

● PSF

Mexico

1944-45



THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

AMERICAN EMBASSY

México, D.F., January 7, 1944.

M E M O R A N D U M

During a long conversation which I had with the President today prior to my departure for Washington tomorrow, I delivered the letter from President Roosevelt to President Avila Camacho, dated December 29, 1943. The President expressed his appreciation of President Roosevelt's letter and said that he hoped to write a letter to President Roosevelt which he could have delivered to me before I left tomorrow evening. If the letter was not prepared in time for my departure, he would send it to me in Washington through the Mexican Embassy, which would deliver it to me for delivery to President Roosevelt.

He asked me to say to President Roosevelt how much he was in his thoughts and that he wished to congratulate him again on his achievements during the last year for his country and for the United Nations.

He asked me to say to the President that he looked forward to his next meeting with him and that he was prepared to meet him at any place he suggested at any time. He said the weather was not very propitious in the north these days for a fishing trip but that at any time that the President could get away he would be very happy to meet him. It would, of course, be helpful to him if he had at least fifteen days notice ahead.

The President said that recently a press organization in New York had asked him to make a statement as to what he thought about the desirability of President Roosevelt being reelected as President of the United States. This press agent said that they intended to make a similar inquiry to the heads of the other American states but that

they

*file
Messersmith
Confidential*

*Mexico folder
1-44*

they are asking him first. President Avila Camacho said that he replied to this saying that he could not think of making such a statement at this time. The President said that the news agency was not satisfied with his turning it down but that they asked him again, stating that they were sure that any such reaction of his with respect to President Roosevelt would be very helpful in view of the fact that the reelection or non-reelection of President Roosevelt would be a matter of such interest to the other American Republics. The President said he replied that he could not make any such statement at this time but that he had made his reply in such a way that he had left the door open if he wanted to make a statement later.

With one of his characteristic smiles the President said, of course if he followed the dictates of his heart and of his mind fully, he would want to make such a statement of a very definite and categorical kind but he said that naturally he would not wish to do anything of that kind unless he knew it would be pleasing to President Roosevelt. He said that at any time the President indicated to him that such a statement from him would be pleasing and acceptable, he would be only too happy to make it. I told Avila Camacho that I would quite informally say this to the President.

The President said that I was to say to President Roosevelt with what a thrill he followed everything that had to do with the Moscow and Cairo and Teheran meetings and he knew that President Roosevelt would know how to talk with Stalin. He said this with a very definite smile and satisfaction.

P.S.F. Mexico folder
1-44

March 24, 1944

The Honorable George S. Messersmith
American Ambassador
Mexico City, Mexico

Dear George:

I have discussed the matter of the combat participation of a Mexican Air Force squadron with General Arnold.

General Hall, the Deputy Chief of Air Staff, will discuss this matter informally, and make arrangements for Colonel L. O. Ryan and Major G. A. Braga to come to Mexico City at the convenience of President Camacho.

These officers are fully conversant with the details of our suggested plan for equipping and training a Mexican squadron.

I am sure that satisfactory details can be worked out.

Sincerely yours,

(signed) FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

DECLASSIFIED

State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By J. Schauble Date FEB 10 1972

ADDRESS REPLY TO
COMMANDING GENERAL, ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

~~SECRET~~



ATTENTION:

HEADQUARTERS, ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON

24 March 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT:

Subject: Participation of Mexican Air Force
Squadron in Combat.

1. General Hall, Deputy Chief of Air Staff, is leaving for Mexico this afternoon for the purpose of presenting the award of the Legion of Merit to General Gustavo Salinas. If it meets with your approval, he will take the attached letter to Ambassador Messersmith and discuss arrangements for two officers to go to Mexico City and make final arrangements with President Camacho for the training and equipping of the Mexican squadron.

2. As you know, we have already developed the details of the plan for accomplishing this, and if we receive full cooperation from the Mexicans, there is no reason why this program should not be under way in the very near future.

H. H. ARNOLD
General, U. S. Army
Commanding General, Army Air Forces

Incl:
Draft of ltr
to Ambassador Messersmith.

Franklin D. Roosevelt Library

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DDO DIR. 5200.9 (9/27/58)

Date- 7-8-66

Signature- *Carl L. Spicer*

~~SECRET~~

Mexico folder 1-44

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 22, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR

GENERAL H. H. ARNOLD:

FOR PREPARATION OF REPLY
FOR MY SIGNATURE.

F.D.R.

México, D.F., México,
March 15, 1944.

~~SECRET~~
Dear Mr. President:

You will recall the conversation which we had towards the end of January or early in February, when I had the privilege of seeing you in Washington, and during which we discussed the possibility, desirability and feasibility, from various points of view, of a Mexican combat unit or units participating at one or more of the combat fronts. I told you at that time of the increasing interest of the President of Mexico and of the Mexican Government in Mexico's making such participation even if it were only in token form, and I was happy to find you in complete agreement that such participation by the Mexicans would be desirable. In view of the fact that it seemed most feasible from every point of view that such participation should take the form of one or more air squadrons, with which point of view the President of Mexico I knew was in accord, you stated that you would discuss this matter with General Arnold, the head of our air forces.

A few days after our conversation and before I returned to Mexico, at the request of General Arnold, I called on him and he informed me that you had discussed this matter with him and there was agreement that I could say to the President of Mexico on my return that we would welcome the participation of a Mexican air squadron at a combat front, and General Arnold informed me that as soon as I could give him word that the Mexican Government was prepared to proceed, he was ready to follow up the matter actively in the form in which he indicated to me, but with

which

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By J. Scheuble Date FEB 10 1972

which I will not burden this letter. It was agreed that nothing should be said about this matter in public until all the appropriate arrangements of a preliminary character had been made.

On my return to Mexico, I immediately took up this matter with the President who was delighted to have this word from you and he said that he would immediately give the matter his attention and that he would shortly get in touch with me. I realized that there were certain further measures which he would have to take here in order to prepare public opinion in Mexico for this step. Within about two weeks after my return to Mexico and this conversation with President Avila Camacho, air maneuvers were held by the Mexican air force near Mexico City taking the form of an attack on an airfield. The maneuvers went off very well and, in view of the short time which they had to prepare, it was a very significant evidence of the degree of training which the Mexican air force has carried through and the discipline which has been achieved, as well as proof of their capacity to make use of the equipment which we have furnished them. There were hundreds of thousands of spectators and the press gave the maneuvers a great deal of attention.

Almost immediately thereafter the President attended a luncheon given by some of the officers of the air force, during which he indicated that although Mexico's Allies, who were carrying on the war so vigorously, had not asked her military aid, he thought the time was coming when Mexico should participate actively in the conflict. His remarks were received vociferously by the officers, and I am informed that after the luncheon the President and the Ministry of Defense received thousands of telegrams from officers and men indicating their desire to form part of any active combat force which Mexico might supply.

Yesterday the Minister of Foreign Relations, Dr. Padilla, sent for me and said that with reference to my conversations with the President on my return concerning the participation of an air squadron at the combat fronts, the President now wished me to know that Mexico wished to offer this participation and was prepared to go ahead with the appropriate arrangements.

I had

I had told the President that the first step would be for General Arnold himself, or for some officer or officers whom he would designate, to come down here to talk this matter over with him and with the Mexican air force and that then the appropriate arrangements would be worked out along the lines which General Arnold had indicated to me in the conversation I had with him in Washington. The Minister, Dr. Padilla, said that he thought it would be best that there be no publicity until General Arnold, or some one whom he sends down here, has been here to work out certain details with the President and the Mexican military. After such conversations the announcement could be made both here and at home.

I am sending you this letter in duplicate in case you wish to send it to General Arnold. I have kept General Arnold informed through the State Department of my conversations with the President since my return from Washington, so that he has the details. The important thing for the moment is that the President of Mexico has now indicated the desire of Mexico to participate and to send at least an air squadron to the combat front, and has at the same time indicated that no announcement of the plan should be made until General Arnold, or an officer of the air force designated by him, has been here to complete certain arrangements.

While I am sure it will be difficult for General Arnold to leave Washington and his arduous duties, I am hoping that he himself may be able to come for a few days as he could make the trip without the purpose thereof being known, and I am sure it would be a gesture enormously appreciated by the Government and people of Mexico, as was the visit of General Marshall during the last Independence Day celebrations here.

While the participation of Mexico may not grow beyond more than an air squadron, or two or three, the moral effect of such Mexican participation in Mexico, and in our own country, and I think in general, will be excellent, and I am very happy indeed that you have viewed this idea with the favor which you have and have made it possible for this development to take place. One thing I am confident of and that is

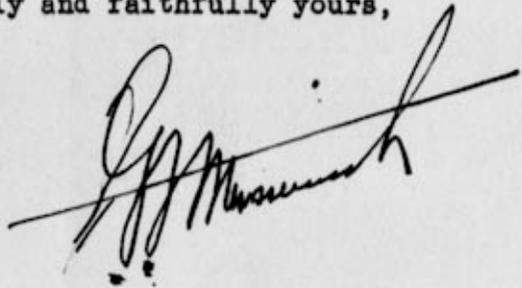
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that the Mexican aviators will give good account of themselves and we need have no fears on that score.

I am writing fully to the Department of State. I am writing a secret letter to Secretary Hull covering the details, with which I do not wish to burden you, and he will make available a copy of my letter to General Arnold.

Believe me, with all good wishes,

Cordially and faithfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "J. M. [unclear]", with a horizontal line drawn through it. The signature is written in a cursive style.

*DJB says the original of this was signed & Mexico folder
handed to Hon. James M. Barnes 5/11/44
hms*

1-44

May 11, 1944

My dear Mr. President:

It is with great pleasure that I have received a report prepared by the War Production Board on the 1944 Program of Industrial Projects for Mexico, as developed by the Mexican-American Commission for Economic Cooperation. This report is a concrete expression of the broad economic strategy on which you and I agreed during our meeting at Monterrey in April 1943, and subsequently when we took action to establish the Commission. The 1944 program is a carefully planned and realistic step toward strengthening the Mexican economy, and it is clear that improved conditions in Mexico will in turn strengthen the overall war effort of the United Nations. It is a source of great satisfaction to me, as I am sure it is to you, to see this tangible proof of the esteem and close economic ties that underlie the military alliance of our two countries.

Now that the 1944 program has been approved and the preparation of a longer range program is well advanced, a closer first-hand exchange of views between your Government and the War Production Board would be of benefit. To this end, I have asked Mr. Donald M. Nelson, Chairman of the Board, to visit Mexico. Mr. Nelson has been working in close cooperation with the Secretary of State, the Foreign Economic Administrator and the Coordinator for Inter-American Affairs of this Government, and is in a position to discuss the sound development of the economic relations between our two governments, and to crystallize further the broad concept outlined at Monterrey.

I have asked Mr. Nelson to hand this letter to you, and I want to use this opportunity to convey at the same time my high and warm regard and best wishes, both for your country and for you personally.

Very sincerely yours,

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

His Excellency Avila Camacho
President of Mexico

(copy filed - Donald M. Nelson folder, dr. 2-44.)

C
P
Y

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

June 24, 1944.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

The attached despatch, no. 18090 of June 7, 1944, transmits a copy of a letter addressed to Ambassador Messersmith by the Polish Minister of Labor and Social Welfare who recently visited Mexico. The letter requests the Ambassador to convey a message of appreciation from the Polish refugees at Santa Rosa to the President.

The situation at the Santa Rosa refugee camp under Polish Administration has been, according to reports received, bad. Sanitary and health conditions are reported as poor; the morale of the refugees is low; and the morals of the camp are said to be very poor. LIFE magazine has sent photographers and a reporter to Mexico and is planning a story on the camp. LIFE is given to sensational approaches to such stories and it has not been very friendly to Mexico. Presumably their story on the camp will be unpleasant.

This background may be of help in considering any publicity that may be desired regarding this message.

C.H.

Enclosure:
Despatch, no. 18090,
June 7, 1944.

(Orig. corres. filed - Poland folder, 1-44.)

Mexico, D.F., June 7, 1944.

No. 18090

Subject: With reference to the visit of Mr. Jan Stanczyk, Polish Minister of Labor and Social Welfare to Mexico.

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to inform the Department that the Polish Minister of Labor and Social Welfare, Mr. JAN STANCZYK, has recently made a visit to Mexico for the purpose of visiting the refugee camp at Santa Rosa in the State of Guanajuato, at which are lodged some Polish refugees who have been brought into Mexico for a temporary stay during the period of the War as a result of arrangements entered into between the Polish Government, the British Government and our Government and as a result of an exchange of notes, I believe, between the Foreign Office here and the Polish Legation. The Department is familiar with these arrangements and with regard to the procedure thereunder, in view of the voluminous reports of this Embassy thereon.

Mr. Stanczyk came to Mexico in view of the fact that certain difficulties have arisen in the administration and conduct of the camp at Santa Rosa, and he came here personally to inform himself on this matter, and while he was here, I understand, he consulted with the Polish Minister in Mexico. He was also in contact with Mr. O'Donoghue, one of the secretaries of this Embassy, who has been following this matter very closely and also with Mr. Ransom, the head of our Procurement and Development Office in Mexico City, and who is the F.E.A. Representative here.

I did not have an opportunity to see Mr. Stanczyk during his stay in Mexico City as on the occasions which he wished to see me, I was occupied with unavoidable duties, but he received from Mr. O'Donoghue, the Secretary of the Embassy with whom he had constant contact, all the information which he needed from us.

I have received today a letter from Mr. Stanczyk, dated June 5, in which he asks that a message be conveyed from the Polish refugees at Santa Rosa to President Roosevelt. A copy of his letter is transmitted with this despatch.

Stanczyk, George
Subject: Polish Refugees

Subject: Polish Refugees

HO 18000

-2-

I am not able to determine why the Polish Minister of Labor and Social Welfare asked me to transmit this message instead of transmitting it through the Polish Embassy in Washington in view of the fact that I understand he has returned or is returning from Mexico City to Washington.

I am,

Respectfully yours,

George S. Messersmith

Enclosure:
From Mr. Stanczyk,
June 5, 1944.

(To the Department in quintuplicate)
File No. 800 - Refugees - Polish refugees

P
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ENCLOSURE TO DESPATCH NO. 18090 DATED JUNE 7, 1944.

COPY

POSELSTWO RZECZYPOSPOLITEJ POLSKIEJ

Mexico City, June 5th, 1944.

Dear Mr. Ambassador,

I should be very grateful if you would be good enough to convey the following message from Polish refugees at Santa Rosa to the President of the United States of America Mr. Franklin D. Roosevelt:

"Polish refugees at Santa Rosa assembled to greet Polish Minister of Labour and Social Welfare Mr. Jan Stanczyk, have the honour to convey to you, Mr. President, assurances of their deepest gratitude for your generous help owing to which they have found a haven in Mexico, after their long and tragic experiences.

The Polish refugees and with them the entire Polish nation will never forget what you did for them, Mr. President. We are firmly convinced that your magnanimity is fully appreciated also by all Americans of Polish descent."

With the assurance of my highest consideration, believe me,

Yours sincerely,

(signed)

Jan Stanczyk
Polish Minister of Labour and
Social Welfare

His Excellency
Mr. George S. Messersmith,
Ambassador of the United States
of America,
Mexico City, D.F.

Mexico folder 1-44

File Personal

DEPARTMENT OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

México, D.F.,
June 29, 1944.

My dear Mr. President:

I am more than happy that you and Secretary Hull have invited Dr. Padilla to be in Washington on July 6 to 12, in order that you may have the opportunity to discuss some post-war questions with him. He is leaving here on the evening of July 1, by train, accompanied by Mrs. Padilla, and will arrive in Washington on the evening of July 5 or the morning of July 6, and is prepared to stay there until the evening of July 12. On the evening of July 12 or the morning of July 13, he will be going to New York quite unofficially and quietly to spend two or three days there with Mrs. Padilla and then will be returning directly to Mexico City.

President Avila Camacho and Dr. Padilla are very much appreciative of this invitation and of this opportunity for Dr. Padilla to talk over post-war problems with you and the Secretary. There is an old saying that comparisons are invidious, but I do believe, from the knowledge which I have, that there is no Chief of State in the other American Republics who is a sounder and firmer and more convinced friend of our country than President Avila Camacho, and I do not believe that there is one in the other American Republics who is more understanding of the economic problems, as well as the political problems, we have to face in this hemisphere. You know what sincere admiration and affection he has for you, which has only been strengthened with developing events, as I know from my personal contact with the President here. He has the deep conviction that our country is the only one which in the present troubled times and in the difficult period after the War can be depended upon really to adhere firmly to the principles for which we are fighting and to which Mexico, or at least her President, is sincerely attached. President Avila Camacho has often said to me that one of the principal things he wants to accomplish

during

The President,
The White House.

during his term of office is to consolidate friendly relationships with the United States and collaborate with us in the political and economic field and to do it in such a way that any successor of his will be practically certain to follow in that path. There is no doubt that he is doing this out of deep conviction that this is best for his country and because he has this firm confidence in us and our rectitude and our equity.

Dr. Padilla, again to make a comparison, is certainly the soundest and wisest and the most stable of the Foreign Ministers in the other American Republics. He and Aranha are outstanding among the Foreign Ministers, and I have great personal admiration and affection for Aranha, but there is no doubt that he is very temperamental and he is not always as dependable as Dr. Padilla. Both Dr. Padilla and Aranha are men of a good deal of temperament, but the difference between them is that Aranha is temperamental while Padilla is as firm and as steady as a rock. Another important difference is that while Aranha knows the American picture, Padilla knows it as well as Aranha, and Padilla has a much broader comprehension of the world picture than Aranha.

I have now had more than two years here in Mexico, during which I have had this constant close and really intimate contact with President Avila Camacho and with Dr. Padilla. I can assure you that they discuss problems of common interest with me with a frankness which even at times is surprising to me. I have lived long enough to be able to make certain distinctions and I am deeply convinced of the sincerity of both men. The present attitude of Mexico in her relationships with us and in inter-American affairs and in world affairs is due to these two men. I should tell you that although Dr. Padilla is a man who does not have very great political backing as an individual in the country, he exerts a good deal of influence by the rectitude of his conduct and by the fact that it is known that he has the complete confidence of the President. There is, I think, no man in the country of Mexico who has the confidence of President Avila Camacho to the degree that Padilla has it, and deservedly so.

I am mentioning this to you so that you may know that when you and Secretary Hull are talking with Padilla, you are talking with a responsible statesman who is in full accord with this Chief, the President, and who has the most complete confidence of his Chief.

I am particularly happy that you have invited Dr. Padilla to come up to talk about these matters because while the principal responsibility for the present, and I think in the immediate post-war, the problems of which I envisage as in some ways even more difficult than those of winning the War, will rest on England, Russia, China and ourselves, I think we must find a way to associate some of the other States with us in these difficult tasks. I am sure that this is a thought which you have very much in mind and I venture to say that so far as the Americas are concerned, Mexico and Brazil are the two countries on which we must lean a good deal in this hemisphere. Mexico, which was the bad boy among the American States for so long, has grown a good deal in stature in recent years and will grow more. Her internal and external policy during the last years has been along so straight a line that it has earned the respect of most of the other Latin American Republics. The fact that she has collaborated with us so fully in inter-American affairs, and the fact that we have been able to straighten out so many of our problems among ourselves - i.e. between Mexico and the United States - has had a very important moral effect in the other American Republics. As a consequence, Mexico really has a certain influence which can be most useful in this inter-American picture and particularly with her leadership in the hands of President Avila Camacho and Dr. Padilla.

The President and Dr. Padilla have very real problems. I will not go into these for I must not burden you with details in this letter. In spite of outward aspects of prosperity, the internal economic situation of Mexico is not good, and it is due almost entirely to the incapacity of the Government to deal with so many of the new problems with which it has to deal. The major problem they have here is grappling with the increasing cost of living, and they simply have not been able to devise adequate and effective price control measures which in a country whose economic development is so relatively retarded compared with ours is very difficult.

Aside from these internal economic problems, neither the extreme Left elements or the extreme Right elements are friendly to the President, and they are constantly attacking Dr. Padilla because he stands for collaboration with us. The extreme Right elements in Mexico are not dangerous because they are not sufficiently strong and have no prospect of being so. The Mexican Revolution is too deeply rooted among the Mexican people for an extreme Right element to cause much trouble or to have much influence.

On

On the other hand, there is a strong extreme Left movement which is more revolutionary than the Revolution, and this element, which is completely lacking in regard for the future of the country, is making a good deal of trouble for the constructive policies which the President is trying to follow. The President himself is deeply attached to the best of the Mexican Revolution, but he is a wise and a sound man and realizes that a new world is not built in a day.

The sinister element behind the picture in Mexico is still General Cárdenas who while professing friendship for the President is, behind the scenes, willing to make all sorts of trouble for him. General Cárdenas is fully aware of the fact that the policies that the President is following are wise and sound and for the good of Mexico, but it irks him to think that Mexico under President Avila Camacho is developing more soundly than during his Presidency. The influence of Cárdenas is decreasing in the country gradually and there is no doubt that President Avila Camacho has the respect and confidence of the Mexican people more than Cárdenas ever had it. The great failing of Cárdenas is that he will not have contact with anyone outside of a very limited circle and he wishes no contact with foreigners, although I see him from time to time for long conversations. During these conversations he seems very reasonable and friendly and understanding. I know, nevertheless, that he remains basically unfriendly to us simply because he does not know our country and will not know it in spite of the opportunities he has had and the invitations we have given him to visit us.

For example, the President and Dr. Padilla and, I think, all the responsible members of the Mexican Government know the basic Petroleum Law of Mexico should be changed in order to make possible adequate exploitation of her petroleum resources through the participation, for example, of American companies under arrangements with the Mexican petroleum monopoly - Petroleos Mexicanos - on an equitable basis. They know that this is necessary for fiscal and other reasons. Cárdenas knows it as well as they, but it is he who has made it impossible so far for the Mexican Government to formulate petroleum policy which is in her best interests and in the best interests of this continent. The attitude of Cárdenas which is purely obstinate and altogether unreasonable and which he knows to be such, cannot much longer continue to interfere with this important matter for Mexico but we must have a little more patience until the President can make his will prevail.

Similarly

Similarly while I do not believe that Cárdenas has any really pro-Axis sympathies such as he is credited with by some, he is so distrustful of us and so highly nationalistic that any policy of collaboration with us is abhorrent to him. Fortunately, even those members of the Government whose political attachment is more directly to Cárdenas than it is to President Avila Camacho are beginning to see that so many of General Cárdenas' attitudes are personal and prejudiced rather than they are in the interest of Mexico's economy. For this reason, as I have said, his influence in the country is decreasing.

The Mexican Government is passing through a very difficult period. She is passing through a lot of growing pains. The condition of the great mass of her population is still deplorable. The situation, however, has greatly improved during the Presidency of General Avila Camacho, and if he can shape things as he is trying to shape them, Mexico is going to develop during the post-war years industrially and agriculturally in a very rapid and, I believe, in a very sound way.

As you so appreciate, all this is very important for us for the stronger Mexico is politically and economically and the better fed and better housed her people are, the better neighbor she will be and the more helpful she will be as a collaborator with us in the difficult times to come.

I am convinced that Mexico will be in a position to play a very useful role after the War and that her collaboration with us can be most helpful to us and to her. I think a great deal will depend upon the wisdom with which we handle the situation, for being the bigger and the stronger and the more experienced we shall have to be as helpful as we can and as patient and understanding as we can. It will pay in the end. To have Mexico working with us so closely has been of extraordinary value during the War. To have her work with us so closely after the War will be of just as great value, and I am confident that if we know how to handle it, we will have her with us.

You will find Dr. Padilla very frank, very sound and actuated by a sincere desire to work with us as a real and good friend, and I am more than happy that this invitation has been given to him, for I believe it will prove to be of great help for the future.

I know how extraordinarily burdened you are, but if you and Mrs. Roosevelt would have an opportunity of seeing Mrs. Padilla, I think it would be very helpful and pleasant. She is a very charming woman, and in the last few years has learned to speak English very well.

I need not tell you how much my thoughts are with you every day in these difficult times.

Believe me, always

Cordially and faithfully yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Franklin D. Roosevelt', written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned below the typed closing of the letter.

file
Personal

Personal

EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

México, D.F., July 1, 1944.

Dear Mr. President:

I wish to supplement very briefly my letter to you of June 29, with regard to the visit of Dr. Padilla.

I failed to mention in this letter that the task which Dr. Padilla has, and which the President has here, is a very difficult one. The orientation of Mexican policy in the line of the closest collaboration with us in the political and economic field is very definitely that of the President and Dr. Padilla and the one for which they are almost entirely responsible. There are other Ministers in the Government who are helpful in following out this policy and who are convinced supporters thereof. There are, however, a number of Ministers in the Government whose allegiance lies more definitely to General Cárdenas than it does to President Avila Camacho who naturally have to follow out this policy of collaboration with us but who are not so convinced. To be more correct, I should say, they realize that this policy of political and economic collaboration with us is essential for Mexico but they would not like to carry through in the wholehearted and really collaborative way that the President and Dr. Padilla do, but would like to exert all kinds of pressures on us. On the other hand, the President and Dr. Padilla believe that this policy should be one of wholehearted and open collaboration on a basis of no pressures but on the sheer merits of the policy.

Similarly the collaboration which Mexico has given us in the inter-American picture and which has been so wholehearted is due to the President and Dr. Padilla. In this again they have the support of the Ministers because they have to give it but in many ways they would like to give it with much more reserve than the Mexican Government has practiced.

Similarly

The President,

The White House.

Similarly in the collaboration which Mexico has been giving and is prepared to give in the bigger world picture, we have to depend on the soundness of judgment and the firmness of character of the President and Dr. Padilla rather than on some of the higher officers of the Mexican Government who have pretensions with respect to the Mexican pictures which they think they should put forward in the world picture for their own advantage.

I have wanted to give you this thought for it makes all the more significant and important the attitude of President Avila Camacho and the support which they are giving us and the necessity for us giving them all the support which we can. The people who have been sniping in Mexico at Dr. Padilla during the last few years are headed up more particularly and of course under cover by General Maximino Avila Camacho, who is a brother of the President, who is really a psychopathic case, who has no sense of responsibility, and who is in fact really fascist in his tendencies. By this I do not mean to say that he is pro-Nazi but he does believe in fascist dictatorial Nazi tactics in Government. Cárdenas too, beyond the scenes, is behind these attacks on Dr. Padilla. Of course the attacks on Padilla are nothing more than indirect attacks against the President. I am glad to say that these attacks against Padilla have been less frequent and less severe in the last three or four months. The unfortunate and happily unsuccessful attack on the President's life gave a lot of people here cause to think and they realized perhaps for the first time just what the soundness of judgment, and the rectitude of conduct, and the line of policy of the President, meant for Mexico.

I have, however, wished these thoughts to come to your attention because I am sure you would wish to know that the policies of collaboration with us in the inter-American and in the world picture which the President and Dr. Padilla are following are not without opposition here, which, while it is under cover, is nevertheless something to be reckoned with. On the firmness of the President and Dr. Padilla, and on the firmness of their position in the country and in these policies, I think we need have no doubt whatever.

One of the reasons why I have felt it so necessary to bring to the Department's attention and to that of the other agencies of Government the importance of supplying

Mexico's

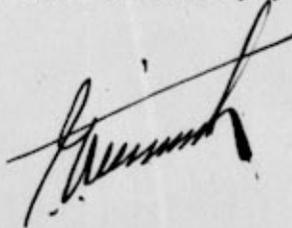
Mexico's food deficits and keeping her economy going as much as we could in this emergency is because this is the one way, or at least the principal way, in which we can give support to the President and Dr. Padilla and to the best elements here and to defeat the efforts of those who are trying to counteract the policy of the Government of collaboration.

While you will find that Dr. Padilla will be willing to go very far towards going along with us in inter-American and world problems, we cannot, of course, press him to any extreme positions because that would make the position of the Mexican Government, by which I mean the position of the President and Dr. Padilla, more difficult here. Fortunately, however, Mexico as a whole in her war policy has been following a line practically parallel to ours so that there are sure bases of collaboration on the part of Mexico with us in the world picture.

The President and Dr. Padilla are really men of courage in every sense of the word. I know that you realize this but I thought it would be interesting for you to have this background in this letter for the conversations which you will have with Dr. Padilla.

Believe me,

Cordially and faithfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'G. S. ...', written over a horizontal line.

Mexico folder 1-44

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



*President
has the Ambassador's
letter*

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

July 3, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR MISS TULLY:

I am enclosing a sealed letter for the President which has been received by pouch from the American Ambassador at Mexico, D. F.

G. T. Summerlin
George T. Summerlin

Enclosure:
Sealed letter.



mexico folder
1-44

TO BE PUT BEFORE THE PRESIDENT WHEN
DR. PADILLA COMES TO SEE HIM.

file



DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

July 3, 1944

My dear Mr. President:

I enclose, for your information, a copy of a memorandum prepared in the Department covering possible topics for discussion with the Mexican Minister for Foreign Affairs, Dr. Ezequiel Padilla, who will be in Washington from July 6 to July 12.

Faithfully yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Cordell Hull".

Enclosure:

Copy of memorandum
prepared in Department.

The President,
The White House.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
OFFICE OF AMERICAN REPUBLIC AFFAIRS

July 3, 1944

8 - The Secretary:

Visit of Dr. Padilla, Mexican Foreign Minister,
July 6-12

Dr. Padilla is coming to Washington to discuss post-war problems. There are two aspects of the post-war program with respect to the new world security organization in which Dr. Padilla's advice would be particularly useful:

- (a) The status and participation of countries other than Great Britain, China, the Soviet Union and the United States upon whom the major responsibility must rest; and
- (b) The relationship of the inter-American system to the post-war organization.

Mr. Pasvolksy will open the discussions on post-war problems with Dr. Padilla on Thursday afternoon, and will arrange for Dr. Padilla to carry on further discussions with other officers of the Department.

Among pending matters of mutual interest between our two Governments, Dr. Padilla may wish to discuss the following:

1. Argentina

Dr. Padilla has been very much interested in the situation as regards Argentina and it is highly probable that he will submit a proposal for Inter-American consultation on the question.

2. Major Oil Policy

The question of American and other foreign participation in the development of the Mexican petroleum industry or the possibility of a loan of a substantial sum of money to Mexico for the development of the Mexican oil industry by the Mexican petroleum monopoly itself are two topics Lic. Padilla may wish to discuss as possible solutions of the problem.

3. Industrialization

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

3. Industrialization of Mexico

The work of the Mexican-American Commission for Economic Cooperation and matters dealing with the industrialization of Mexico will undoubtedly be a topic which Lic. Padilla will want to discuss. The American members of the Commission are Wayne C. Taylor, Nelson A. Rockefeller and Thomas H. Lockett, Economic Counselor of the Embassy at Mexico City. Mexico is interested in acquiring machinery and other necessary materials for expansion of her industry but shortages in the United States have prevented compliance with the majority of Mexico's requests along this line.

Agricultural development in Mexico is handicapped much in the same way as industry: Mexico must grow more food -- and can only do so when she is able to receive adequate agricultural and irrigation machinery, and, while some of this is going down, the war needs of this country prevent our meeting Mexico's wishes in this respect.

4. Foodstuffs

Mexico's major needs, according to the reports of our Embassy in Mexico City and to the representations made by the Mexican Government, are corn, wheat, lard, and sugar.

While it is possible that the real problem on these things is the question of transportation, the fact remains that the people are short of food.

Arrangements have been made to bring corn from Argentina: this will produce about 130,000 tons. In all probability it may be possible for the Mexicans to obtain a little bit more corn later this year in the United States. With respect to wheat, Mexico will probably have received during the course of this year some 11,000,000 bushels from United States sources, plus a minimum of 72,000 tons from Australia, plus, should Mexico so desire, an additional 20,000 or 30,000 tons from Australia, the latter being dependent upon price acceptibility: Mexico has also bought wheat in the Argentine, but I doubt if we can provide shipping. With respect to lard, the recent lard holiday in this country and the general situation here on lard have been such as to permit Mexico to obtain in this first half year almost as much lard as she had indicated she would need for the entire year: she will be able to obtain even more lard. With respect to sugar, the Mexican Government has told us that they need 70,000 tons;

these

these figures are prepared in advance of definite crop estimates; 10,000 tons have been made available from Cuba for Yucatan, and shipping facilities are being provided for some 10,000 to 20,000 tons from Peru; it may be possible to arrange for further shipments from Peru or elsewhere (other than Cuba), but no encouragement should be given regarding this point particularly in advance of definite crop figures. Mexico has recently developed an interest in importing wheat flour and her desires are to obtain some 60,000 tons, which we believe she can do.

5. Transportation

(a) Railway

The question of railway transportation in Mexico is very acute as there has been a breakdown in the movement of railway cars which has tied up a great deal of United States equipment in that country. We have had a railway mission there for approximately 2 years, the funds for which were provided by the Office of the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs. The mission has performed extraordinary work in keeping the railways running in spite of the inefficient operation due to the activities of the railway labor syndicates, but has not as yet been successful in solving the over-all problem -- which may be insoluble.

Because of rail transportation difficulties, petroleum products in Northwestern Mexico for vital transportation and industry are totally lacking and efforts are currently being made to relieve this by shipments from the United States. The proposed resumption of sea transportation services will create a still further problem for the railways between seaports and the interior.

(b) Aviation

Air transportation in Mexico, as in the rest of the world, will expand greatly when aircraft and other necessary facilities become available for commercial use. A number of concessions for new air lines have recently been granted and Mexico is interested in obtaining immediately as many serviceable airplanes as possible.

6. Water Treaty

On May 9, 1944, the President addressed a letter to the President of Mexico informing him that the Foreign Relations

Committee

Committee of the Senate, having in view the fact that in the time remaining before the Congress recesses it would be unable to give due consideration to this treaty, had decided to postpone the hearings. The President gave assurance that the Secretary and he will lend their influence to have the treaty considered by this Committee at the earliest possible moment that appears opportune.

7. El Chamizal

In a confidential memorandum for the Mexican Embassy, dated May 13, 1944, the Department suggested that the International Boundary Commission, together with representatives of the Department and of the Ministry of Foreign Relations, undertake an informal study of this problem. The Mexican Embassy in its memorandum of May 26, 1944, made a favorable reply but suggested that a preliminary investigation be made of certain detached areas along the river below the El Paso-Juárez Valley. Consequent upon this exchange of views the two Boundary Commissions have initiated conversations upon these detached areas as well as upon the Chamizal, and at an appropriate time thereafter representatives of the Department and of the Foreign Office will join in these informal discussions.

Miss

July 7, 1944.

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. CRIM:

Confirming my telephone conversation, the President will entertain the Foreign Minister of Mexico, H.E. Dr. Ezequiel Padilla, at tea, 5.00 P. M., Saturday, July 8, 1944. The following will be present:

The President
Mrs. Boettiger
Dr. and Mrs. Padilla
Admiral Wilson Brown
General Edwin M. Watson
Mr. Laurence Duggan

EDWIN M. WATSON
Secretary to the President.

(3236) Signed original of this letter sent to State for delivery by pouch 7/11/44.

July 10, 1944

The Honorable G. S. Messersmith
American Ambassador
Mexico City, Mexico

My dear Mr. Messersmith:

In connection with your letter of July 2, 1944, the matter of final arrangements for the training in the United States of the Mexican Fighter Squadron was taken up with me by our State Department. As a result of this conversation, Colonel L. O. Ryan, accompanied by Lt. Colonel George V. Prentice, and Lt. Colonel George A. Braga of the United States Army Air Force departed from Washington on this mission last Thursday and should now be in Mexico City.

These officers were specifically charged to discuss nothing beyond final arrangements for subsequent approval of the State and War Departments for the training in the U. S. of the Mexican Squadron, and were impressed with the secrecy of their mission.

In view of the above, it is believed no further action is necessary.

Very truly yours,

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

~~TOP SECRET~~

WAR DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON

July 8, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT:

Subject: Training of Mexican Fighter Squadron in the U. S.

With reference to Ambassador Messersmith's memorandum to Mr. Cordell Hull dated July 2, 1944, the following is for your information:

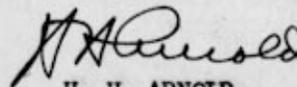
Following a telephone request from the State Department Monday, July 3, asking that U. S. officers proceed to Mexico before Thursday, July 6, if possible, to meet with Mr. Messersmith to discuss the final arrangements for the training in the U. S. of the Mexican Fighter Squadron, Colonel L. O. Ryan, accompanied by Lt. Colonel George V. Prentice, and Lt. Colonel George A. Braga from the Office of the Assistant Chief of Air Staff, Training, of the U. S. Army Air Forces, departed from Washington on this mission last Thursday and should be in Mexico City now.

These officers were specifically charged to discuss nothing beyond final arrangements for subsequent approval of the State and War Departments for the training in the U. S. of the Mexican Squadron, and were impressed with the secrecy of their mission.

The State Department was advised as to the members and time of departure of this mission, and have advised me that Mr. Messersmith has been informed.

In view of the above, it is believed no further action is necessary.

Suggested draft of reply for your signature to Mr. Messersmith is attached hereto.



H. H. ARNOLD,
General, U. S. Army,
Commanding General, Army Air Forces

Incl:

Draft of reply to Amb. Messersmith.
Memo from the President to General Arnold 7/7/44
Memo to the President from Sec. of State 7/5/44
Ltr to Sec. of State from Amb. Messersmith 7/2/44

Franklin D. Roosevelt Library

DECLASSIFIED

DDO DIR. 5200.9 (9/27/58)

Date- 7-8-66

Signature- Carl L. Spicer



~~TOP SECRET~~

July 7, 1944.

MEMORANDUM FOR

GENERAL ARNOLD

FOR PREPARATION OF REPLY

FOR MY SIGNATURE.

F. D. R.

DECLASSIFIED
By Deputy Archivist of the U.S.

By W. J. Stewart Date FEB 10 1972

THE SECRETARY

July 5, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

I enclose (single copy only) a copy of a letter dated July 2 which I have received from Ambassador Messersmith giving secret information regarding the training of a Mexican air squadron in this country. The Ambassador especially desired that this be sent to you in the greatest confidence in order to prevent any publicity or leakage.

C.H.

DECLASSIFIED

State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By J. Schauble Date **FEB 10 1972**

Pres

Us Cavaliers

Mexico, July 2, 1944

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I have to refer to our previous correspondence with regard to the participation of a Mexican air squadron at a combat field. Before leaving for Washington, Dr. Padilla told me that the President had asked him to say to me that all was now ready for the squadron which had been selected here to leave for the United States for training. The President asked me, through Dr. Padilla to say to you and to General Arnold, the Chief of the Air Staff, that all the personnel of the squadron had been selected and that they were ready to leave at any time that we indicated that we were ready to receive them at the place of training in the United States, which I understand is to be in Texas.

When General Hall, Deputy Chief of Air Staff, was here recently on his way to Europe on a special mission where he now is, we called on President Avila Camacho, who then informed us that the squadron should be ready to leave in the early days of July. I am sure that General Hall conveyed this information to General Arnold in Washington before he left for Europe, so that General Arnold has advance notice that the squadron would be prepared to leave early in July.

The President is now awaiting word from us as to when we expect the squadron and where it is to go. It is his intention that the squadron shall be carried, at least from Mexico City to the border, by the Mexican National Railway Lines. That was his intention when we

spoke

The Honorable
Cordell Hull,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D. C.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By J. Schauble Date _____

FEB 10 1972

spoke to him last. If they proceed by rail, they will be something under 300 officers and men and, of course, appropriate arrangements have to be made for their transportation from the border to the place where they are going in Texas, if it is still General Arnold's intention to train them in Texas.

I think in order that the arrangements here by our own air force may coordinate, it might be advisable for an officer of General Arnold's staff to fly down here with appropriate instructions to talk with me and with the President with regard to the arrangements, which I think can best be consummated if an officer with appropriate instructions and knowledge of where they are to go will come down here.

According to the President, the squadron is ready to leave any time now that we designate, but of course it will take some days to make the appropriate arrangements for transportation and for their reception at the field or fields in Texas to which they will go. I make this suggestion about General Arnold's sending an officer down here as I think that will be the most expeditious and the most sure way of handling this matter.

The President for the present wishes the channels of communication which we have had in this matter maintained and that is directly between General Arnold and the Department and the President here, through me. If General Arnold, therefore, sends an officer down here with appropriate instructions, or if there are any preliminary arrangements to be made before the arrival of such officer, they should be made to me in confidential code.

The squadron will supposedly be leaving for training purposes only and, as the President of Mexico will not have the authorization of the Mexican Congress to send troops abroad until the Congress meets in September, it will be necessary to maintain the same secrecy and reserve we have kept up to now with regard to the ultimate destination of this squadron which will proceed for training. In other words, when the squadron leaves here there will be no announcement of its ultimate destination and it will be indicated that it is a Mexican squadron going to our training fields in Texas for training, just as a considerable number of Mexican military pilots have received training with us for some time now. It is very important that this same secrecy and reserve with respect to the ultimate destination should be observed as it has been observed up to now

in view of the fact that the President of Mexico is not yet in a position to state that the squadron is going abroad until he gets authorization from the Congress here.

The number of people who know the ultimate destination of this squadron in the Department and in the army, as well as here in Mexico City, is confined to a very few people and in the interest of this whole matter and for the protection of the President of Mexico, it is necessary that this same reserve be maintained until it is possible to give public indication of the ultimate purpose and destination of the squadron.

I am sending you this letter in duplicate in case you may wish to send a copy to General Arnold for his information.

In view of the interest of the President in this matter, you may wish to bring this further development in this significant matter to the attention of President Roosevelt, but in doing so I would appreciate your bringing to the President's attention the fact that the same reserve is being maintained as heretofore with regard to the ultimate destination and purpose of the squadron and that any premature publicity in this respect either at home or here would be a serious embarrassment to the President of Mexico, who must get the authorization from Congress here before he can tell the Mexican people that the squadron is going abroad.

With all good wishes,

Cordially and faithfully yours,

G. S. Messersmith.

Mexico Journal
1-44

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

~~TOP SECRET~~

July 7, 1944.

file →
MEMORANDUM FOR

GENERAL ARNOLD

FOR PREPARATION OF REPLY

FOR MY SIGNATURE.

F. D. R.

Memo from the Secretary of State to the president, dated July 5, 1944, enclosing copy of a letter to the Secretary from Ambassador Messersmith, dated July 2, 1944, giving secret information regarding the training of a Mexican air squadron in this country.

DECLASSIFIED

By Deputy Archivist of the U.S.

By W. J. Stewart Date FEB 10 1972

Mexico from 1-44

AIRGRAM

From: American Embassy
Mexico, D. F.

UNRESTRICTED

Date: November 9, 1944.
Rec'd : November 11, 5p.m.

Secretary of State
Washington

A-4046, November 9, 12 noon, 1944

Referring to the Embassy's telegram of today's date summarizing editorial and headline treatment accorded the re-election of President Roosevelt in this morning's newspapers:

Foreign Secretary Padilla yesterday released a statement which is given prominent treatment in all of today's newspapers, the text of which in translation is as follows:

"The re-election of President Roosevelt is one of the great episodes of the war. For the United States it signifies that there remains in power a man who thoroughly dominates the decisive factors of this struggle and who has proven experience for the wise solution of the great problems of the war and the forthcoming peace. His understanding of men and of the palpitating realities of this universal tragedy constitutes an assurance of the victory and the future of that American nation. For the United Nations, Roosevelt is a power and a guarantee for confidence and unity. At the same time he is for all free humanity a guide and a noble inspiration. For America Roosevelt is the creator of the Good Neighbor policy. Thanks to him this policy has been converted into realities. Reasons for resentment have been removed and an era of confidence which every day increases has been able to appear. His re-election has without doubt been received with rejoicing by all of the American nations in these decisive moments when the Good Neighbor policy is being consolidated by the cooperation which the planning of the postwar period demands in order that opportunities for prosperity for all the peoples of the continent may be obtained. Finally, apart from the personality of President Roosevelt, the fight for democracy has been

exalted

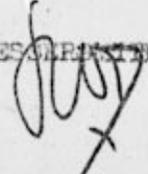
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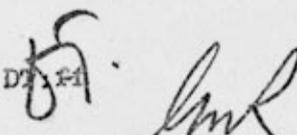
exalted by the marvelous examples rendered by the people of the United States. This is a genuine triumph of the people, of the political parties, and of candidate Dewey himself. The whole world will have confidence in a system of government which gives such astonishing results in the greatest free community of the world."

According to EXCELSIOR, Senator Eugenio Prado spoke with newspapermen on behalf of his colleagues. He is reported by that paper to have said:

"Without deprecating in the slightest the eminent personality of the Republican candidate, Mr. Dewey, for Mexico and generally for the democratic sentiment of all the peoples of Latin America, the triumph of the President of the United States, Mr. Roosevelt, has great significance which will mean an improvement of the Good Neighbor policy and in the cementing of the relations of continental friendship and fraternity."

In response to the questions of the newspaper reporters, several Senators and Deputies have expressed satisfaction at the re-election of President Roosevelt and the belief that his re-election signifies the continuance and the increasing implementation of the Good Neighbor policy in relations between Mexico and the United States.

MESQUERITA


DEPT. OF STATE


Dec. 19

*Pa
I will see him
on the 19th
file*

EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

México, D.F.,
December 8, 1944.

Dear Mr. President:

I appreciate so much your thoughtful note of December 4, acknowledging mine of November 27, and stating that you will be in Washington December 19, and that you can see me then except for three or four days after Christmas. You say that it is possible that you may be back several days before the 19th.

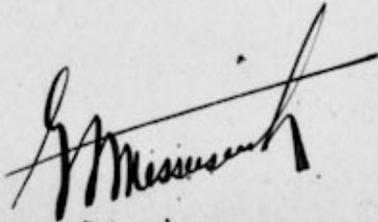
I am leaving here by air on the morning of December 15 and with good luck should be in Washington on the night of the 15th or the morning of the 16th. In any event, I should be there sometime during the 16th. I look forward very much to seeing you at your convenience after my arrival.

It is my intention to return to Mexico City immediately after I have had the privilege of seeing you as there are many things which require my attention here and I hope to be away not more than a week altogether from Mexico City.

I will see the President here before I leave and I will be sure to tell him that you are doing all that you can for the water treaty, which is so important.

Looking forward very much to the pleasure and privilege of seeing you, and with heartfelt good wishes,

Cordially and faithfully yours,



The President

The White House.

*Jim Watson
To note*

December 4, 1944.

Dear George:

Thanks much for yours of November twenty-seventh. I have to be back in Washington the nineteenth and can see you then except for three or four days after Christmas. I will be delighted to do so. It is possible that I may get back there two or three days before the nineteenth.

I am appreciative of all you write about President Casmacho. He is really a fine person and you can tell him I am doing all I can for the water treaty and hope to keep it out of the political arena.

As ever yours,

"F. D. R."

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

EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

México, D. F., México,
November 27, 1944.

Personal

Dear Mr. President:

It was very good of you to write me on November 16 saying that you were sorry you could not see me while I was home in October, but you may be sure that I thoroughly understood. There is an important matter affecting our relationships with Mexico which Secretary Hull has asked me to discuss with you and which I should have an opportunity of discussing with you in the near future, and for this reason I am planning a trip to Washington in December, if this may fit in with your plans. I can thoroughly appreciate that your own plans are uncertain, and I have therefore written to Pa Watson to ask him to give me any such information as he can as to the possibilities of seeing you in December if I make a trip up, as I do not wish to make the trip unless I could be sure to see you, as that would be the only object of the trip.

I saw President Avila Camacho the other afternoon for one of our long and always very helpful talks in his home here in Mexico City. I told the President that you would be replying to his letter in the very near future, and the President said he thoroughly understood why you had not been able to reply.

The principal

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

The principal purpose of this letter is to tell you once again what you so well know--what an understanding friend our country has in the President of Mexico and what deep admiration and friendship he has for us.

We had a long talk the other afternoon, and the major part of it was taken up with his expressions of satisfaction and happiness that you had been re-elected. The President said that a number of people had talked to him about how closely fought an election it would be, and some had expressed doubts as to whether you would be reelected, but he himself had an intuitive sense, as well as a firm conviction, that you would be reelected, and in this confidence he had never faltered. He went on to speak at great length about what he considered the importance of your reelection, not only for the United States, but for Mexico and this hemisphere and for the world. He is really a very unusual man and has an extraordinary and at times quite unexpected knowledge with regard to major problems with which we have to deal these days, not only in this hemisphere but in the world picture. He feels that if you had not been reelected it would have been a very dark day for the future. I will not go into detail to express the reasons on which the President based these convictions and expressions, but will only say that he spoke with extraordinary understanding and knowledge, as well as with conviction.

So far as his personal affection and esteem for you are concerned there is no doubt whatever. He said that he wished to tell me in strict confidence that shortly before the elections an American friend came to see him from the United States to bring him a message at the request of Mr. Dewey. He said that this American friend told him that Mr. Dewey wished him to know that if he were elected there would be no change in the attitude of the United States toward Mexico and in our policy with respect to the other American Republics. President Avila Camacho said that he thought this message was not in the best of taste but that he had confined himself to receiving this American friend, listening briefly

to what

to what he had to say, and to remarking that he was taking note of it. He said that under the circumstances he thought he should not say what was really on his soul, but I could see that the President was annoyed by this visit and this message when his own feelings are so well known.

The President spoke at great length concerning what he considered the absolute necessity for the most complete unity in the Americas in the political and economic field. He referred to the tendency of some to talk about regional blocs in the Americas, and he spoke of what folly such an idea was. We spoke about the Argentine situation, and he has, of course, absolutely no use for this military dictatorial regime which has fastened itself on that country, and realizes the necessity of the Argentine getting rid of that government in order that she can reincorporate herself into the concert of the American nations on a proper basis.

The President spoke at considerable length of the necessity of the other countries of the Americas collaborating with the United States, not only in their own interest, but in the common interest of this hemisphere. He said that in his opinion the United States was the only country which stood for political and economic principles which represented just and equitable treatment among the nations. He said that of the three great powers, Russia, England and ourselves, we were the only one who could be depended upon to follow a line of equitable and understanding treatment, and it was therefore necessary for our voice to be as strong as possible, and it should be the voice of this hemisphere, and not only of the United States, speaking in these international councils. For this reason, as the United States was the only real friend of the other American Republics, their path lay in the most complete collaboration with the United States, from which they could always expect equitable treatment, which they could not expect from anyone else.

The President expressed his great interest in the water treaty which will come before the Senate Committee for discussion in early January, and expressed his conviction that the approval of this

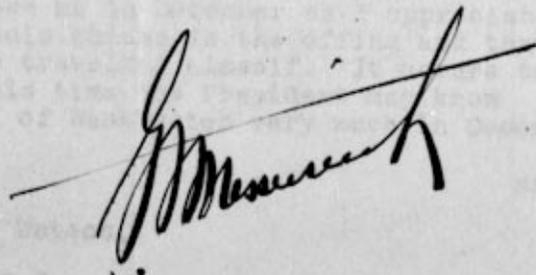
water treaty

water treaty between the United States and Mexico was of more fundamental importance than the settlement of the petroleum appropriations and of the agrarian and general claims. He said that the approval of the treaty would not only consolidate Mexican-American relationships on the sound basis on which they should be but that it would have widespread repercussions in all of the Americas that so difficult a problem could be settled in so equitable and so understanding a way. In this connection I may only observe that I believe that the President is really in this connection right, and as this water treaty is a just and equitable arrangement, failure by us to approve it promptly would, I believe, be a very serious matter, not only for our relationships with Mexico in the political and economic field, but it would have a very bad effect throughout the hemisphere. I only mention this water treaty because I do not see the President but what he mentions it, and I thought you would be interested to know that I believe he does not place any exaggerated importance upon the approval of this in our relationships with Mexico and our position in this hemisphere.

I have wished to give you the substance of this recent conversation with the President of Mexico as he devoted most of it to his understanding expressions of friendship and admiration for you and the coincidence of the principles for which we stand, and his attitude showed how clearly it is the intention of Mexico to continue its collaboration with us in the American and in the world picture.

With all good wishes,

Cordially and faithfully yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "John M. McKim". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the left across the signature.

RECEIVED
BY MR. HULL
NOVEMBER 27 1944
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON, D.C.



THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

PERSONAL

AMERICAN EMBASSY

México, D.F.,
November 27, 1944.

Personal

Dear Pa:

I have had a letter from the President dated November 16, which you undoubtedly saw, in which the President is good enough to say that he was sorry not to be able to see me while I was home recently but that he hopes to see me when I return to Washington. He states that his plans are so uncertain, however, at the time of writing that he could not give me a definite date and suggests that I get in touch with you when I arrive and see if something cannot be worked out as he does wish to see me.

The principal reason I made this trip home in October was to see the President on a matter which Secretary Hull and the Department wished me to discuss with the President and which I am sure the President would wish to discuss with me. It is an important matter in our relationships with Mexico and as it is pending, I should discuss it with the President as soon as it may be convenient for him to do so.

The matter is important enough for me to make a special trip home and I have been thinking of going in December. I naturally want to be here at Christmas time so I would prefer to make the trip and be back here by the 20th of December. I could, of course, get away here any time and I would be gone only a maximum of a week as if I fly up and back, I need not be away from here more than a week.

I thoroughly realize that it may not fit in with the President's plans to see me in December as I appreciate that there may be certain things in the offing and that he may have to do some traveling himself. It occurs to me that probably by this time the President may know whether he will be out of Washington very much in December

and

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

DEPT. OF STATE
RECORDED



AIR MAIL

-2-

and if you could give me a word for my own information and guidance in this matter I would, of course, keep it in complete confidence but it would enable me to make my plans. I do not wish to make this trip to Washington unless I will be sure of seeing the President as that is the only object of my trip and the matter is one which is of sufficient importance in our relationships with Mexico for me to make such a special trip.

If, therefore, there is any indication which you can give me, it would be very helpful indeed. If I do not make the trip in December, I should in any event have to make it in January but I have the intuition that it is more likely that I would be able to see the President in December in Washington than in January in view of what his own plans may be.

I need not tell you how happy I am over the outcome of the elections, concerning which I had no doubt so far as the President was concerned, but the results so far as the Congress is concerned are even more satisfactory than I had been able to hope.

Please give the President my very good wishes and that I hope to have the opportunity of seeing him and you in the near future and with all good wishes to you and Mrs. Watson from Marion and myself,

Believe me,

Cordially and faithfully yours,

M 514



Personal

THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

AMERICAN EMBASSY

México, D.F.,
December 8, 1944.

Dear Pa:

I had a very nice letter from the President, dated December 4, saying that he would be in Washington on the 19th of December and perhaps a day or two before and that he would be glad to see me. I am sending you herewith a copy of the letter which I have written to the President, which is self-explanatory. I should be in Washington on the 16th at the latest so as to be available to see the President any time after that. I hope to see him, of course, as soon as possible at his convenience after my arrival and if he does not get there until the 19th, I hope that I can see him on the 19th or 20th, if not before and it is my intention to return to Mexico City by air immediately after I have seen the President. I am hoping that I may not be away from here more than a week and my sole object in making the trip is to see the President on this matter affecting Mexico which we did not have the opportunity to discuss while I was home in October.

If by any chance the President's plans should change, please let me know by December 14 by telephone as I would not leave here until I was sure of finding the President in Washington.

Looking forward to seeing you and with all good wishes to you and your wife from us both,

Cordially and faithfully yours,

Enclosure:
As stated.

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

México, D.F.,
December 8, 1944.

Dear Mr. President:

I appreciate so much your thoughtful note of December 4, acknowledging mine of November 27, and stating that you will be in Washington December 19, and that you can see me then except for three or four days after Christmas. You say that it is possible that you may be back several days before the 19th.

I am leaving here by air on the morning of December 15 and with good luck should be in Washington on the night of the 15th or the morning of the 16th. In any event, I should be there sometime during the 16th. I look forward very much to seeing you at your convenience after my arrival.

It is my intention to return to Mexico City immediately after I have had the privilege of seeing you as there are many things which require my attention here and I hope to be away not more than a week altogether from Mexico City.

I will see the President here before I leave and I will be sure to tell him that you are doing all that you can for the water treaty, which is so important.

Looking forward very much to the pleasure and privilege of seeing you, and with heartfelt good wishes,

Cordially and faithfully yours,

GSM:NA

G. S. Messersmith

The President

The White House.



THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

AIR MAIL

AMERICAN EMBASSY
México, D. F., México,
December 13, 1944.

Dear Pa:

With reference to my recent letter in which I informed you that I would be in Washington on December 16, in accordance with the letter which I had from the President saying that he would be there on the 19th and glad to see me, and that he might be there on the 17th or 18th, I now can confirm that I am leaving Mexico City on the morning of December 15 at 8 o'clock, and if all goes well I should be in Washington that evening. I will give you a word at the White House on the 16th after I have arrived.

I will be available, of course, at any time the President wishes to see me. I have some very important matters concerning Mexico to discuss with the President, as result of a conversation which I had with the President of Mexico last evening, and it may be that the President will find it desirable to have several conversations with me during my stay, in view of the importance in our Mexican relations of the matters which bring me to Washington on this trip.

I am very anxious to leave Washington not later than December 21 for Mexico City and will be returning by air.

Looking forward to seeing you, with all good wishes,

Cordially and faithfully yours,

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

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'E. Watson', written over a horizontal line.

Mexico folder 1-44

*file
confidential*



DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

December 8, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Subject: Return of File on Proposed
Water Treaty with Mexico

Returned herewith is your file on the subject of the jurisdictional question between this Department and the Department of the Interior regarding the proposed water treaty with Mexico.

The protocol, signed on November 14, 1944, marks the success of the efforts of the two Departments to solve this problem. For this reason a copy of the protocol has been attached to this file.

Enclosures:

File returned.
Protocol of November 14, 1944.

PROTOCOL SUPPLEMENTARY TO THE TREATY WITH
MEXICO RELATING TO THE UTILIZATION OF THE
WATERS OF CERTAIN RIVERS

MESSAGE

FROM

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

TRANSMITTING

A PROTOCOL, SIGNED IN WASHINGTON ON NOVEMBER 14, 1944, WHICH IS SUPPLEMENTARY TO THE TREATY BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE UNITED MEXICAN STATES, SIGNED AT WASHINGTON ON FEBRUARY 3, 1944, RELATING TO THE UTILIZATION OF THE WATERS OF THE COLORADO AND TIJUANA RIVERS AND OF THE RIO GRANDE FROM FORT QUITMAN, TEX., TO THE GULF OF MEXICO

NOVEMBER 24, 1944.—Protocol was read the first time and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations and, together with the message of transmittal and the accompanying report, ordered to be printed for the use of the Senate. The injunction of secrecy was today removed from this protocol and the accompanying papers.

THE WHITE HOUSE,
November 24, 1944.

To the Senate of the United States:

With a view to receiving the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification I transmit herewith a protocol, signed in Washington on November 14, 1944, supplementary to the treaty between the United States of America and the United Mexican States relating to the utilization of the waters of the Colorado and Tijuana Rivers and of the Rio Grande (Rio Bravo) which was signed in Washington on February 3, 1944.

I also transmit for the information of the Senate a report on the protocol made to me by the Acting Secretary of State.

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT.

(Enclosures: (1) Report of the Acting Secretary of State; (2) protocol, signed November 14, 1944, supplementary to treaty between United States and Mexico signed February 3, 1944.)

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, November 22, 1944.

The PRESIDENT,
The White House.

The undersigned, the Acting Secretary of State, has the honor to lay before the President, with a view to its transmission to the Senate to receive the advice and consent of that body to ratification, if his judgment approve thereof, a protocol, signed in Washington on November 14, 1944, supplementary to the treaty between the United States of America and the United Mexican States relating to the utilization of the waters of the Colorado and Tijuana Rivers and of the Rio Grande (Rio Bravo) which was signed in Washington on February 3, 1944.

The treaty of February 3, 1944, was transmitted to the Senate by the President with his message of February 15, 1944, with a view to receiving the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification thereof. The text of the treaty and of the President's message, together with the text of the report of the Secretary of State dated February 9, 1944, have been printed in Senate Executive A, Seventy-eighth Congress, second session. The treaty was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate on February 15, 1944.

The purpose of the protocol is to clarify the meaning and application of those provisions of the treaty which relate to the functions and jurisdiction of the respective sections of the International Boundary and Water Commission in connection with the construction or use of works for storage or conveyance of water, flood control, stream gaging, or for any other purpose.

By its own terms the protocol is to be regarded as an integral part of the treaty of February 3, 1944, and shall be effective beginning with the day of the entry into force of the treaty, continuing effective so long as the treaty remains in force. Accordingly, after such time as the Senate may have given its advice and consent to the ratification of the treaty and protocol, the protocol should be ratified together with the treaty. It is provided in the protocol, as in the treaty, that the ratifications shall be exchanged in Washington.

Respectfully submitted.

EDWARD R. STETTINIUS, Jr.,
Acting Secretary of State.

(Enclosure: Protocol, signed November 14, 1944, supplementary to treaty between United States and Mexico relating to waters of the Colorado and Tijuana Rivers and of the Rio Grande signed February 3, 1944.)

PROTOCOL

The Government of the United States of America and the Government of the United Mexican States agree and understand that:

Wherever, by virtue of the provisions of the Treaty between the United States of America and the United Mexican States, signed in Washington on February 3, 1944, relating to the utilization of the waters of the Colorado and Tijuana Rivers and of the Rio Grande from Fort Quitman, Texas, to the Gulf of Mexico, specific functions are imposed on, or exclusive jurisdiction is vested in, either of the Sections of the International Boundary and Water Commission,

which involve the construction or use of works for storage or conveyance of water, flood control, stream gaging, or for any other purpose, which are situated wholly within the territory of the country of that Section, and which are to be used only partly for the performance of treaty provisions, such jurisdiction shall be exercised, and such functions, including the construction, operation and maintenance of the said works, shall be performed and carried out by the Federal agencies of that country which now or hereafter may be authorized by domestic law to construct, or to operate and maintain, such works. Such functions or jurisdictions shall be exercised in conformity with the provisions of the Treaty and in cooperation with the respective Section of the Commission, to the end that all international obligations and functions may be coordinated and fulfilled.

The works to be constructed or used on or along the boundary, and those to be constructed or used exclusively for the discharge of treaty stipulations, shall be under the jurisdiction of the Commission or of the respective Section, in accordance with the provisions of the Treaty. In carrying out the construction of such works the Sections of the Commission may utilize the services of public or private organizations in accordance with the laws of their respective countries.

This Protocol, which shall be regarded as an integral part of the aforementioned Treaty signed in Washington on February 3, 1944, shall be ratified and the ratifications thereof shall be exchanged in Washington. This Protocol shall be effective beginning with the day of the entry into force of the Treaty and shall continue effective so long as the Treaty remains in force.

In witness whereof the respective Plenipotentiaries have signed this Protocol and have hereunto affixed their seals.

Done in duplicate, in the English and Spanish languages, in Washington, this fourteenth day of November, 1944.

For the Government of the United States of America:

E. R. STETTINIUS, Jr. [SEAL]

Acting Secretary of State of the United States of America.

For the Government of the United Mexican States:

F. CASTILLO NÁJERA [SEAL]

*Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
of the United Mexican States in Washington.*

COPY

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

July 13, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR
SECRETARY HULL

I enclose my file with Secretary Ickes' in the matter of the Mexican boundary. Please read and return to me for my files.

F.D.R.

Enclosures



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

THE V
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RECEIVED

JUL 10 1944

My dear Mr. President:

I have your letter of July 3 in which you enclose a copy of a proposed joint memorandum with respect to the proposed Mexican Treaty drawn up by the two Commissioners of the International Joint Commission and submitted to the two Governments for their consideration.

The mechanics proposed in this joint memorandum to resolve the jurisdictional problem which has been the subject of conferences between representatives of the State Department and this Department is satisfactory to me. Presumably the exchange of notes contemplated by the proposed joint memorandum will permit the execution of a memorandum of understanding between this Department and the Department of State, setting forth a detailed specification of the respective functions of the two Departments in accordance with the principles set forth in your letter of April 3 and in the proposed joint memorandum.

I am advising the Secretary of State that representatives of this Department are ready to renew discussions on this matter at any time. I assume that we will have an opportunity to make suggestions on the form of the proposed memorandum of understanding as well as on the form of the proposed joint memorandum before there has been any formal exchange of notes between the two Governments.

Sincerely yours,

Harold L. Ickes

Secretary of the Interior.

The President,

The White House.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

July 3, 1944

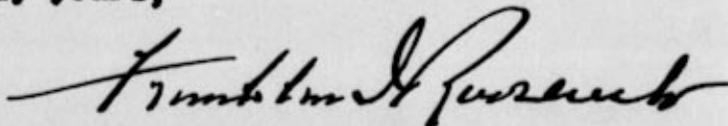
Dear Harold:

I have discussed with the Secretary of State your letter of June 7, 1944 regarding the proposed water treaty with Mexico.

I want this jurisdictional problem settled in accordance with the principle that was clearly stated in my letter to you of April 3, 1944. In conformity with this principle and in accordance with my wishes in the matter the two Commissioners of the International Boundary Commission have drawn up a joint draft memorandum which they have submitted to the two Governments for their consideration. This memorandum, which has my approval, will be made effective, if approved by the Mexican Government, by an exchange of notes and will thereupon become an official interpretation of and have equal force with the treaty. For your information I am enclosing a copy of this memorandum. The Secretary of State has my full authorization to resolve this question in accordance with this procedure and in agreement with the principle set forth in my letter to you of April 3 and again in the joint memorandum of the two Commissioners.

It is essential that this matter be cleared up immediately; hence if you have any observations to offer please submit them at once to the Secretary of State. I of course desire that both Departments give their wholehearted support to the treaty when it is considered by the Senate.

Sincerely yours,



Enclosure:
Copy of memorandum.

The Honorable
Harold L. Ickes,
Secretary of the Interior.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE
GOVERNMENTS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
AND THE UNITED MEXICAN STATES WITH RESPECT
TO CERTAIN JURISDICTIONAL PHASES OF THE
TREATY BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, SIGNED
AT WASHINGTON ON FEBRUARY 3, 1944, RELATING
TO THE UTILIZATION OF THE WATERS OF THE
COLORADO AND TIJUANA RIVERS AND OF THE
RIO GRANDE FROM FORT QUITMAN, TEXAS, TO
THE GULF OF MEXICO.

It is the agreement and understanding of the two
Governments that:

Wherever, by virtue of any provision of the treaty
between the United States of America and the United Mexi-
can States, signed at Washington on February 3, 1944,
relating to the utilization of the waters of the Colorado
and Tijuana Rivers and of the Rio Grande from Fort Quit-
man, Texas, to the Gulf of Mexico, specific functions
are imposed on either Section of the International Bound-
ary and Water Commission involving the construction or
use of facilities or works, whether for the storage or con-
veyance of water, flood control, stream gaging, or for
any other purpose, which are situated wholly within the
limits of the country of that Section, and which are to
be used only partly for the performance of treaty provisions,
such functions shall be performed, and such facilities or
works shall be constructed, operated and maintained,
by any Federal agency of that country which now or here-
after may be authorized by domestic law to construct, or

to

to operate and maintain, such facilities or works. Such functions shall be exercised in conformity with the provisions of the treaty and in cooperation with the respective Sections of the Commission, to the end that all international obligations and functions may be coordinated and fulfilled. The works to be constructed on or along the boundary, and those to be used exclusively for the discharge of treaty provisions, shall be under the jurisdiction of the Commission or of its respective Sections, in accordance with the provisions of the treaty, and the respective Sections may, so far as practicable, make use of any competent public or private agencies in carrying out the construction of such works, in accordance with the laws of the respective countries.

Encls

482-A

July 3, 1944

Dear Harold:

I have discussed with the Secretary of State your letter of June 7, 1944 regarding the proposed water treaty with Mexico.

x 146

I want this jurisdictional problem settled in accordance with the principle that was clearly stated in my letter to you of April 3, 1944. In conformity with this principle and in accordance with my wishes in the matter the two Commissioners of the International Boundary Commission have drawn up a joint draft memorandum which they have submitted to the two Governments for their consideration. This memorandum, which has my approval, will be made effective, if approved by the Mexican Government, by an exchange of notes and will thereupon become an official interpretation of and have equal force with the treaty. For your information I am enclosing a copy of this memorandum. The Secretary of State has my full authorization to resolve this question in accordance with this procedure and in agreement with the principle set forth in my letter to you of April 3 and again in the joint memorandum of the two Commissioners.

x 217

x 66

It is essential that this matter be cleared up immediately, hence if you have any observations to offer please submit them at once to the Secretary of State. I of course desire that both Departments give their wholehearted support to the treaty when it is considered by the Senate.

x 20

Sincerely yours,

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

Enclosures
Copy of memorandum.

The Honorable
Harold L. Ickes, ^{x 6}
Secretary of the Interior.

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Y

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE UNITED MEXICAN STATES WITH RESPECT TO CERTAIN JURISDICTIONAL PHASES OF THE TREATY BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, SIGNED AT WASHINGTON ON FEBRUARY 3, 1944, RELATING TO THE UTILIZATION OF THE WATERS OF THE COLORADO AND TIJUANA RIVERS AND OF THE RIO GRANDE FROM FORT QUITMAN, TEXAS, TO THE GULF OF MEXICO.

x1018

x635

It is the agreement and understanding of the two Governments that:

Wherever, by virtue of any provision of the treaty between the United States of America and the United Mexican States, signed at Washington on February 3, 1944, relating to the utilization of the waters of the Colorado and Tijuana Rivers and of the Rio Grande from Fort Quitman, Texas, to the Gulf of Mexico, specific functions are imposed on either Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission involving the construction or use of facilities or works, whether for the storage or conveyance of water, flood control, stream gaging, or for any other purpose, which are situated wholly within the limits of the country of that Section, and which are to be used only partly for the performance of treaty provisions, such functions shall be performed, and such facilities or works shall be constructed, operated and maintained, by any Federal agency of that country which now or hereafter may be authorized by domestic law to construct, or to operate and maintain, such facilities or works. Such functions shall be exercised in conformity with the provisions of the treaty and in cooperation with the respective Sections of the Commission, to the end that all international obligations and functions may be coordinated and fulfilled. The works to be constructed on or along the boundary, and those to be used exclusively for the discharge of treaty provisions, shall be under the jurisdiction of the Commission or of its respective Sections, in accordance with the provisions of the treaty, and the respective Sections may, so far as practicable, make use of any competent public or private agencies in carrying out the construction of such works, in accordance with the laws of the respective countries.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

June 29, 1944

My dear Mr. President:

There is enclosed for your signature, if you approve, a letter to Secretary Ickes in reply to his letter to you of June 7, 1944 in regard to the proposed water treaty with Mexico.

The letter from Secretary Ickes reveals a serious misunderstanding regarding the status and functions of the International Boundary Commission, United States and Mexico, and also concerning the interdepartmental conference of April 25, which was not definitive but merely exploratory in nature.

The letter also discloses the apparent purpose of the Department of the Interior to use this jurisdictional question to destroy the engineering organization of the United States Section of the Boundary Commission and thus make impossible the performance of the engineering duties of this Section not only under the proposed treaty but also under all previous treaties and laws concerning the Commission.

This Commission was created pursuant to the Treaty of March 1, 1889, for the purpose of resolving certain boundary problems and of performing engineering work in relation to these problems. By this treaty and later treaties, statutes, executive orders, and notes exchanged between the two Governments the Commission and its National Sections are charged with such work, largely engineering in nature, as boundary surveys, elimination of "bancos" along the boundary rivers, boundary fencing, international flood control and sanitation projects, studies of the use and distribution of the waters of the boundary rivers, and river rectification.

Furthermore,

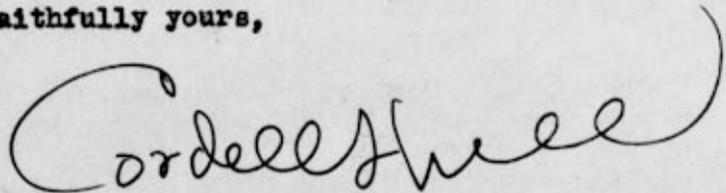
The President,

The White House.

Furthermore, the Congress, in authorizing and making an initial appropriation for Federal Project No. 5 on the Lower Rio Grande, provided that "the Secretary of State, with the approval of the President, shall designate" the international features, which were to be constructed, operated, and maintained by the American Section of the Commission. This designation was duly made.

The principle is thus firmly established that international problems and works of the kinds under reference upon and along the United States-Mexican boundary are to be under the jurisdiction of the foreign relations departments of the two Governments. You reiterated this principle in your letter of April 3 to Secretary Ikes. It has again been stated in a draft of joint memorandum of the two Boundary Commissioners, a copy of which is attached to the draft reply to Secretary Ikes' letter of June 7. This memorandum, which is designed to be made effective by an exchange of notes between the United States and Mexican Governments, would be attached to the treaty, would definitely maintain the Commission in its proper sphere, and would adequately protect other governmental agencies in the exercise of their appropriate functions. Any other approach would violate the clear intent of the Congress and of the treaty-making power during more than fifty years and would not be acceptable to the Mexican Government.

Faithfully yours,

A large, elegant handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Cordell Hull". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "Cordell Hull".

Enclosure:
Letter to Secretary Ikes.

(3077)

Am

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

482-A

June 9, 1944.

MEMORANDUM FOR

HON. E. R. STETTINIUS, JR.

FOR PREPARATION OF REPLY FOR
MY SIGNATURE.

F.D.R.

Letter from the Secretary of the Interior,
6/7/44, to the President, in further reference
to the Treaty with Mexico. Carbon of letter
retained for our files.

X 66
X 176

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

WASHINGTON

25, D.C.

My dear Mr. President:

JUN - 7 1944

Early in April you wrote to me regarding the Treaty with Mexico and attached to your note Secretary Hull's letter of March 18 addressed to you. Over a period of several weeks in April, representatives of the Department of State and this Department conferred regarding the jurisdiction and functions of the two Departments in connection with the Treaty.

At the most recent conference on April 25, with the Department of State group headed by Mr. Laurence Duggan, and this Department's group by Under Secretary Fortas, informal agreement was reached on the mechanics for putting into legal effect an agreement on jurisdiction and functions. The mechanics agreed upon briefly are as follows:

A memorandum would be signed jointly by the Secretary of State and me which would set forth our agreement to a detailed specification of the functions which should be Interior's and those which should be State's. The agreement would provide that the functions specified for agencies of this Department should be performed by this Department "until and unless hereafter provided otherwise by the Congress of the United States, and thereafter as otherwise provided by the Congress." If you approved, the agreement would be transmitted by you to the Senate with your recommendation that the resolution of advice and consent incorporate the agreement; and your letter and the attached agreement would be printed as a Senate Document. The Senate resolution would contain language referring to the Senate Document and qualifying the Senate's advice and consent by a provision that "until and unless hereafter provided otherwise by the Congress of the United States, and thereafter as otherwise provided by the Congress" the functions specified in the Document for performance by agencies of the Department of the Interior should be so performed.

On the substance of jurisdiction and functions, the major question remaining unsettled appears to be whether the Department of State or this Department shall perform such engineering planning, design and construction work as may be required by the Treaty for performance by the United States in connection with the dams and other works along the international section of the Rio Grande and in connection with two possible canals in the vicinity of the international border on the Colorado River. I do not want this Department to obstruct relations with Mexico or to take the place of the United States Section of the International Commission in its proper function of determining where international dams on the Rio Grande shall be built and the extent of the



participation of each of the two countries in the building of them. However, if the Commission should decide, for example, that a given dam shall be built by the United States and that another shall be built by Mexico, I firmly believe that the engineering work on the dam to be built by the United States should be performed by the Bureau of Reclamation. In brief, I am against duplication of engineering organization and against the continuation of such engineering organization as the present United States Commissioner of the International Boundary Commission has. I believe that the Bureau of Reclamation should furnish the engineering service required of the United States under this Treaty. I just as firmly believe that that engineering service supplied by the Bureau of Reclamation should be subject to such determinations by the Department of State as may be necessary to assure that it will be performed in conformance with the provisions of the Treaty. It is my impression that the Department of State has no desire to build up an engineering organization and that it sees the logic and good sense of my position. I am advised, however, that the United States Commissioner, Mr. Lawson, objects, and apparently would like to continue and expend his engineering and construction organization for the very substantial construction work along the boundary that is required by the Treaty.

There are some other matters remaining unsettled, including protection of the Big Bend National Park and some of the details regarding stream gaging, the regular function of the United States Geological Survey in this Department. I believe that these other matters can readily be settled.

On April 26, I am informed, the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations indefinitely postponed the hearings on the Treaty. I think that it would be unfortunate if the postponement of the hearings would cause postponement of agreement between the two Departments regarding their respective jurisdictions and functions. We are ready and willing to resume conferences with the Department of State and I have every expectation that such an agreement between the two Departments can be reached promptly. I have designated Under Secretary Fortas to head this Department's representatives in further conferences.

On the essence of the Treaty, the allocation of waters of the Colorado River and the Rio Grande, the Bureau of Reclamation's analytical memorandum, which I requested, has been delayed due to the extraordinary pressure of legislative matters. Accordingly, I have no further comment to make at present on the allocation of waters.

Since the above was written, I have received from you a copy of Secretary Hull's letter of May 10, addressed to you. On the point of substance which the letter makes, I need only refer to the above paragraphs of this letter. My position was very carefully stated and restated to State Department representatives by Under Secretary Fortas on April 25. We do not seek to take over any truly international functions of the United States Section of the Commission. On the contrary, we propose to stay clear of such functions. However, we do declare as improper the continuation and expansion of an engineering organization in the State Department through the device of providing for it in the terms of a treaty.

On form, Secretary Hull's letter points up the difficulty. He states that Mexico has no concern with the allocation of functions within the United States which devolve upon our Government and which our Government should decide for itself. Nevertheless, the Treaty as negotiated does by its terms allocate those functions to the United States Section and thereby makes the allocation a matter of treaty which could be changed only bilaterally. The devices we insist on are required in order to withdraw the allocation of these functions to the domestic field where Secretary Hull concedes it belongs.

In general, Secretary Hull's letter indicates a backing away from the close-to-an-agreement position achieved at the conference of April 25 headed by Under Secretary Fortas and Mr. Duggan. I had hoped and I still hope, and so I reiterate, that if the State Department representatives are agreeable to resuming discussions we should be able to get together and to avoid "going over this with you at greater length."

I am sending a copy of this letter to Secretary Hull for his information.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) HAROLD L. ICKES
Secretary of the Interior.

The President,

The White House.

(2964)

75/26/44

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482-A

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 22, 1944.

MEMORANDUM FOR

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR ^{x6}

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

F. D. R.

Transmitting carbon of letter which the ^{x20}
President received from the Secretary of State
under date of 5/10/44, in re administration of
the water treaty with Mexico. Original letter
retained for our files.

x146

x66

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

May 10, 1944

My dear Mr. President:

In his letter to you of March 18, 1944, the Secretary of the Interior raised certain questions respecting the administration of the water treaty with Mexico.

Your instructions to me in regard to this matter were that the Department of State, acting through the United States Section of the International Boundary Commission, is to supervise and control the construction and operation of all works and facilities situated on the boundary, such as the international dams and appurtenant works on the Rio Grande, and of all works and facilities, wherever situated, that are to be used exclusively for the delivery of water allocated to Mexico. That supervision and control in these instances should be in this Department and the United States Section of the Boundary Commission is made obvious by the fact that such activities require constant cooperation between those agencies of the two Governments established by treaty and law for such purposes, that is, the two national sections of the International Boundary Commission, United States and Mexico. Your reply of April 3 to Secretary Ickes set forth this general principle, with the further statement that, in accordance with established policy, the Department of the Interior should construct and operate those interior facilities used only partly for the delivery of Mexico's water.

At my suggestion, several conferences have been held between representatives of the two Departments. Although agreement has been reached in part, I regret to say that two fundamental aspects remain unsettled, one of substance, the other of procedure.

Substance.

The President,
The White House.

Substance. Interior is not disposed to accept the broad rule laid down in your letter of April 3, as summarized above. This rule has heretofore been successfully applied in jurisdictional matters between the two agencies. Interior now wants to take over certain important international functions provided for in the proposed treaty. Of course, work of this kind has been one of the prime functions of the Boundary Commission since 1889. An International Commission had to be set up at that time precisely because both countries had found that this was the only way practically and effectively to work together. The simple fact is that Mexico's agreement to the treaty signed on February 3, 1944 was obtained only by incorporating provisions that continued in the future what had prevailed in the past in similar situations, namely, that jurisdiction over international water matters and facilities along the boundary be in the Department of State of this country and the Ministry of Foreign Relations of Mexico, acting through the two national sections of the International Boundary Commission, United States and Mexico.

It is equally clear that all activities within the United States, except those devoted exclusively to the carrying out of treaty provisions, should be performed by the regular agencies, principally Interior. It is, moreover, the intention of the Department of State and of the United States Section of the Boundary Commission, acting in accordance with Article 20 of the treaty, to make use of these agencies to the fullest extent possible in the design and construction of works allotted this Government along the boundary. These works must be constructed in cooperation with Mexico, which is to bear a proportionate part of the cost, hence they would of necessity have to be under the supervision and control, so far as we are concerned, of the United States Section of the Commission, since obviously only that Section can deal with the Mexicans. Furthermore, the Mexicans would not have it any other way. Interior, as I understand it, desires to take over what are primarily functions of the United States Section of the Commission.

Form. Interior desires that the agreement on substance, when reached, be accepted by Mexico, either through an exchange of notes, by a protocol, or by a Senate reservation. The use of any of these devices seems improper and unnecessary. Mexico has no concern with the allocation of functions within the United States devolving upon the

United States

United States Government. Our Government should decide that for itself. Resort to any of these devices is necessary only when the treaty itself requires modification, and that is not the case here.

It is thus apparent that there is no question of an encroachment by this Department upon the jurisdiction of interior agencies but, rather, of a threatened encroachment by interior agencies upon purely international functions such as would imperil the treaty itself.

At such time as may be convenient to you, I should like to go over this with you at greater length.

Faithfully yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Cordell Hull". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed text "Faithfully yours,".

Miss Kilgus tells me the signed original of
this letter, undated, was presented to the Secy.
Interior personally by Judge Rosenman
on 4/6/44
hms

482-A

Dear Harold:

I sent your letter to me of March 18, 1944 to Secretary Hull, who has now written me the attached letter in reply. I thoroughly concur in his view that this treaty is fair and equitable and in our broad national interests. However, I fully appreciate your point with regard to jurisdiction over certain matters that will arise in the administration of the treaty as between your Department and the Department of State. Mr. Hull tells me that he is proposing to you in another letter an immediate conference between representatives of your two Departments to adjust these matters. In the light of established policy, it is apparent that your Department should construct and operate those interior facilities used only partly for the delivery of Mexico's water, and that the Department of State, through the United States Section of the International Boundary Commission, should control the construction and operation of those facilities used exclusively for this purpose, and of those situated on the boundary. Nothing in the treaty prevents such an arrangement. I want these questions settled in advance of consideration of the treaty by the Foreign Relations Committee so that your agency can give unqualified support to the treaty before the Committee.

Sincerely yours,

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

Enclosure:

Letter from Secretary Hull. x20

The Honorable

Harold L. Ickes,

Secretary of the Interior. x6

x635

x66

x146

x419

x217

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

file

April 6, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT.

I went over to see Secretary Ickes on this matter and he says that he feels confident that he and the Secretary of State can arrange the jurisdictional matters by agreement in writing, which he will try to do.

Sm

S. I. R.

x5493



DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

April 4, 1944

MEMORANDUM TO MISS GRACE TULLY - WHITE HOUSE

Here is the letter to Secretary Ickes on the Mexican water treaty already signed by the President. Secretary Hull's letter, which is an enclosure, is also attached.

Mr. Hull told us that he was clear that the President intended to speak to Mr. Ickes orally and it occurred to us that possibly the President possibly would like to have on hand to give to Mr. Ickes the letter he has already signed.

We would appreciate your finding out and letting us know.

Laurence Duggan





DEPARTMENT OF STATE

WASHINGTON

April 3, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

There are enclosed two letters in reference to the letter from Secretary Ickes to you of March 18, 1944, regarding the water treaty with Mexico. In the letter addressed to you I comment upon the questions raised by Secretary Ickes. The other letter, prepared for your signature, is addressed to Secretary Ickes and is a covering letter to transmit to him my letter to you.

In his letter to you Secretary Ickes implies that the United States has been too generous to Mexico in the allocation of Colorado River water and that the treaty provisions would authorize or require an encroachment by this Department upon the jurisdiction and functions of his Department. In my letter to you, which I am suggesting that you transmit to Secretary Ickes, I have explained that the allocation to Mexico is less than current Mexican diversions and well within the formula approved by representatives of five of the Colorado River Basin States. I have also stated that Mexico is to pay a proportionate part of certain works. On the question of jurisdiction my letter to you emphasizes that there is no intention on the part of the Department of State to encroach upon the jurisdiction and functions of the Department of the Interior, nor is there any necessity therefor, and that this matter can be clarified in an inter-departmental agreement.

The letter from you to Secretary Ickes emphasizes the importance of adjusting these matters between the two interested agencies in advance of the consideration of the treaty by the Foreign Relations Committee and indicates the principle to be followed in drawing the line of demarcation between them. It is believed that a proper degree of inter-departmental coordination should be effected so as to assure that the agencies primarily involved will stand solidly with you in support of the treaty. For your information, I have already sent to Secretary Ickes a letter suggesting an immediate conference between representatives of the two Departments in regard to the issues presented by his letter to you.

Enclosures:

1. Letter to the President from Secretary Ickes.
2. Letter to Secretary Ickes from the President.
3. Letter to the President from the Secretary of State.

C.H.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

April 3, 1944

My dear Mr. President:

I refer to the letter to you of March 18, 1944 from Secretary Iokes commenting upon the water treaty with Mexico, which was signed on February 3, 1944 and transmitted to the Senate on February 15, 1944.

The comments by Secretary Iokes fall into two groups: those relating to the possible effects of the treaty upon the general interests of the United States and those relating to the functions and duties of the Department of the Interior as they might be affected by the treaty.

As to whether the provisions of the treaty can justifiably be regarded as too generous to Mexico a few brief statements may be in order:

1. So far as the guaranteed quantity allocated to Mexico from the Colorado River is concerned it is by no means established that the quantity of 750,000 acre-feet represents the maximum possible use in Mexico before the construction of Boulder Dam. In this connection it is my understanding that Mexico had the right to use half of the flow of the Alamo Canal, which at times exceeded 3,000,000 acre-feet a year. Furthermore, it is expected that ultimately approximately one-half of the 1,500,000 acre-feet guaranteed to Mexico will be composed of return flows, which in effect will mean that Mexico will receive no more, and probably less, than five per cent of the virgin run-off of the Colorado River system. Nor is it unimportant that the minimum quantity guaranteed is less than the total of Mexico's diversions during 1943. International precedents upon this subject indicate that

the criterion

The President,

The White House.

the criterion that would probably be used in international proceedings would be the uses by Mexico as of the date of such proceedings and not the uses as of some date adopted ex parte by the United States to suit its own interests. When considered in the light of previous Mexican demands and of present uses in Mexico it is not believed that the guaranteed allocation can be regarded as over-generous. In its ultimate practical effects the treaty provisions would seem to assure a large expansion of uses in the United States and some decrease of uses in Mexico, in both cases as compared with present diversions.

2. The terms relating to the division of the water of the Rio Grande below Fort Quitman are also believed to be fair. The conditions on this stream are markedly different from those prevailing in the Colorado River system. In the case of the Rio Grande the ultimate effect of the treaty provisions would assure a considerable expansion over present uses in each country.

3. The suggestion that Colorado River water was traded for some Rio Grande water is without foundation. The circumstances of the case, with particular reference to Federal Project No. 5, made it quite unnecessary to engage in a trade of this kind and in fact none was contemplated, proposed, or made.

4. In respect of the distribution of costs of the works called for by the provisions of the treaty it is believed that they will be regarded upon closer analysis as not inequitable. In the case of the works on the Rio Grande the costs of construction, operation, and maintenance are to be divided in proportion to the benefits received by the respective countries. Assuredly, this should be considered a fair division. In the case of the works on the Colorado River Mexico is to pay a proportionate part of the costs of construction, operation, and maintenance of certain works to be used in the interest of both countries and all of such costs of works used entirely in the interest of Mexico. Mexico is not required to pay any part of the costs of Boulder Dam or of Davis Dam, but the treaty does not contemplate the direct use of any part of the capacity at Boulder in the interest of Mexico, and even Davis Dam and Reservoir are thought of primarily as serving the interests of the United States and only incidentally the interests of Mexico. Furthermore, all of the power revenues at Davis Dam will accrue to the

benefit

benefit of the United States whether the power will be produced by water destined for the United States or for Mexico.

5. Power production at Pilot Knob may in time bring some benefit to Mexico in the form of a reduction in its part of the costs of certain works, but only after the construction cost of the hydro-electric works is fully amortized.

6. Finally, it is important to note that the present uncertainty regarding the amount of water that Mexico is to receive from the Colorado and the amount of Rio Grande water that developments in the Lower Valley of Texas can depend upon in the future tends to retard plans and developments. One of the important advantages of this treaty is that it removes this cloud of uncertainty. In the case of the Colorado an enormous quantity of water will of necessity flow across the boundary line into Mexico for many years and since much of this can be put to beneficial use in that country it becomes highly important and even necessary to fix the limits of our obligation and of Mexico's rights. Furthermore, I am informed that the allocation provided in the treaty falls well within the limits of a formula in the making of which officials of the Bureau of Reclamation fully participated.

Turning now to the treaty's provisions on administration and organization, I should like to make a few comments on the points raised in the letter from Secretary Ickes:

1. The International Boundary Commission had already been made permanent by the Convention of November 21, 1900; hence the present treaty merely adopts what had been already done, thus rendering unnecessary the continuance of the earlier convention.

2. By virtue of its experience under previous treaties and ordinary statutes, this Commission is the appropriate agency for administering the treaty now under consideration, which, in fact, is strictly in line with the provisions of the Convention of March 1, 1889.

3. It is true that the proposed treaty vests in the United States Section of the Commission numerous functions relating to matters which are usually performed by other

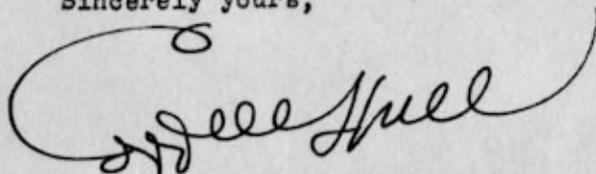
agencies

agencies when such matters are primarily domestic in character and effects, but it may be stated that in the negotiations the Mexican representatives were insistent that some measure of control over all facilities in both countries necessary for the effectuation of the treaty provisions be fixed in the International Boundary Commission, or its national sections, subject to the supervision of the Department of State of the United States and the Foreign Office of Mexico. A careful analysis of the treaty provisions leads to the inescapable conclusion that this control in the Commission is only to the extent necessary to insure compliance with the treaty provisions and to afford a central agency with which both countries could deal in matters pertaining to the boundary and to international waters. Correctly interpreted the treaty would mean in effect that the jurisdiction of the United States Section of the Commission would apply only to facilities on or near the boundary used exclusively or primarily for the delivery of Mexico's waters. On all up-stream facilities on the Colorado this section would exercise no control or jurisdiction and these would remain under the exclusive control of the Bureau of Reclamation, which would so operate these structures as to assure the delivery of Mexico's waters at the boundary. The manner in which the two Departments would correlate their functions in relation to the works on the Colorado is clearly indicated by the satisfactory relations which subsist in the administration of the Rio Grande Project in New Mexico and Texas, which is not affected in any respect by this treaty. As for the Rio Grande below Fort Quitman it is not perceived in what manner it could be understood that the jurisdiction of the United States Section under the terms of the treaty encroaches upon the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Reclamation, and it is believed that the jurisdiction of the Bureau over Project No. 5 in the Lower Valley of Texas would be unaffected. The sole purpose of all these provisions is, without interfering with domestic arrangements, to funnel through the Commission matters relating to the treaty provisions. It is understood that representatives of the two Departments have engaged on numerous occasions in informal conversations regarding the relations of the two Departments in the administration of the treaty terms. This would seem to be the appropriate procedure, and it is hoped that any remaining questions can be thus resolved, preferably in advance of the hearings upon the treaty in the Foreign Relations Committee of the Senate.

This letter

This letter does not, of course, discuss exhaustively the points at issue, but it may serve to indicate that the treaty is not inequitable, that the Department of State does not seek to encroach upon the jurisdiction of the Department of the Interior, and that in further conferences representatives of the two interested Departments should be able to resolve without difficulty any remaining doubts and questions.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Charles D. Hull". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name "Charles D. Hull".

10991)
Lino

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

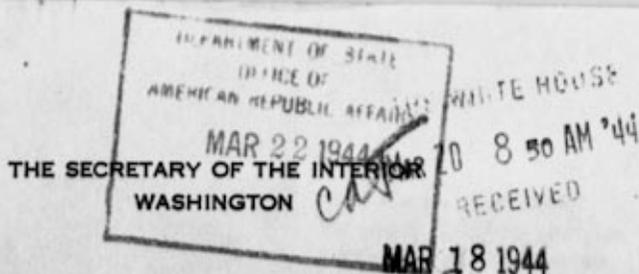
March 22, 1944.

MEMORANDUM FOR
THE SECRETARY OF STATE

FOR PREPARATION OF REPLY
FOR MY SIGNATURE.

F. D. R.

Letter from the Secretary of the
Interior, 3/18/44, to the President,
in re treaty between the U.S. and
Mexico. Copy of letter retained for
our files.



My dear Mr. President:

The natural resources of the United States in the great basins of the Colorado River and the Rio Grande would be affected considerably by the recent treaty with Mexico which is now pending ratification by the Senate. As you know, the treaty which you transmitted to the Senate on February 15 relates to the utilization of the waters of the Colorado and Tijuana Rivers and of the Rio Grande.

I cannot make informed comment on the adequacy of the consideration running to the United States in this international deal in waters. Aside from the general aspects of our "good neighbor" policy, I do not know what specific factors in our relations with Mexico justify the treaty. Those factors must be of great weight, for certainly the treaty is magnanimous on our part. On the Colorado River, we guarantee to Mexico about twice as much water as she ever was able to use before the Department of the Interior built and operated Boulder and thereby evened out the flow of that river between the flood and dry seasons. Yet the treaty does not make any charge to Mexico for the Boulder storage which under the treaty will be used for Mexico's benefit. We also agree to build Davis Dam below Boulder entirely at our expense and without charge to Mexico to operate it partially to service deliveries to Mexico.

On the Rio Grande, however, we get a comparatively modest amount of water apportioned to us; and we agree to pay a substantial part of the cost of necessary storage and regulating works. We swap some Colorado River water for some Rio Grande water. Mexico pays nothing toward storage of the Colorado River water, while we pay something for storage of the Rio Grande water.

More importantly, what this treaty deals in is not products of the United States. It deals in a natural resource of the United States, with what we must conservatively use in order to produce. In the Colorado River basin (California, Arizona, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, Colorado and Wyoming) water is the prime natural resource. An acre of land out there is no good agriculturally without several acre feet of water. Opportunities out there for homestead farming by returning servicemen and demobilized industrial workers depend on more acre feet of water being conserved and used on more arid land.

California is building up to a loud and perhaps bitter fight on this treaty because, as she sees it, water is being taken from California and given to Mexico in return for Mexico providing some Rio Grande water for Texas.

I am not prepared to state precisely what the probable benefits and burdens of the United States regarding water supplies will be under the treaty. The treaty was made public on February 15. The Bureau of Reclamation has been analyzing it and by early April will be prepared to give pertinent technical information. The Bureau undoubtedly will be called on for factual and technical information, in connection with the Senate's consideration of the treaty.

And although the Bureau will confine its presentations to those that are factual and technical, what it presents probably will be used, fairly or unfairly, in opposition to ratification. Incidentally, some of the technical arrangements for diversion and delivery of Colorado River water to Mexico reflect, upon analysis, a lack of understanding of the complicated engineering and legal arrangements governing the reclamation works of the Yuma and All-American Canal projects, works that will be used to service deliveries to Mexico.

The treaty's provisions for administration and organization have a heavy impact on the existing functions and duties of this Department. The treaty, requiring ratification of only the Senate, establishes the U. S. Section as a new internal bureau of government for the exclusive exercise of numerous and diverse functions relating to flood control, irrigation, stream measurement and other matters wholly within the interior of the United States, including several functions heretofore, normal to, and performed by, existing domestic agencies such as the Bureau of Reclamation, the Geological Survey and the Corps of Engineers, United States Army. It vests in the U. S. Section exclusive jurisdiction and control of the works constructed, acquired or used to the extent necessary to effectuate the provisions of the treaty. The treaty repeals by implication a substantial part of the jurisdiction and control of this Department over the Boulder Canyon project, the Davis Dam, Parker Dam, All-American Canal projects on the Colorado River, and the Rio Grande project in New Mexico and Texas. The ability of the Department of the Interior to perform the functions and to carry out the duties long vested in it by acts of Congress will be rendered at least somewhat vague and uncertain, and this Department will find performance, on its part, of its existing contracts for water and power somewhat awkward and difficult, if not to an extent impossible.

The United States Section of the Commission, which the treaty permanently establishes, will be given broad discretion in the administration of water resources and the planning of projects in the Interior of the United States, answerable only to the Department of State. Requests for appropriations to finance its activities will have in their support the pressure of international treaty obligations. Any attempt, legislatively, to modify the domestic functioning of the United States Section will meet the barrier that such legislative modification would violate a treaty with a foreign power.

I believe that you would want my views on this treaty, for although it is a matter of foreign affairs, the stuff with which it deals is the disposition and administration of water resources in the West.

Sincerely yours,

Harold L. Ickes

Secretary of the Interior.

The President,

The White House.

Mexico folder 1-44

December 14, 1944

Dear George:

I have your letter of November 21 and am very happy to tell you that your excellent work in Mexico City has given me a great deal of satisfaction. It has amply justified the confidence I have reposed in you, and I earnestly hope that you will continue your service there for some time longer.

Our relations with Mexico are of ever increasing importance to all of us, not only because of the geographic proximity, but also because our destinies are becoming more closely bound together by our mutual war effort as well as by our industrial, economic and cultural development.

The friendship we have always enjoyed has given me much satisfaction, and I shall look forward to seeing you when you are next in Washington. I regret that it was not possible for us to see each other last October.

I send my best wishes to you and Mrs. Messersmith.

Sincerely yours,

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

The Honorable

George S. Messersmith

American Ambassador

Mexico, D. C.

file
Letter handed
to Ambassador
Messersmith
12/19/44

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

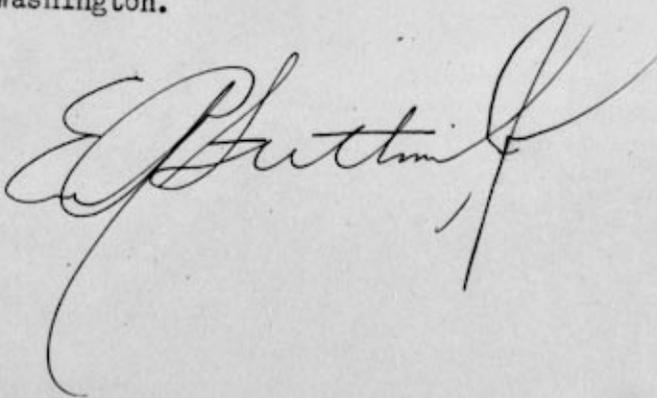
December 18, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Subject: Letter to Ambassador
George S. Messersmith

The attached is a suggested reply to Ambassador Messersmith's letter to you of November 21, 1944.

If you approve and sign this letter, will you kindly return it to me and I shall deliver it to him as he is now in Washington.



Mexico folder 1-44

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

November 27, 1944.

MEMORANDUM FOR

THE ACTING SECRETARY OF STATE:

TO DO THE NECESSARY.

F.D.R.

Personal letter to the President, 11-21-44,
from Amb. George S. Messersmith, Mexico, D.F.,
in re his other letter, through the State
Dept. tendering his resignation as Ambassador
to Mexico.

file.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

December 18, 1944

MEMORANDUM TO THE PRESIDENT

Subject: Ambassador Messersmith - Mexican Oil.

I understand Ambassador Messersmith is seeing you tomorrow for the purpose of discussing with you, among other matters, the Mexican oil situation.

I wanted you to know that we have given careful consideration to the oil situation in Mexico and that the point of view that Ambassador Messersmith will present to you represents the considered judgment of this Department.

E. A. Tamm

3951

ams

Carbon of the memorandum, approved by the President, returned to the Sec. State 1/1/45.

SECRET

Mexico - 1944

"ERS JR
OK
FDR"

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

December 30, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Subject: Merger of Telephone Companies
in Mexico

x168

The L. M. Ericsson Company^x of Sweden which owns and operates one of the two telephone systems in Mexico, has made a firm offer to purchase the International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation's interests in the Mexican Telephone Company with a view to consolidating the two telephone systems, presumably under Swedish management.

From time to time various proposals have been considered within this Government whereby the Swedish telephone system in Mexico would be purchased by the I T & T and merged and operated as a unified system by that company. These proposals have not materialized, partly because of certain objections of the Attorney General. It is my understanding that you would favor Mexican participation in any consolidation of the telephone systems in Mexico in which American interests were involved.

Ambassador Messersmith^{x 896} has made the following recommendations in which the Department of State concurs.

The interests of the United States and of the Western Hemisphere would be afforded greater security and would be better served if such a vital means of communication as the telephone system in Mexico were entrusted to Western Hemisphere interests. Accordingly, it is recommended that overtures be made to the Mexican Government under which an

American

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x167

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

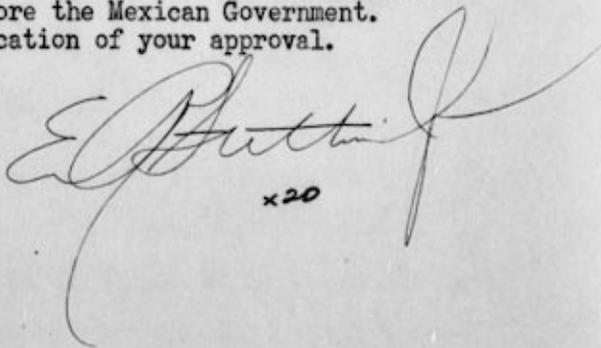
American company, possibly the I T & T, would enter into arrangements approved by the United States Government, with the Mexican Government for the consolidation and the operation of the telephone facilities in Mexico under one company. Such a merger may require at least a measure of financing through the Export-Import Bank.

x971

In Ambassador Messersmith's opinion the Mexican Government is definitely attached to the idea of hemisphere security and would prefer to enter into such a merger with an American company rather than a Swedish concern.

The matter was recently discussed by Under Secretary Grew and Ambassador Messersmith with the Attorney General who advised them that in the light of the information which they furnished him, he would not be inclined to interpose any objection to a loan to the I T & T by this Government for the purpose of buying the Ericsson Telephone Company in Mexico. A copy of Mr. Biddle's letter of December 19, 1944, is attached.

I believe that in the national interest of the United States and the interest of the security of the Western Hemisphere the plan suggested by Ambassador Messersmith should be placed before the Mexican Government. I would appreciate an indication of your approval.



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American

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Y

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Washington, D.C. 25

December 19, 1944

The Honorable

The Secretary of State

Washington, 25, D.C.

My dear Mr. Secretary:

I refer to my letter to Mr. Berle dated September 4, 1944, in connection with the proposed loan to International Telephone and Telegraph Company to enable it to buy the Ericsson Company in Mexico. *

Since writing the letter I have had an opportunity to discuss the matter in some detail with Mr. Grew and Ambassador Messersmith. I am advised that the choice is between permitting the Ericsson Company to buy out the interests of I. T. and T.; or helping I. T. and T. by means of a loan to purchase the Ericsson Company's interests.

The decision in this matter seems to me to rest with the State Department. In view of the situation, and of the belief of the Ambassador and of the State Department that a loan to I. T. & T. would be for the interests of the United States, I am not now inclined to interpose any objection to the loan.

Sincerely yours,
/s/ Francis Biddle
Attorney General *10

file
personal.

EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

México, D.F., January 5, 1945.

Dear Mr. President:

It was very thoughtful and considerate of you and just like you to hand me personally on December 19, when I had the pleasure of seeing you in Washington, your letter of December 14 to me in reply to mine of November 21 and expressing your satisfaction with the work which I have been doing in Mexico and your desire that I continue my service here for some time longer.

I shall keep and cherish this letter as one of my most precious possessions.

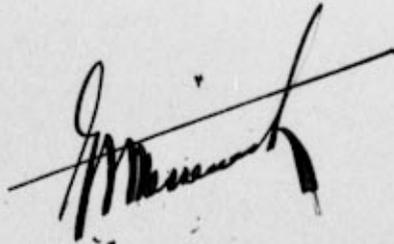
This is just a word to tell you how much I appreciate your having given me so much of your time while I was home and the opportunity to discuss with you so fully and so satisfactorily pending matters in our relationships with Mexico. I have since my return had several long conversations with the President and with the Foreign Minister here and I shall take the liberty of writing you about these conversations in the near future.

I appreciate more than I can say the confidence which you have reposed in me in the past and which you are continuing to show in me by asking me to remain on here and I can only assure you that I shall continue to put my very best into the work here.

With very real appreciation and with best wishes to you and Mrs. Roosevelt from my wife and myself,

Cordially and faithfully yours,

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



4068

Time

(Signed original sent to State for transmittal 1/22/45.)

*Mexico folder
1-45*

January 20, 1945

Dear George:

I was very glad to have your letter of January 8, 1945, in which you inform me so fully of your conversation with President Avila Camacho upon your recent return to Mexico. It is pleasant to know once again that he is so understanding and so appreciative of the vital importance of many of these questions which, were it not for his understanding attitude, we would find so difficult to negotiate.

With best wishes,

Very sincerely yours,

(Signed) FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

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

Mexico folder 1-45-

file
personal.



DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

January 20, 1945

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Subject: Letter to Ambassador Messersmith

I attach a letter to Ambassador Messersmith for your signature if you approve in answer to his letter to you of January 8 regarding important questions in connection with our relationships with Mexico.

Enclosure:

Letter to Ambassador
Messersmith.

January 20, 1945 (?)

Dear George:

I was very glad to have your letter of January 8, 1945, in which you inform me so fully of your conversation with President Avila Camacho upon your recent return to Mexico. It is pleasant to know once again that he is so understanding and so appreciative of the vital importance of many of these questions which, were it not for his understanding attitude, we would find so difficult to negotiate.

With best wishes,

Very sincerely yours,

S/ Franklin D. Roosevelt (?)

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

México, D.F., January 8, 1945.

Dear Mr. President:

On my return to Mexico from the recent trip home in December during which I had the privilege of discussing with you so fully and so satisfactorily important questions in connection with our relationships with Mexico, I saw the President of Mexico for a long talk. He was very much interested to have news of you and was particularly happy to know that you had had this restful stay at Warm Springs in December.

In view of the fact that President Avila Camacho had asked me so specifically before I went to Washington to discuss certain matters with you, on his behalf, I fear at the risk of writing you too long a letter I have to inform you concerning my conversation with President Avila Camacho on my return.

With respect to the water treaty, President Avila Camacho was delighted to hear your assurances that you will do all in your power to facilitate the ratification of this treaty which is so equitable and which has such a transcendental importance in Mexican-American relations. I told him that from what I could learn I was happy to say that the prospects for early ratification were good.

With respect to the Chamizal, I told the President that I had conveyed to you the message which he had given me to the effect that it was his hope that the settlement of this long standing question between our two countries would not be considered purely in a legalistic, technical and engineering atmosphere, but on the basis of full understanding of the importance of the right kind of a settlement to both countries. I told President Avila Camacho that I had conveyed this message to you and that

you

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

you had shown a very real interest in this matter of the Chamizal and expressed the hope that immediately after the completion of the action on the water treaty this matter of the Chamizal could be taken up actively between the two Governments to the end of arriving at a really equitable and helpful settlement. I should tell you that President Avila Camacho was in full agreement with the thought which I expressed to him on our behalf that the question of the Chamizal should remain quiescent until after the completion of the action on the water treaty. I will, of course, keep in touch with the Department on this matter of the Chamizal.

With respect to the Mexican squadron, I told President Avila Camacho of your very understanding and cordial reception of what I had conveyed to you on President Avila Camacho's behalf and of the action which had been taken by General Arnold in asking General MacArthur to use the squadron in the Pacific theater. President Avila Camacho was deeply appreciative of your attitude and that of General Arnold and of our military authorities in this matter and since my return to Mexico I have received word that General MacArthur has replied to General Arnold that he will be very glad to use the Mexican squadron in the Pacific theater. The squadron will complete its training in the latter part of February and present plans are that it will proceed to the Pacific theater about March 15. I wish again to repeat that our action in this respect is most helpful for the President of Mexico and the military here were most anxious that the Mexican squadron render its service in the Pacific theater and under the command of General MacArthur for whom President Avila Camacho has these sentiments of sincere friendship and admiration.

With respect to oil and oil policy, I told President Avila Camacho and the Foreign Minister, Dr. Padilla, that it would not be possible for us to make a loan to the Mexican Government for commercial oil exploration and development and that what you had in mind in your conversations with Dr. Padilla when he saw you in Washington about the middle of 1944, was that we were very much interested in the development of a reserve in Mexico to

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be used by both countries for mutual defense and that of the Continent should that occasion arise. I said that for such a limited exploration and development of a military reserve our Government was prepared to consider the question of a loan or financial collaboration, which, of course, would be in view of the nature of the operation on a limited scale. I further said to President Avila Camacho that so far as ordinary exploration and development were concerned, I was authorized to proceed on the basis of the conversations which I have been carrying on during the last few years.

I am glad to say that both the President and the Foreign Minister were fully understanding of our not being able to grant a loan for ordinary oil exploration and development and they indicated that they would be ready to discuss the question of a joint reserve for military purposes, as well as to continue the conversations which I have been carrying on in the last few years which envisage the participation of American companies in commercial exploration and development on the basis of sound and equitable contracts between the Mexican Government and its oil monopoly (Pemex) and American companies, these contracts providing for a wholly equitable return to the Mexican Government and of course the subsoil not coming into question for the Mexican Government will not, and I believe properly so, alter its position on that point but this should not be an obstacle to the making of entirely equitable arrangements with the American companies which will at the same time assure sound development of Mexico's oil resources and revenue for the Mexican Government, which it so much needs.

So far as the loan is concerned which President Avila Camacho asked me to discuss with you, I told him that I had the opportunity to discuss this briefly with you and in the Department. I said that with regard to loans our Government would have to proceed with great caution and reserve in view of the staggering load of debt which we already had as a result of the war and that this load would be still heavier before the war ended, and that we saw continuing obligations after the war. I said, however, that you and our Government were very much interested in aiding in sound economic and agricultural development, particularly in the other American Republics, and

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that any request from the Mexican Government for a loan for sound projects, such as improvement of railways, highways, rural electrification and for irrigation and other development projects, would receive sympathetic consideration. I said that naturally every project had to be studied with the greatest care from the point of view of the possibilities of repayment, and of amortization and interest.

President Avila Camacho said that the Mexican Government did not wish to make any loans which were not sound and which could not be repaid and which did not have for their objective the definite improvement of the economy of the country. I told the President that I would continue discussions with the Department of State and through it with the Export-Import Bank with regard to the loans which they have in mind.

In this connection I took the liberty of emphasizing to the President the importance of keeping this matter of the loan, as well as other matters in our relationships, in the channels of the Ministry of Foreign Relations here and of the Department of State at home in view of the fact that deviations from these established channels could only lead to confusion. The President was very much in accord with this idea and said that he wished all these matters so far as Mexico is concerned to be handled through the Ministry of Foreign Relations just as we at home wished that Ministry here to deal with the Department of State.

President Avila Camacho in our conversation the other day referred to the fact that Mexico was going into a difficult year in many respects and that a political campaign was prematurely starting. President Avila Camacho went on to say that in many respects this year, which was just starting, was going to be the most fateful year in Mexican history, just as the election in 1946 was going to be the most important in Mexican history. He said that on developments during the current year and that on the elections in 1946 would depend in many respects the future of Mexico and the policy of collaboration with the United States.

I told President Avila Camacho that while I was home I had mentioned to you the concern which many of us have

because

because there are certain elements in Mexico which are not in favor of collaboration with the United States on the frank and sound basis we have been practicing that collaboration but who on the contrary believe in a policy of pressures on the part of Mexico. I said to President Avila Camacho that you were not unaware of these currents in Mexico and that we were all concerned. I told him that we at home realized that these elements in Mexico, some of which are in the Government, are rather active and that we thoroughly understood that in the next presidential campaign in Mexico, which is already in the offing, the question of collaboration with the United States might become an issue. I said to the President that you and the high officers of our Government had the most profound respect and confidence for him and for Dr. Padilla and for the wise policies which Mexico had been following in the last years in the internal and external field. I said that much that we had been able to do in our collaboration with Mexico was due to the confidence which we had in him and in the Foreign Minister, Dr. Padilla, and in their firm policy of collaboration on a sound and frank basis.

In view of the cordial and frank relationship which happily I am able to have with President Avila Camacho and in view of the deep admiration he has for our country and for you, I am able to speak with him with a frankness which is somewhat unusual. I, therefore, told him that there were a good many of us at home who were concerned about some of these trends which were showing themselves in Mexico and that we felt that all of us had to be on our guard, in Mexico as well as in the United States, so as to discern who were the real friends of the other and who were really in favor of a policy of collaboration so important to these two countries so closely tied together geographically and by other factors.

President Avila Camacho said that he deeply appreciated the frankness with which I had spoken to him about this matter and of which he himself was deeply conscious. He said that it was a tremendous moral help for him to know that he enjoyed the esteem and confidence of yourself and of high officials of our Government and the friendship of our people. It was a great help to know that Dr. Padilla, who was so happily conducting for Mexico her foreign relations, enjoyed this esteem of the highest officials of our Government and of so many of our people at home. The President said that he was deeply conscious that there were certain elements in Mexico which, while professing

friendship

friendship for the United States and adhering to collaboration, were not in reality sincere and that they were making some direct and indirect and very unwise attacks on the Mexican Government and on its internal and foreign policy. The President said, however, that he was entirely confident that the wise policies of both Governments in the last few years had resulted in already consolidating the position to the degree that with due caution and understanding these unhappy elements which try to make discord could be kept down.

I am telling you about this important phase of our conversation as I know you will be deeply interested and you will recall that I told you when I had the privilege of seeing you in December that certain elements here, which are really not friendly to us, already are trying to establish certain contacts in the United States in order to make it appear that they are getting political support for this forthcoming campaign for the presidency, when in reality these same elements are trying to get ready to stab us in the back.

The President and Dr. Padilla and thoughtful people here have been considering these attacks on the Government and its foreign policy for some months and about a month ago decided that the time had come for Padilla to make a very strong speech, with President Avila Camacho's authorization, outlining the Mexican Government's foreign policy and unmasking certain elements here. He did this last evening in a radio address which in many respects was one of the most significant speeches ever made by a member of the Government in Mexico and certainly one of the strongest and most friendly speeches made with respect to the United States in Mexican history. In this speech Padilla frankly referred to those (without mentioning names) who were endeavoring to undermine Mexico's foreign policy and collaboration with the United States and branded them as working against the best interests of Mexico.

You will forgive me for having written you this long letter but I felt that you would wish to be informed of this recent conversation with the President of Mexico who is your and our good friend. He has rather a difficult time ahead of him during this year, which will, as I have already said, be a fateful year in Mexican history and for Mexico. He is determined, however, to continue during the remainder of his term of office to do what he can to raise the standard

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of living of the Mexican people so far as this is possible, and to consolidate the friendly relationships between our two countries on a basis which is enduring and which will withstand any shocks. He told me the other day that the understanding action of yourself and our Government and the support which he and Dr. Padilla and the Mexican Government are receiving from you and our Government are of inestimable help to him in consolidating this position of collaboration with us on a permanent basis.

President Avila Camacho asked me to convey to you his warm greetings and the assurances of his deep personal friendship and admiration.

Believe me, with all good wishes,

Cordially and faithfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Avila Camacho". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Mexico folder
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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 16, 1945.

PERSONAL

MEMORANDUM FOR

HON. E. R. STETTINIUS, Jr.

FOR PREPARATION OF REPLY

FOR MY SIGNATURE.

F.D.R.

Letter to the President from Ambassador Messersmith, Mexico, D.F., January 8, 1945, re his conversation with Pres. Avila Camacho, re water treaty, the Chamizal, Mexican Squadron, oil and oil policy, etc.