military problems, he considered it a very real privilege to have an opportunity to talk with General Marshall, completely aside from the honor which he felt General Marshall was paying to his country by coming here.

President Avila Camacho is deeply concerned about many situations in his own country. As you know, there is a new Mexico in the making, and it is largely the result of his wise and sound statesmanship. Not everyone, however, is in accord with the internal and external policies of the President. It would be too much to expect that in view of all the past. As you know, President Avila Camacho believes that we must live in the present and look forward into the future and forget, so far as possible, the past. He is able to do this but some of his countrymen are not, and there are quite a good many in the country who are not satisfied with his policy of full collaboration with us and

with

The President,

The White House.

with some of his internal policies which are on the whole really wise and sound. Recently he has been under the necessity of considering the advisability of making certain changes in his Cabinet and while I am sure he considers these changes desirable, if not necessary, he finds it very difficult to make the changes, and I do not see him making any changes for the moment. One of the results of the conversation which I had with him is that I have the conviction that whatever changes may be made by the President in his Cabinet, they will be a reflection of internal situations only and will not affect the foreign policy of Mexico or relations with us. More concretely, I believe that although the Minister for Foreign Relations, Dr. Padilla, has been under a good deal of attack, the President will maintain him in that position. This is extremely important not only for Mexico but for us and for all the Americas, because I consider that Dr. Padilla is one of the wisest, most sincere and most capable of all the men in important positions in the other American Republics. So far as Dr. Padilla is concerned, I feel that his position is secure although he will continue to remain under attack, and one of the principal reasons he is under attack, of course, is because he is the principal exponent and instrument for carrying into effect the President's policy of full collaboration with us. In my opinion, the maintenance of Dr. Padilla in his position is extremely important for us all because he can be such a powerful influence not only during the remainder of the War but in the post-war period when understanding and courage will be essential. There are no two men in Mexico more firmly committed to the policy of collaboration with us in inter-American and in world problems than are President Avila Camacho and Dr. Padilla.

During the course of the conversation the President talked at great length concerning the reasons why he is so deeply rooted in this conviction that Mexico's collaboration with the United States must be full and complete and without reservations not only now but after the War. He said that there were only three countries which could play a prominent role in the critical years after the War. Russia would undoubtedly emerge from the War very strong in many ways. The Soviet regime had changed very much, he believed, in its social and political objectives. Its attitude, however, in many ways was enigmatic and uncertain and the Russian Government and people, at their best, were not fitted to take a prominent position in world policies. One could not be sure what they would do and one could not be sure of the way in which they would use their power or in what direction they would go.

So

So far as England was concerned, she had been and was a great country and she was playing a heroic role in this struggle. Great changes had taken place in England in the last few years but England still had much to learn. She would emerge from this War weakened in many ways. She would not be in a position to assume primary responsibility in world problems after the War. It was doubtful, in spite of the changes which had taken place in England, whether she could be depended upon to deal firmly and equitably in certain social problems and political problems and along the lines which were essential for the maintenance of the peace and real establishment of order and social and political justice. While he had great admiration for England and the British people, he was not sure whether they were prepared yet to face all problems as realistically as they had to be faced and to deal as equitably with all political and social problems as was necessary.

To his mind the United States was the only one of the great nations which could be depended upon, and which was equipped, to play the necessary role of prominent power after the War. We would emerge from the War, in spite of our great sacrifices in blood and treasure, the strongest country. He felt that we were the only country which could be depended upon to use that power, economic and political which we would have, with all fairness and justice and equity. He said that we in the United States were a disciplined people and we would know how to use power. He has, of course, as I need not tell you again, not only this personal admiration and respect for you and for your actuation, but he has the utmost confidence in our Government and in our people. He said that he was very much encouraged to hear from recent reports that the two major political parties in the United States were both in accord with respect to the necessity of the United States assuming its responsibilities after the War -- responsibilities which were inevitable -- and which had to be assumed if the World was to be safe for the United States and for the Americas and for anyone. He had the profound conviction that the good neighbor policy was the policy of the American people.

Then he went on to say that it was because he held these deep convictions that it was his unswerving intention to carry through a policy of full collaboration of Mexico with the United States during the War and after the War. It was his opinion that Mexico must have closer and more intimate relationships with the United States than with any other country. He felt that this was in the interest of both countries. Mexico, as the weaker country, would benefit the more by such a relationship but it was a relationship which even a strong country

like

like the United States must desire because the collaboration of the two could be so useful.

I have gone into this detail with respect to this phase of the conversation because I can assure you that there are many pressures which are being brought to bear upon the President not to be so full and so complete in his collaboration with us. There are those who believe that Mexico, by following a policy of less full and complete collaboration with us, would be able to secure many more advantages from us. The President does not feel that such a policy would either be honest or wise.

The President said that just as he believed that certain policies were becoming fixed as policies of the American people, irrespective of parties, so he hoped during his period of office to be able to consolidate the situation here in the direction it was now following so that when he left the Presidency, there would be no change in this fundamental policy of collaboration with the United States. We could not look too far into the future but he had the profound conviction that Mexico would remain in this policy of collaboration with us.

I am afraid that sometimes some of my friends at home may think that I am pressing Mexican problems upon our attention too much, but I know that you appreciate that what I have in mind is that although our relationships with all of the American Republics are important and all of them must be given due consideration, Mexico is our nearest neighbor. She is establishing more and more internal order and there is, in my mind, no doubt that a new Mexico is in the making and this is thoroughly understood in the other American Republics. The position of Mexico and her prestige has in the last few years become much greater in the other American Republics. It is difficult for some of these friends to understand that Mexico should be following so close a collaboration with us, but the fact that she is so doing after 100 years of spotty background has impressed these other Republics tremendously. It is, I think, therefore extremely important, as you so fully recognize, that we solidify this friendship between Mexico and the United States because it can be so useful to us in the whole American picture.

I think we can depend upon Mexico during the course of the War and in the period immediately following the War to work with us and along with us in post-war problems in a manner in accord with our views. This will be a tremendous advantage to us in getting unity of action and support from the other

American

American Republics. While Mexico is a sovereign country and has her own ideas, they run very much along ours and, therefore, without in any way infringing upon her sovereignty the President feels that she can work with us in a wholehearted way.

We discussed many other matters of interest which will be of interest to you but I will not burden you with them in this letter because the foregoing is the principal substance of the conversation and the conclusion which can be drawn therefrom. In the President and Dr. Padilla we have two friends who, I think, will be among the most helpful collaborators that we can have during the remainder of the War and in the post-war period. I think this is something which we will wish to keep constantly in mind.

The President naturally is interested in the development of his country which in many ways is so backward. For this reason the constructive steps which we are taking to aid in the industrial and agricultural development of Mexico must go forward but they must be steps along constructive lines because these people here, although Latins, are very realistic. The work of the Joint Economic Mission, so happily inaugurated through your efforts and those of President Avila Camacho, was most helpful. We are now implementing it through the Joint Industrial Commission, which is the outgrowth and the continuation of the Economic Mission. The important thing for us to do in these matters is to keep our feet on the ground and to work along entirely realistic lines, and this is what I think the Commission will do. Its work is receiving my constant attention. The happy thing is that anything which we can do to help the industrial and agricultural development of Mexico will be to our advantage and not to our disadvantage for, as I think I have told you before, it is my profound conviction that there are no two countries in the Americas whose industry and agriculture can develop without clash and conflict to the degree as is the case of the United States and Mexico. Our agricultural and industrial interests have nothing to fear but much to benefit from anything which we do to help Mexico's industrial and agricultural development.

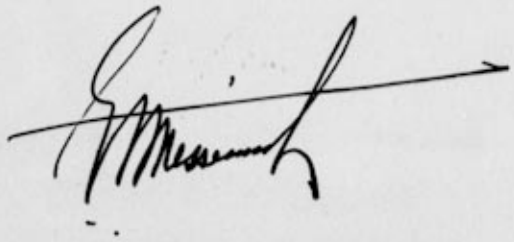
The President, throughout his conversation, showed the deep admiration and affectionate regard which he has for you. I am glad to say that I have a very happy relationship

with

with him and that we can talk frequently and frankly, not only as officials but as real friends.

With all good wishes,

Cordially and faithfully yours,



THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

October 15. 1943

My dear Mr. President:

In accordance with your request there is attached a suggested reply to the letter which you received from Ambassador George S. Messersmith dated October 2, 1943.

Believe me,

Faithfully yours,

E R Stettinius Jr

Enclosures:

1. From Ambassador Messersmith, October 2, 1943;
2. Suggested reply to letter from Ambassador Messersmith.

The President,

The White House.

Mexico folder
1-43

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 7, 1943.

MEMORANDUM FOR

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE:

FOR PREPARATION OF REPLY FOR MY SIGNATURE.

F.D.R.

Letter from Hon. Geo. S. Messersmith, Embassy of the U.S.A., Mexico, D.F., 10/2/43, to the President, marked "Personal", in re his talk with President Avila Camacho on 9/16, and gives a full resume of this talk, but confining himself to just the most significant things which the President said.

(1886)
hmo

PSF: Mexico folder 1-43

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 7, 1943.

[redacted]

MEMORANDUM FOR

UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE STETTINIUS:

FOR PREPARATION OF REPLY AFTER TALKING IT OVER WITH NELSON ROCKEFELLER.

F.D.R.

Letter from Hon. George S. Messersmith, Embassy of the U.S.A., Mexico, D. F., 9/29/43, to the President, a copy of which has been retained for our files.

REGRADED UNCLASSIFIED

México, D.F., September 29, 1943.

Dear Mr. President:

I had recently a very long and interesting conversation with the President of Mexico and who is, as you know, our good and loyal and understanding friend. The conversation was in many ways interesting and there are certain aspects of it which I will bring to your attention later but I have been so overburdened with my pressing duties that it has not been possible to write you with regard to this conversation earlier and I shall have to delay my report on the conversation as a whole until next week.

In the meantime, however, I must bring to your attention one phase of the conversation with the President without delay. The President who, as you know, is a very thoughtful man with a good deal of vision and who is really fundamentally devoted to this idea of continued collaboration with the United States in every field said that he was very much preoccupied with one question which would undoubtedly arise after the war when there would be so many soldiers returning from duty overseas and from the camps at home and when there would have to be so many readjustments in industry dislocated through war production. He felt that one of the principal problems that we at home would have to deal with would be the question of reintegrating the demobilized soldiers into our economic life.

So far as Mexico was concerned, although she had a population of twenty millions, there was not what you could call unemployment and in view of the industrial and agricultural development already under way and in view of the further development which he saw at the end of the war when materials would be more readily available, he saw that there would be no problem of lack of occupation or employment here but perhaps rather the contrary.

Under

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

Under these circumstances he thought it might be helpful for the two Governments to explore in a very discreet and of course utterly reserved way for the present the possibility of Mexicans resident in the United States returning to Mexico. He said that many Mexicans in the United States who had lived there for quite a time but who had not become American citizens are taking the place of our people who are in the armed forces, in various parts of the country. He thought if the appropriate arrangements could be worked out, it might prove a helpful factor in our own problem at the end of the war if some of these Mexicans would return to Mexico. It would ease our problem and they could be easily integrated into the life of Mexico. The movement he said, of course, would have to be a voluntary one and it would have to be carefully considered and for the moment in a completely confidential way or else it would give rise to utterly wrong impressions.

The President asked me simply to express this thought to you as one of the things which he had in mind because he was constantly thinking of how our two countries could collaborate with each other. The President did not raise this matter with me until towards the end of a two hour conversation and I therefore did not have the opportunity to discuss it with him and to indicate to him some of the serious inconveniences which I saw in arranging anything of this kind. I think, however, the President is conscious of these himself. If I may take the liberty of so suggesting, I think it would be helpful if you would simply send me a word saying that you appreciate very much the understanding message which President Avila Camacho has conveyed to you through me; that you have full understanding of the spirit of cooperation which lies behind it; that you will be very glad to give this matter yourconsideration, and that you believe that in the meantime the Mexican Ministry of Foreign Relations and this Embassy and the Department of State can be exploring the matter in of course a completely reserved and utterly confidential way. I am sure that the President will appreciate such a message from you and that it will put this matter into the background for the moment and permit the Ministry of Foreign Relations here and myself to explore the possibilities of such an eventual arrangement.

I am writing you in this very brief and somewhat inadequate manner about this matter because I was a little

concerned

concerned the other day when I understood that during a brief conversation which Nelson Rockefeller had with President Avila Camacho while Nelson was here for the Independence Day celebrations and for a meeting of the new Joint Mexican-United States Industrial Commission, President Avila Camacho simply as a matter of conversation mentioned some of his thoughts in this connection. Nelson immediately said to the President that he would take up this matter with you on his return to Washington. I am sure that Nelson's intentions in this respect are good but I am equally sure that the President was merely mentioning to Nelson one of the things which he has in mind as a possible measure of collaboration with us.

This matter is a very delicate one, particularly in view of the fact that at the present time we have this great desire to get Mexican workers to go to the United States on contracts which we are making and the Mexican Government is collaborating with us very loyally in this matter. The Mexican workers who have gone to the United States already have been extraordinarily helpful in the agricultural situation and in a lesser degree in the Railway situation in the southwest. If it should in any way become a matter of public knowledge that our Governments were considering the possibility of Mexicans permanently domiciled in the United States returning to Mexico after the war, it would seem very incongruous when we are making this considerable effort to get Mexicans to go to the United States temporarily for this urgent work for which we need them.

The whole matter, as you will so readily appreciate, is one that would have to be handled in any event with the greatest reserve and as Nelson may be speaking to you about this matter, I asked Secretary Hull in a letter which I wrote him on September 27 to be good enough to say to you that if Nelson spoke to you about this matter, you would be kind enough to say to Nelson that you were expecting to hear from me on this matter and would give the matter consideration when you hear from me.

All I wish to do at the moment is to emphasize that I am confident that President Avila Camacho has nothing in mind in this idea except a possible measure of collaboration between our two countries. I am sure he has no other thought in mind. On the other hand, you will so readily appreciate that such a movement of populations would be exceedingly difficult, would have to be on a purely

voluntary

voluntary basis and that it might create some precedent which would not be too happy. On the other hand, as the idea is such a real expression of President Avila Camacho's desire to collaborate with us, I would appreciate very much your writing me, authorizing me to convey a message to President Avila Camacho in the sense that I have taken the liberty of indicating in the first part of this letter.

In the meantime the President will undoubtedly pursue the matter further with me in the informal and very friendly conversations which we are happily able to have and undoubtedly will authorize Dr. Padilla to talk to me about this and I shall, of course, keep you informed of any developments. In the meantime you will readily appreciate that it will have to be an utterly reserved and confidential matter as it would not do any good to either country to have this become a matter of public knowledge as it would lead to so many utterly unfounded speculations.

Believe me, with every good wish,

Cordially and faithfully yours,

G. S. Messersmith

In duplicate

(1999)

Signed original of this letter sent to Hon. E. R. Stettinius
State Dept.
Rms.

PSF: Mexico folder
1-43

October 25, 1943

Dear George:

Thank you for your letter of September 29 which raises a highly interesting subject. I can quite sympathize with my good friend the President of Mexico in his desire to explore the possibility of repatriating certain Mexicans now in the United States. I understand that he believes that possibly an opportunity might arise during the immediate post-war period when we would be confronted with the problem of reabsorbing many soldiers and war workers into ordinary civilian pursuits while Mexico would be pursuing a program of expanding economic development.

I saw Nelson Rockefeller after his return from Mexico, and we discussed various matters, but he did not raise this question. Upon receiving your letter, I referred the matter to the State Department and requested them to take it up with Nelson.

Please tell President Avila Camacho that I am completely understanding and appreciative of the spirit of cooperation with which he is approaching this matter. It is, frankly, somewhat premature to make any specific statement in regard to it. I need not tell you -- and I see no objection to your informing the President -- that we are going to make every effort in this country to see that our transition from war to peace does not take place in circumstances which will inspire any great number of our citizens or of the residents within our borders with a desire to emigrate. Nevertheless, it may well be that with the increasing development of Mexican economy, some of her citizens who have resided in this country may desire to return and participate in the progress and prosperity of their home land. I am sure that when and if such a situation arises, the two Governments can cooperate effectively just as they are doing in the case of so many of our current problems.

The Honorable
George S. Messersmith,
American Ambassador,
Mexico, D.F.

Please give President Avila Camacho my warm personal regards, and tell him that I often think of our delightful meeting at Monterrey. I have not forgotten our plans to spend a few days fishing in the Gulf of California at which time we would have the opportunity to discuss many of these problems.

Sincerely yours,

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

archived 10/25/47

México, D.F., September 29, 1943.

Dear Mr. President:

I had recently a very long and interesting conversation with the President of Mexico and who is, as you know, our good and loyal and understanding friend. The conversation was in many ways interesting and there are certain aspects of it which I will bring to your attention later but I have been so overburdened with my pressing duties that it has not been possible to write you with regard to this conversation earlier and I shall have to delay my report on the conversation as a whole until next week.

In the meantime, however, I must bring to your attention one phase of the conversation with the President without delay. The President who, as you know, is a very thoughtful man with a good deal of vision and who is really fundamentally devoted to this idea of continued collaboration with the United States in every field said that he was very much preoccupied with one question which would undoubtedly arise after the war when there would be so many soldiers returning from duty overseas and from the camps at home and when there would have to be so many readjustments in industry dislocated through war production. He felt that one of the principal problems that we at home would have to deal with would be the question of reintegrating the demobilized soldiers into our economic life.

So far as Mexico was concerned, although she had a population of twenty millions, there was not what you could call unemployment and in view of the industrial and agricultural development already under way and in view of the further development which he saw at the end of the war when materials would be more readily available, he saw that there would be no problem of lack of occupation or employment here but perhaps rather the contrary.

Under

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

Under these circumstances he thought it might be helpful for the two Governments to explore in a very discreet and of course utterly reserved way for the present the possibility of Mexicans resident in the United States returning to Mexico. He said that many Mexicans in the United States who had lived there for quite a time but who had not become American citizens are taking the place of our people who are in the armed forces, in various parts of the country. He thought if the appropriate arrangements could be worked out, it might prove a helpful factor in our own problem at the end of the war if some of these Mexicans would return to Mexico. It would ease our problem and they could be easily integrated into the life of Mexico. The movement he said, of course, would have to be a voluntary one and it would have to be carefully considered and for the moment in a completely confidential way or else it would give rise to utterly wrong impressions.

The President asked me simply to express this thought to you as one of the things which he had in mind because he was constantly thinking of how our two countries could collaborate with each other. The President did not raise this matter with me until towards the end of a two hour conversation and I therefore did not have the opportunity to discuss it with him and to indicate to him some of the serious inconveniences which I saw in arranging anything of this kind. I think, however, the President is conscious of these himself. If I may take the liberty of so suggesting, I think it would be helpful if you would simply send me a word saying that you appreciate very much the understanding message which President Avila Camacho has conveyed to you through me; that you have full understanding of the spirit of cooperation which lies behind it; that you will be very glad to give this matter yourconsideration, and that you believe that in the meantime the Mexican Ministry of Foreign Relations and this Embassy and the Department of State can be exploring the matter in of course a completely reserved and utterly confidential way. I am sure that the President will appreciate such a message from you and that it will put this matter into the background for the moment and permit the Ministry of Foreign Relations here and myself to explore the possibilities of such an eventual arrangement.

I am writing you in this very brief and somewhat inadequate manner about this matter because I was a little

concerned

concerned the other day when I understood that during a brief conversation which Nelson Rockefeller had with President Avila Camacho while Nelson was here for the Independence Day celebrations and for a meeting of the new Joint Mexican-United States Industrial Commission, President Avila Camacho simply as a matter of conversation mentioned some of his thoughts in this connection. Nelson immediately said to the President that he would take up this matter with you on his return to Washington. I am sure that Nelson's intentions in this respect are good but I am equally sure that the President was merely mentioning to Nelson one of the things which he has in mind as a possible measure of collaboration with us.

This matter is a very delicate one, particularly in view of the fact that at the present time we have this great desire to get Mexican workers to go to the United States on contracts which we are making and the Mexican Government is collaborating with us very loyally in this matter. The Mexican workers who have gone to the United States already have been extraordinarily helpful in the agricultural situation and in a lesser degree in the Railway situation in the southwest. If it should in any way become a matter of public knowledge that our Governments were considering the possibility of Mexicans permanently domiciled in the United States returning to Mexico after the war, it would seem very incongruous when we are making this considerable effort to get Mexicans to go to the United States temporarily for this urgent work for which we need them.

The whole matter, as you will so readily appreciate, is one that would have to be handled in any event with the greatest reserve and as Nelson may be speaking to you about this matter, I asked Secretary Hull in a letter which I wrote him on September 27 to be good enough to say to you that if Nelson spoke to you about this matter, you would be kind enough to say to Nelson that you were expecting to hear from me on this matter and would give the matter consideration when you hear from me.

All I wish to do at the moment is to emphasize that I am confident that President Avila Camacho has nothing in mind in this idea except a possible measure of collaboration between our two countries. I am sure he has no other thought in mind. On the other hand, you will so readily appreciate that such a movement of populations would be exceedingly difficult, would have to be on a purely

voluntary

voluntary basis and that it might create some precedent which would not be too happy. On the other hand, as the idea is such a real expression of President Avila Camacho's desire to collaborate with us, I would appreciate very much your writing me, authorizing me to convey a message to President Avila Camacho in the sense that I have taken the liberty of indicating in the first part of this letter.

In the meantime the President will undoubtedly pursue the matter further with me in the informal and very friendly conversations which we are happily able to have and undoubtedly will authorize Dr. Padilla to talk to me about this and I shall, of course, keep you informed of any developments. In the meantime you will readily appreciate that it will have to be an utterly reserved and confidential matter as it would not do any good to either country to have this become a matter of public knowledge as it would lead to so many utterly unfounded speculations.

Believe me, with every good wish,

Cordially and faithfully yours,

In duplicate

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

October 23, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

You recently requested me to prepare a reply for you to the attached letter you had received from Ambassador George S. Messersmith, after discussing the question with Nelson Rockefeller.

I have reviewed this matter with him and with the Department and enclose herewith a proposed reply for your signature if satisfactory.

E. R. Stettinius Jr.

Enclosures:
From George S. Messersmith,
September 29, 1943;
Draft reply.

October 23, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

You recently requested me to prepare a reply for you to the attached letter you had received from Ambassador George S. Messersmith, after discussing the question with Nelson Rockefeller.

I have reviewed this matter with him and with the Department and enclose herewith a proposed reply for your signature if satisfactory.

Edward R. Stettinius, Jr.

Enclosures:
From George S. Messersmith,
September 29, 1943;
Draft reply.

U:ER:LJ

México, D.F., October 28, 1943.

Dear Mr. President:

I appreciate very much indeed your letter of October 25 in reply to mine of September 29, in which I conveyed to you at the request of President Avila Camacho a suggestion which he made that it might be helpful in our own economic readjustments after the war if consideration were given to the voluntary repatriation of certain Mexicans resident in the United States. Your letter is most helpful and I am conveying the substance of your thoughts to President Avila Camacho. For your convenience I am sending you herewith a copy of a letter which I have written to President Avila Camacho and which I shall deliver as soon as he returns from a trip which he is making to the region of Mazatlán which was devastated by quite a serious cyclon several weeks ago.

I am sure that President Avila Camacho will appreciate very much your communication and I need not tell you that I am completely in accord that it would be premature to consider this question. I think the only really significant thing about President Avila Camacho's suggestion is that it shows his good will and his rather broad understanding of the problems which have to be faced after the war and that it is another indication of his real desire to collaborate.

I am sure that with this exchange of letters the matter may be considered as closed for the present.

Believe me, with good wishes and assurances of my highest regard, always

Cordially and faithfully yours,

Enclosure

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

México, D.F., October 28, 1943.

My dear Mr. President:

You will recall that when I had the privilege of having a long conversation with you some weeks ago, you raised during the course of your remarks as one of the questions which would arise at the end of the war the necessity for making readjustments in the economic life of various countries and particularly in the United States, and brought out the particular problem which would undoubtedly arise in the United States when there would be so many soldiers returning from military duty overseas and from the camps at home and who would have to be readjusted and reintegrated into the economic life of the country.

You brought out that so far as Mexico was concerned, although she has a population of some twenty millions, there was not what could be called unemployment in view of the industrial and agricultural development already under way and in view of the further development which you believed would take place at the end of the war when various materials would be more readily available. You foresaw that there would probably be no problem of lack of occupation or employment in Mexico but perhaps the contrary.

Under these circumstances you stated that you had been giving consideration to the thought that it might be helpful for your Government and for my Government to explore in a very discreet and, of course, utterly reserved way for the present the possibility of Mexicans resident in the United States returning to Mexico. You felt that many of these Mexican residents in the United

States

His Excellency
General Manuel Avila Camacho,
President of the United Mexican States,
México, D.F.

States could usefully return to Mexico where they could be integrated into the increased industrial and agricultural activity of the country and that such movement would to a certain degree facilitate the problem which my country will have in reintegrating our citizens now in the armed forces into the economic life of the country. You indicated that the movement, of course, would have to be a voluntary one and that it would have to be very carefully considered and in a completely confidential way or it would give rise to utterly wrong impressions.

You asked me to express this thought to President Roosevelt as one of the things which you had in mind as a further measure of eventual collaboration between our two countries.

I did not fail to bring the substance of our conversation to the attention of President Roosevelt who has now asked me to inform you that he is completely understanding and very fully appreciative of the spirit of cooperation with which you are approaching this matter. He is particularly appreciative that in your consideration of present and future collaboration between our two countries you should have thought of this matter as it indicates your full understanding of the many and varied problems which will be faced by the United Nations after the victory.

President Roosevelt asked me to say to you that he believes it would be somewhat premature for him to make any specific statement or to make any specific plans with regard to this matter. He says that we in the United States are going to make every effort to see that our transition from war to peace does not take place under circumstances which would inspire any great number of our citizens, or residents within our border, with a desire to immigrate. President Roosevelt states further that it may well be that with the increasing development of the Mexican economy, some of her citizens who have resided in the United States may desire to return and participate in the progress and prosperity of their home land. President Roosevelt states that when and if such a situation arises the two Governments can cooperate effectively in this matter as they are now doing in the case of so many of our current problems.

President Roosevelt asked me to make fully clear to you his very deep appreciation of the thoughtful consideration which you have given to this matter.

He

He also asked me to give you his very warm regards and to say that he often thinks of the delightful meeting which he had with you at Monterrey and Corpus Christi. He asked me further to say that he has not forgotten the plans which you made together to spend a few days fishing in the Gulf of California, at which time you and he would have the opportunity to discuss many problems of common interest.

Believe me, my dear Mr. President, with assurances of my highest regard and sincere good wishes,

Cordially yours,

G. S. Messersmith

GSM:NA

In duplicate

file

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

November 12, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

I return to you herewith, as requested, Ambassador Messersmith's letter to you of October 28. Thank you for giving me the opportunity of reading it.

E. R. Stettinius, Jr.

Enc.
Ambassador Messersmith's
Letter, 10-28-43,
with enclosure.

Mexico folder 1-43

file personal

November 1, 1943.

Dear George:-

It is good to have your letter of October twenty-fifth, and I agree with you most heartily.

The consolidation of OEW and Lend-Lease and Import-Export Bank and several other agencies under Mr. Crowley is along the general line. You will remember the trouble we had several years ago in regard to the commercial attaches and the agricultural agencies. Obviously they had to be fitted into the State Department and in this respect things are much better than they were.

In the present emergency the BEW (OEW) tended to set up little Embassies of their own and the whole thing began to get out of hand. Principally they were interfering with each other and, therefore, the first step has been to tie them in under Mr. Crowley.

However, for the first time it is clearly understood that they have to operate with the full knowledge and approval of the State Department. Between ourselves, there was a good deal of opposition within the State Department to placing the whole responsibility on the State Department itself

but I think that all is going to work out -- probably by the process of evolution.

There has been a good deal of opposition within the State Department to taking over administrative functions in the commercial and agricultural field, yet I am sure that we must continue to make the State Department responsible, at least for policy and the supervision of that policy, without interfering with the technical administrative work of some particular service.

I think you will find that Stettinius will work well with all the career people in a simplification of responsibilities within the State Department itself -- for that is much needed. Someone remarked the other day that one can get lost and pushed around in the State Department today just as easily as one can get lost and pushed around in the new Pentagon Building of the War Department.

I do hope to see you one of these days soon.

My best wishes to you,

As ever yours,

Honorable George Messersmith,
American Embassy,
Mexico, D.F.,
Mexico.

México, D.F., México,
October 25, 1943.

Dear Mr. President:

With all your many and too great occupations and preoccupations, I do not like to thrust anything upon your attention, but I think I should tell you that I have been very much perturbed by information, which I get from various sources, to the effect that as a result of certain measures, which I believe you have wisely undertaken recently effecting some of the temporary and emergency agencies of our Government, there is some thought, and I understand serious thought, being given to the establishment of a permanent department or agency of our Government which would have its own representation abroad. I am not able to judge at this distance whether there is anything to the foregoing, but I felt that you would wish to have my thoughts on this matter.

Although I do not know Mr. Crowley well personally, I have great confidence in his capacity and judgment, and I think he should serve as an admirable head of these temporary emergency agencies which are being integrated and coordinated under him. To integrate the activities of these temporary agencies will prove to be a very difficult task at the best. The thought which I wish to convey to you is that out of my thirty years experience in the Government, during which I have given as you know almost balanced attention to the political, economic and administrative aspects of our problems at home and abroad, I believe it would be premature and very unwise for us at this time to establish a permanent economic department or agency.

It may be

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

It may be that before the end of the war, or in the first stages of the period following the war, we may find that our major administrative setup requires the inclusion of a permanent economic agency integrated and coordinated with the already existing permanent Departments. As a result of various emergencies, and of conditions which it is not necessary to go into here, a good many of the functions of the Departments of State, of Commerce, or Agriculture, and of Treasury, as well as of other undoubtedly permanent agencies, have been taken over, or duplicated, or amplified, by emergency agencies of Government. The old-line Departments, however, have their established places in our administrative setup and will undoubtedly have to assume many of the functions, which they have temporarily lost, after the emergency. It is my considered opinion that some of those who may now be advocating a permanent economic agency, and who are very competent in various fields in which they are experienced, do not have the adequate grasp of all of the problems involved in the establishment of such a permanent economic setup from the point of view of its internal, as well as external, factors to arrive at a so far-reaching decision at this time. It is my own earnest hope that whatever the decisions which may be taken now with respect to the organization and functioning of these temporary agencies, they will not involve the setting up of a permanent economic department or agency. It is too early for us to do this and I believe you will agree that the very fact that there is so much difficulty in determining even the character and integration of a temporary setup is sufficient indication that this would be no time to reach a decision with regard to the establishment of a permanent economic setup. To reach a decision of this kind will involve a knowledge of internal and external problems on the part of those making the recommendations to you, and I doubt whether the time is available now, and I am sure it is not opportune to consider the establishment of a permanent economic agency.

I am equally disturbed by the indications which I get that it is the thought of a number of responsible and worthwhile people that this temporary or permanent economic setup, which is contemplated, should have its own representatives in the field. You will recall that when I came into the Department of State in 1937 as an Assistant Secretary at your request, you charged me with the endeavor to bring about a consolidation of the Foreign Services of Commerce and Agriculture into that of State,

as a

as a step absolutely indispensable to bring about greater order into the conduct of our foreign relations and to remove multiple approaches abroad to foreign Governments which were proving not only disconcerting to those Governments, but disadvantageous to our own interests. You will recall with what infinite pains and difficulty it was possible, under your wise leadership, to bring about, through one of the reorganization bills which you proposed to the Congress, the consolidation of the Foreign Services of Commerce and Agriculture into that of State. There is no doubt that it has worked out admirably, and through this step we were able to remove dissensions between Departments at home and frictions between representatives of our Government in the field, and multiple and disconcerting approaches to other Governments which had been disturbing over a period of more than fifteen years and which did a great deal of injury to our relationships with other Governments and to our interests at home. It would seem, therefore, inconceivable that after this unhappy experience, and after so fortunate a solution, which is working out so well, that any one who has knowledge of this background should be seriously thinking of establishing a temporary or permanent agency of our Government which may set up its separate representation abroad. The only effect of this would be to re-create an old problem in a time when the repercussions and consequences would be even more serious than they were in times of peace.

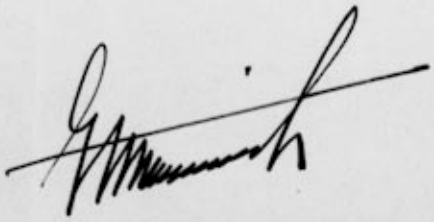
I know that you will forgive me for bringing this matter to your attention, for I know your deep interest therein, and you will appreciate that I am writing not as an officer who for so long a time served in the Foreign Service of State and therefore with a Departmental point of view, but as one who has had this long experience with our problems at home and abroad. I am one of those who knows your deep understanding of these problems and the constructive interest which you have constantly taken in maintaining the most effective foreign representation and preserving the closest integration within Government at home. I have therefore not hesitated to bring to your attention what I believe would be the unhappy consequences of establishing a permanent economic agency of our Government at this time and of any such permanent or temporary economic agency having its separate representation abroad - whatever might be its defined relationships to the Department of State. The establishment of such a permanent economic agency of our

Government would be premature, as I doubt whether we have had sufficient time to think it out, or that the circumstances are adequately clear to reach so major a decision, and I am convinced that the establishment of such a permanent or temporary agency would be bound to have even more unhappy consequences than those you so happily removed through the consolidation of the former separate services of Commerce and Agriculture into that of State.

I am really very deeply apologetic about bringing this matter to your attention, first because I am not at all sure that my information is correct that some of those who are so earnestly considering these important organizational problems, for ultimate recommendations to you, are considering such a permanent economic unit now with its own foreign service, and second, because I know that all that I have said in this letter is completely obvious to you. I know, however, that in the very nature of things, and under the circumstances under which we have to work these days, it is quite possible, with the best intentions in the world, that recommendations to this end may be made to you by persons who in their own fields are thoroughly competent but who do not have the full background of administrative history and experience and of the many delicate factors involved in the conduct of our foreign relations and contact with foreign Governments which you have. As I have had to deal with these things so concretely at home and abroad for so many years, my one thought in writing this letter is that it may be of some help.

With all good wishes,

Always cordially and faithfully yours,



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 3, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR

HON. WAYNE COY
Assistant Director of
the Budget

I am enclosing herewith a copy of the letter the President wrote to Ambassador Messersmith under date of November 1, 1943.

GRACE G. TULLY
Private Secretary

Enclosure

(2056)

fmo

PSF: Mexico folder 1-43

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 4, 1943.

MEMORANDUM FOR

THE ACTING SECRETARY OF STATE:

TO READ AND RETURN.

F.D.R.

Letter from Hon. George S. Messersmith, Mexico, D.F., 10/28/43, to the President, enclosing a copy of the letter which he has sent to President Avila Camacho. Copies retained for our files.

México, D.F., October 28, 1943.

Dear Mr. President:

I appreciate very much indeed your letter of October 25 in reply to mine of September 29, in which I conveyed to you at the request of President Avila Camacho a suggestion which he made that it might be helpful in our own economic readjustments after the war if consideration were given to the voluntary repatriation of certain Mexicans resident in the United States. Your letter is most helpful and I am conveying the substance of your thoughts to President Avila Camacho. For your convenience I am sending you herewith a copy of a letter which I have written to President Avila Camacho and which I shall deliver as soon as he returns from a trip which he is making to the region of Mazatlán which was devastated by quite a serious cyclon several weeks ago.

I am sure that President Avila Camacho will appreciate very much your communication and I need not tell you that I am completely in accord that it would be premature to consider this question. I think the only really significant thing about President Avila Camacho's suggestion is that it shows his good will and his rather broad understanding of the problems which have to be faced after the war and that it is another indication of his real desire to collaborate.

I am sure that with this exchange of letters the matter may be considered as closed for the present.

Believe me, with good wishes and assurances of my highest regard, always

Cordially and faithfully yours,

G. S. Messersmith

Enclosure
GSM:NA
In duplicate

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

México, D.F., October 28, 1943.

My dear Mr. President:

You will recall that when I had the privilege of having a long conversation with you some weeks ago, you raised during the course of your remarks as one of the questions which would arise at the end of the war the necessity for making readjustments in the economic life of various countries and particularly in the United States, and brought out the particular problem which would undoubtedly arise in the United States when there would be so many soldiers returning from military duty overseas and from the camps at home and who would have to be readjusted and reintegrated into the economic life of the country.

You brought out that so far as Mexico was concerned, although she has a population of some twenty millions, there was not what could be called unemployment in view of the industrial and agricultural development already under way and in view of the further development which you believed would take place at the end of the war when various materials would be more readily available. You foresaw that there would probably be no problem of lack of occupation or employment in Mexico but perhaps the contrary.

Under these circumstances you stated that you had been giving consideration to the thought that it might be helpful for your Government and for my Government to explore in a very discreet and, of course, utterly reserved way for the present the possibility of Mexicans resident in the United States returning to Mexico. You felt that many of these Mexican residents in the United

States

His Excellency
General Manuel Avila Camacho,
President of the United Mexican States,
México, D.F.

States could usefully return to Mexico where they could be integrated into the increased industrial and agricultural activity of the country and that such movement would to a certain degree facilitate the problem which my country will have in reintegrating our citizens now in the armed forces into the economic life of the country. You indicated that the movement, of course, would have to be a voluntary one and that it would have to be very carefully considered and in a completely confidential way or it would give rise to utterly wrong impressions.

You asked me to express this thought to President Roosevelt as one of the things which you had in mind as a further measure of eventual collaboration between our two countries.

I did not fail to bring the substance of our conversation to the attention of President Roosevelt who has now asked me to inform you that he is completely understanding and very fully appreciative of the spirit of cooperation with which you are approaching this matter. He is particularly appreciative that in your consideration of present and future collaboration between our two countries you should have thought of this matter as it indicates your full understanding of the many and varied problems which will be faced by the United Nations after the victory.

President Roosevelt asked me to say to you that he believes it would be somewhat premature for him to make any specific statement or to make any specific plans with regard to this matter. He says that we in the United States are going to make every effort to see that our transition from war to peace does not take place under circumstances which would inspire any great number of our citizens, or residents within our border, with a desire to immigrate. President Roosevelt states further that it may well be that with the increasing development of the Mexican economy, some of her citizens who have resided in the United States may desire to return and participate in the progress and prosperity of their home land. President Roosevelt states that when and if such a situation arises the two Governments can cooperate effectively in this matter as they are now doing in the case of so many of our current problems.

President Roosevelt asked me to make fully clear to you his very deep appreciation of the thoughtful consideration which you have given to this matter.

He

He also asked me to give you his very warm regards and to say that he often thinks of the delightful meeting which he had with you at Monterrey and Corpus Christi. He asked me further to say that he has not forgotten the plans which you made together to spend a few days fishing in the Gulf of California, at which time you and he would have the opportunity to discuss many problems of common interest.

Believe me, my dear Mr. President, with assurances of my highest regard and sincere good wishes,

Cordially yours,

G. S. Messersmith

GSM:NA

In duplicate

file

PSF: Mexico folder 1-43

EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

México, D.F.,
November 30, 1943.

My dear Mr. President:

You will recall my letter to you of September 29 in which I told you of a conversation which I had with the President of Mexico and during which he raised the question of the possibility of Mexican residents in the United States being repatriated to Mexico at the end of the War as a measure of aiding in our own demobilization problem. You were good enough to send me in your letter to me of October 25 an acknowledgment of the above letter and to indicate to me the reply which I could make to President Avila Camacho in this matter. In my letter to you of October 28 I informed you that I would convey your answer to President Avila Camacho on his return from a trip to the north of Mexico, and I sent with my letter of October 28 a copy of the letter which I would deliver to President Avila Camacho.

Due to a variety of circumstances, it was not convenient or appropriate to deliver this letter to President Avila Camacho until last evening when I had a very long talk with him. I gave him the letter, a copy of which I sent you with my letter to you of October 28, and I gave him the substance thereof in Spanish.

The President said that he was very understanding of your reply which he appreciated very much. He asked me to make it clear to you that he had not intended to raise this question as one which should be given attention at this time or which could properly be given attention at this time. He also asked me to say to you that he realized that this was a matter in which you or our Government could not take any initiative but that it was one in which at the

appropriate

The President,

The White House.

appropriate time he would have to take the initiative as the persons involved would be Mexican citizens. He said that his one thought in this matter was that at the end of the War even under the best circumstances, the demobilization of our considerable armed forces and the reorganization of our industry would be a very great task. If the voluntary expatriation of Mexicans resident in the United States would be helpful at such a time, he would be prepared to take the appropriate steps to make it clear that any Mexicans resident in the United States who wished to return to Mexico would be welcomed and that the Mexican Government would make the appropriate efforts to see that they were placed in industry and agriculture here. He realized that the matter had many delicate aspects, he said, and that it was one which would, if the occasion arose, have to be handled with the greatest discretion, which I could assure you he would know how to exercise. The President wished me to be very sure to make it clear to you that his one thought in this matter was to be helpful at the appropriate moment in one of our own problems if any action on his part or of Mexico could be helpful.

It is clear from what the President said that he has no thought of taking any initiative in this matter now and that he has a very full understanding of the whole situation and that he was entirely prompted, as I indicated in my first letter to you on this matter, by a desire to collaborate in this phase of our problem, if any such collaboration should eventually prove desirable or helpful.

President Avila Camacho asked me to say again to you what happy memories he conserved of the unforgettable meeting with you at Monterrey and Corpus Christi and how much he looked forward to the next opportunity when you might be able to talk together.

I think we can consider this matter closed for the present, and before I left him, the President reiterated that his one thought in mentioning the matter at this time was that you should know along what line he might be thinking at a given moment and that he did not wish to take any action of any kind without your knowing about it and being fully informed of what he was thinking.

Believe

Believe me, with all good wishes and assurances of my highest regard,

Cordially and faithfully yours,

PSF: Mexico folder 1-43

file personal

December 29, 1943.

My dear President Camacho:-

I want you to know how very much I appreciate the two shipments of wine which you sent to me. Out of the first shipment I took with me to North Africa a sample of each variety.

They are on the whole delicious and I have told my wife that we can consider them wholly proper to serve to any of our guests. I think I told you that, like you, I have a rule of serving American made wines only -- but many of these Mexican wines are not made in the United States at all so I have said that all of them go into the same category as American made wines from now on.

The only exception I have ever made was in relation to American champagne, which hitherto has not in any way equalled the French champagne. When I was in Teheran, however, Marshal Stalin brought with him some Russian champagne -- made I think in the Republic of Georgia. It was fully the equal of any French champagne I have ever tasted and I think that after this war, when transportation gets easier, many people in the Americas will take the Russian champagne.

My trip was, I think, a real success and I hope that I shall have an opportunity to

tell you all about it if, during the coming year, we are able to take that fishing trip together.

In the meantime, I send to you and Senora Camacho all good wishes for a very Happy New Year.

Always sincerely,

His Excellency
General Manuel Avila Camacho,
President of the United Mexican States,
Mexico City,
Mexico.

December 29, 1943.

Dear George:-

I enclose a letter for you to give to President Camacho at an early opportunity.

A very Happy New Year to you and your Missus,

Always sincerely,

Honorable George S. Messersmith,
The American Embassy,
Mexico, D.F., Mexico.

THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

AMERICAN EMBASSY

México, D.F., México,
November 19, 1943.

Dear Friend:

With reference to our recent correspondence concerning the wines from President Avila Camacho for President Roosevelt, I understand that the first lot of forty-four cases was delivered at the White House on October 30. The second shipment, which I think comprised forty-four cases, left here last week and has undoubtedly reached the White House by this time. I would appreciate your letting me have a word in due course as to whether the whole shipment has reached the White House safely. I assume that the President will want to send a word to President Avila Camacho, but if he wishes to thank him through me, it will serve the same purpose, although I think it would be very nice for the President to send just a brief word to President Avila Camacho.

I am sending a box of cigars, which should reach you in the near future and shortly after this letter and which I hope our friends will enjoy even if you do not.

2 boxes cigars rec'd 11/27/43 ed

I have just returned to my desk after ten days at Cuernavaca where I had the first respite from my duties here since I came to Mexico City.

With all good wishes to you and Mrs. Watson, from us both,

Cordially and faithfully yours,

General Edwin M. Watson,
The White House,
Washington, D. C.

THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

George S. Messersmith
American Ambassador,
México, D.F., México.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 18, 1943

Mr. William Simmons,

I am this date sending to the Usher, 44 cases of assorted wines address- to The President from Pres. Avila Camacha of Mexico.

One of the bottles in one of the cases was received in a broken condition.

C. E. Knott

Charles E. Knott
Mail Inspection Room

Air Pouch

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
OFFICIAL BUSINESS
Penalty for Private Use, $300

MA
from FC

Personal

General Edwin M. Watson

The White House,

Washington, D.C.

RUN / STOP 28

AIR MAIL

THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

7

AMERICAN EMBASSY

México, D.F., México,
November 10, 1943.

My dear General Watson:

I refer to the Ambassador's letter of November 5, with reference to the shipment that was to have left here on November 9. As a matter of precaution, I should like to inform you that there has been some delay in connection with the airplane that was to have carried these cases, but it is expected that the plane will now leave on or about November 12 with the shipment.

Sincerely yours,

Herbert S. Bursley

Herbert S. Bursley,
Counselor of Embassy.

General Edwin M. Watson,
The White House,
Washington, D.C.

PSF: Mexico

PPF 9-C

EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

México, D.F., México,
October 15, 1943.

Miss Turner has the letter of 10/2, but I don't know what to do with the wine. F.B.

My dear Mr. President:

During a conversation with President Avila Camacho several weeks ago, the substance of which I have already conveyed to you in my letter of October 2, he mentioned that during your stay in Monterrey you had expressed an appreciation of some Mexican wines which were served during the dinner. He said that he had taken much pleasure in getting together some Mexican wines and that these were ready for shipment, as he wished to offer them to you and hoped that you would get some pleasure out of them. He asked me as to the best method of shipping the wines. In view of the fact that the railways are very much over-burdened, and as we have an occasional Army transport plane returning from the Canal Zone not fully loaded, and as occasionally a Pan American plane goes North for repairs and cannot carry passengers on such a trip, I told the President that I was sure I could arrange for the transport of the wine from here. He expressed great appreciation of this. I am therefore arranging for the transportation North of the wines, which will consist of about eighty-eight cases, at a convenient opportunity by Pan American planes which would otherwise be going North empty.

x PP 79-W
x 146
x PPF 7075

The wines should arrive at the White House sometime during the next three weeks or so.

I am

The President
The White House

I am merely sending you this word so that you may know when these wines arrive that they are another expression of the continous thought which President Avila Camacho here has of you.

Believe me,

Always cordially and faithfully yours,

x PP 77077
x 896

October 21, 1943.

Dear George:

The President wanted me to thank you profusely for your letter and to tell you that he is delighted and eagerly awaiting the shipment.

In this regard, on our return to the train from the dinner given by President Camacho to President Roosevelt in Monterrey last April, I made some remark about what fine champagne had been served and I had thought it was about '28 or '29 Lanson. The President has always said that this showed how little I knew about champagnes, because the President of Mexico told him it was a rare old Mexican cider! He said if you had any cider like that, you could include a little of it in the shipment. You may disregard that as a continuation of the joke — but he told me to tell you.

You know I am always available when you want anything of an informal or confidential nature done, as you stand in very high favor with us particularly since that wine and cigar episode. Incidentally I gave the remnants of that famous box of cigars not used by our party to Doctor Bloedorn, who says they rank as the highest cigars in the world. I don't suppose you have another box of them hanging around, either full or semi-full? (This is a joke, so don't take me seriously.)

Please give my very best to Mrs. Messersmith and always to you.

Your friend,

EDWIN M. WATSON
Major General, U. S. Army
Secretary to the President

Hon. George S. Messersmith,
The American Embassy,
Mexico, D.F., Mexico.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 19, 1943.

MEMORANDUM FOR

GENERAL WATSON

Will you thank Messersmith and tell him I am delighted and eagerly awaiting the shipment? You might mention that you hope SOME of that famous '29 vintage which they served at Monterrey last April will be included!

F. D. R.

México, D.F., México,
October 15, 1943.

My dear Friend:

I am sending you herewith the original of a letter addressed to the President, which is self-explanatory, and I am appending a copy of the letter hereto. I have made the necessary arrangements for the free entry of the wines and the exemption from customs duty at the port of entry into the United States, so there is nothing to be done in this connection. There will be no charge for the transportation of the wines, as they will be taken North by a Pan American plane which would otherwise be going unloaded for repairs. From Brownsville North, General Harris, the Military Attaché here, has been good enough to see that the appropriate arrangements are made with our Army people at Brownsville to see that the shipment goes forward to the White House, by the most convenient means, from there. I would be very glad if you would give me a word as to when the wines arrive at the White House, as President Avila Camacho will be very interested to learn that they have arrived safely.

For some reason or another I must be getting very inefficient, because I am increasingly busy here. As you can readily understand, I have a consuming desire to make a brief visit home, but the circumstances are such that it is really extremely difficult for me to leave here, and it may not be until the end of December or the early part of 1944 that I may be able to spend a few weeks home. Needless to say, I look forward to seeing you when I am able to come on a brief trip.

Mrs. Messersmith joins me in all good wishes to you and Mrs. Watson.

Cordially and faithfully yours,

General Edward M. Watson,
The White House,
Washington, D.C.

From

George S. Messersmith

Ambassador of the United States of America

with all good wishes.

THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

VIA DEPARTMENT OF STATE

WASHINGTON NOV 5 2-11-PM 1943

Penalty for private use, $300

American Embassy
México, D.F., México

MA
from FC

VIA AIR MAIL
COURIER

General Edwin M. Watson,

The White House,

Washington, D. C.

México, D.F., November 5, 1943.

Dear friend:

As I wrote you on October 29, forty-four cases of wine were shipped to the White House and I have word this morning that the second forty-four cases which complete the shipment should go forward by plane, leaving Mexico City on November 9. This means that there should be a total of eighty-eight cases reaching the White House from President Avila Camacho. I hope if there is not included in this any of the "Mexican Champagne" to which you referred in your letter of October 21, that you will let me know so that I can see that a few cases are sent on later to see if it comes up to the expectations of you all.

This is a very hurried note for I am for the first time since I am in Mexico running away for a little holiday. I am breaking my neck trying to get off to Cuernavaca this evening, which is only one hour and twenty minutes by road from Mexico City, to spend some ten or twelve days there with Marion. I shall be in touch with the Embassy but I shall be removed from the pressures for a few days and the old man feels the need of a bit of a change.

I hope that the eighty-eight cases arrive at the White House in good shape.

With all good wishes to you and Mrs. Watson from us both.

Cordially and faithfully yours,

General Edwin M. Watson,
The White House,
Washington, D.C.

From Hon. George S. Messersmith,
American Ambassador,
Mexico City, Mexico.

GENERAL EDWIN M. WATSON,
THE WHITE HOUSE,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

To Charlie Fredericks:

Please note and return.

ld

11/4/43 seen

AIR MAIL

THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

AMERICAN EMBASSY

México, D.F., México,
October 29, 1943.

My dear Friend:

I have just received your note of October 21, and am delighted to know that the President is pleased with the shipment of wine which President Avila Camacho is making. The Military Attaché here tells me that forty-four, out of eighty-some cases, to be forwarded left by Pan American plane going north for repairs the day before yesterday. This plane has undoubtedly delivered this first forty-four cases at Brownsville which will be forwarded north to the White House. It is very probable that these forty-four cases have reached the White House by the time this letter reaches you. The remainder of the shipment will go forward in one or two lots in the near future by the same route.

We are sending the wine north by these Pan American planes which go north for repairs, which otherwise go empty, as this is the best way of sending it and we are not burdening our transport in this way. It means, however, that we cannot send the whole shipment in one lot, and we have to send it by these planes when and if they have empty space.

I am sorry to say that President Avila Camacho did not tell me just what kind of brands are included in the shipment, but I would not be surprised if some of this Mexican cider is not among it. If there is none of this Mexican cider included in the shipments, I hope you will let me know, for I will see that some is sent up. It isn't champagne, but it is really a good substitute.

I note what you say about cigars. My Cuban friends continue to spoil me and send me cigars, so that I have many more than I can use at the house. If you get a box or two through the pouch in the near future, you

will

General Edwin M. Watson,
Secretary to the President,
The White House,
Washington, D.C.

will know where they come from. Our pouches are going up heavily loaded these days, but if I find one going light I will send you several boxes from my reserve here. I knew your remarks about cigars were meant in a joking way, but as a matter of fact I have such a surplus that I am only too happy to share them with some one who enjoys them.

I understand that the President has had a bad cold, and I hope that by this time he is feeling very much better.

I have been hoping to be able to spend a few weeks home in the near future, but it still looks as though I may not be able to get away before the end of December, and perhaps it may be January. As much as I would like to spend a few weeks in Washington, there are too many things that hold me here.

I appreciate very much your cordial letter. I hope the wine will really prove to be interesting!

With all good wishes to you and Mrs. Watson, from Marion and myself, believe me,

Always cordially and faithfully yours,

THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

[redacted]

George S. Messersmith
American Ambassador,
Mexico, D.F., Mexico.

VIA
from FC

VIA AIR MAIL

General Edwin M. Watson,

Secretary to the President,

The White House,

Washington, D. C.

THIS MANIFEST TO:
BOLLING FIELD
WASHINGTON D.C.
TO THE PRES. OF U.S.

CARGO & MAIL MANIFEST

1. ORIGINAL—TO BE RETURNED TO HDQ. AIR TRANS. COMMAND.
2. DUPLICATE—RETAIN AT PLACE MANIFEST IS PREPARED AS RECORD.
TRIPLICATE AND QUADRUPLICATE—FORWARD WITH LOAD TO DESTINATION OF MANIFEST.
3. TRIPLICATE—TO BE RETURNED TO HDQ. AIR TRANS. COM. FROM DESTINATION.
4. QUADRUPLICATE—RETAIN AT DEST. AS RECORD.
(ADDITIONAL COPIES AS DIRECTED)

AIRWAY BILL NO.	PLACE RECEIVED FOR SHIPMENT	NUMBER PIECES	FINAL DESTINATION	WEIGHT (LB.)	PRIORITY RATING	CONTENTS AND MARKS OR NUMBERS	LINE NO.
COL. 1	COL. 2	COL. 3	COL. 4	COL. 5	COL. 6	COL. 7	
460512	1		WASHINGTON D.C.	53	A	21006	1
"	2		"	50	A	"	2
"	3		"	50	A	"	3
"	4		"	50	A	"	4
"	5		"	50	A	"	5
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"	10		"	53	A	"	10
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TOTAL NUMBER OF PIECES	44	TOTAL WEIGHT	2426	NUMBER PAGES THIS MANIFEST		NUMBER OF THIS PAGE	

STATION: AFT/ SAN ANTONIO AIR SERVICE COMMAND

PREPARED BY: (PRINT NAME, GRADE & TITLE ON THIS LINE) ROBBINS & JOANNA RANNE

DATE: OCT. 29, 1943

(SIGNATURE)

ROUTE OF PLANE:

FROM: SAASC TO: BOLLING FLD. WASH. D.C.

PILOT: (PRINT NAME ON THIS LINE) CAPT. NAPOLITAN

PLANE NO.: 1983 TRIP NO.: 438

(PILOT'S SIGNATURE)

☆ U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1943 10—39789-1

MANIFEST TO:
BOLLING FIELD
WASHINGTON D.C.
TO THE PRES. OF U.S.

CARGO & MAIL MANIFEST

SAASC 4569

PAGE NO 2

1. ORIGINAL—TO BE RETAINED BY COMMAND.
2. DUPLICATE—RETAIN AT PLACE MANIFEST IS PREPARED AS RECORD. TRIPLICATE AND QUADRUPLICATE—FORWARD WITH LOAD TO DESTINATION OF MANIFEST.
3. TRIPLICATE—TO BE RETURNED TO HDQ. AIR TRANS. COM. FROM DESTINATION.
4. QUADRUPLICATE—RETAIN AT DEST. AS RECORD.

(ADDITIONAL COPIES AS DIRECTED)

AIRWAY BILL NO.	PLACE RECEIVED FOR SHIPMENT	NUMBER PIECES	FINAL DESTINATION	WEIGHT (LB.)	PRIORITY RATING	CONTENTS AND MARKS OR NUMBERS	LINE NO.
COL. 1	COL. 2	COL. 3	COL. 4	COL. 5	COL. 6	COL. 7	
460512	30		WASHINGTON DC	51	A	21006	1
"	31		"	52	A	"	2
"	32		"	66	A	"	3
"	33		"	51	A	"	4
"	34		"	59	A	"	5
"	35		"	53	A	"	6
"	36		"	50	"	"	7
"	37		"	51	A	"	8
"	38		"	66	A	"	9
"	39		"	53	A	"	10
"	40		"	63	A	"	11
"	41		"	54	A	"	12
"	42		"	52	"	" "	
"	43		"	62	A	"	1
"	44		"	53	"	"	1
							16
							17
			CONFIDENTIAL				18
			NO GUARD REQUIRED				19
			FROM PRES. AVILA CAMACHA LOS PINOS MEXICO DF				20
							21
							22
							23
							24
							25
							26
							27
							28
							29

TOTAL NUMBER OF PIECES	44	TOTAL WEIGHT	2426	NUMBER PAGES THIS MANIFEST		NUMBER OF THIS PAGE	

STATION: AFT/ SAN ANTONIO AIR SERVICE COMMAND

PREPARED BY: (PRINT NAME, GRADE & TITLE ON THIS LINE) ROBBINS & JOANNA RANNE

DATE: OCT. 29, 1943

(SIGNATURE)

ROUTE OF PLANE:

FROM: SAASC TO: BOLLING FLD. WASH. D.C.

PILOT: (PRINT NAME ON THIS LINE) CAPT. NAPOLITAN

PLANE NO.: 1983 TRIP NO.: 438

(PILOT'S SIGNATURE)

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