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Box 12; Folder = Miscellaneous Materials, 1930-1941 and undated

Correspondence: Edison, Citrus, 1940

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 18, 1940.

MEMORANDUM FOR

PAULA

I gave Captain Callaghan the original of this memorandum, together with Edison's letter etc. He will return the file in a few days.

G.

on such missions would get the same pay as back home but would receive additional compensation to make up for any additional proper expense to which they are put by this foreign service.

I do not like the idea of bringing up the thought that duty on foreign missions may adversely affect the chances of Naval officers for promotion. You say in effect that you can counter-balance this adverse effect by paying the officers additional money.

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No officer in the Navy should be placed in the position of waiting his possibility for promotion for an additional assignment.

The fact that a recent mission was passed over for selection could be equally cited in the case of a number of officers who, while in command, have been passed over for promotion.

MEMORANDUM FOR

THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY

I wish to submit for your consideration with the State Department, a comparative list of the additional pay or allowances given by the State Department.

I am somewhat amazed at some of the statements made in your memorandum to me of January eighth relating to United States Missions to other American Republics and the emoluments of such missions.

Frankly, I see no reason whatsoever why Naval officers going to these missions should not receive the same additional emoluments as any other government servants. As you know, such additional allowances are based primarily on the cost of living in the countries to which they are sent.

On Page #2 of your letter it is stated "The Navy Department.....is of the opinion that the promotion of inter-American cooperation, so far as naval missions can contribute to that desirable end, will be retarded by diminishing the allowable emoluments of naval mission personnel". I see no reason why the usefulness of naval missions will be retarded by having the same standard of emoluments as other missions sent by this Government.

Then you say "Nor is it considered desirable generally to make a naval mission available cheaply to the receiving government". The attitude of the Navy should be that for the good of continental defense we should make naval missions available as cheaply as possible to the receiving government.

As cheaply as possible means that our officers on such missions would get the same pay as back home but would receive additional compensation to make up for any additional proper expense to which they are put by this foreign service.

I do not like the idea of bringing up the thought that duty on foreign missions may adversely affect the chances of Naval officers for promotion. You say in effect that you can counter-balance this adverse effect by paying the officers additional money.

No officer in the Navy should be placed in the position of selling his possibility for promotion for an additional compensation.

The fact that a recent member of a foreign mission was passed over for selection could be equally cited in the case of a number of officers who, while in command of battleships, have been passed over for promotion.

I wish you would let me have, after consultation with the State Department, a comparative list of the additional pay or allowances given by the State Department to its officers and employees or to the officers and employees of other Departments sent to South America in comparison with the pay and allowances now being given to the members of our Naval missions.

And it should be distinctly remembered that service on a Naval Mission is one of the regular duties of the United States Navy.

F. D. R.