11-16-1909

Memorandum From Francis Mairs Huntington-Wilson to Alvey A. Adee, November 16, 1909

Francis Mairs Huntington-Wilson

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.ursinus.edu/fmhw_organization

Part of the Diplomatic History Commons, Political History Commons, and the United States History Commons

Click here to let us know how access to this document benefits you.

Recommended Citation

Huntington-Wilson, Francis Mairs, "Memorandum From Francis Mairs Huntington-Wilson to Alvey A. Adee, November 16, 1909" (1909). Organization of the State Department. 2.
https://digitalcommons.ursinus.edu/fmhw_organization/2

This Memorandum is brought to you for free and open access by the Assistant Secretary of State (1909-1913) at Digital Commons @ Ursinus College. It has been accepted for inclusion in Organization of the State Department by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ Ursinus College. For more information, please contact aprock@ursinus.edu.
DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY.

MEMORANDUM.

November 16, 1909,

Dear Adee:

I take the view that in a diplomatic house here the Assistant Secretary of State (as Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs) takes precedence over Ministers; that in an American official house Ministers take precedence over him and that in an American private house, by a broad principle of hospitality, the foreign Minister may be given precedence over him, although it may be either way.

I also maintain that American Ambassadors, when on leave in Washington, should make the first call upon the Assistant Secretary.

I also maintain that as they leave their representative character behind them in the countries to which they are accredited, when they are here on leave do not take precedence over the Assistant Secretary of State except in the Embassy of the country to which they are accredited (which is territory where their representative character may theoretically revive) or at dinners where they are guests of honor.

Will you please write yes or no opposite these points according to whether you agree or not with my views?

Assistant Secretary.

1. Yes. Before for Ministers but after Ambassadors. In various dinners I have observed that the Assistant Secretary, even of other departments, has in a diplomatic house given precedence over the Minister, so that the Assistant Secretary seems to extend to all the Assistant Secretaries, even of other departments. I have seenGen. Oliver and Mr. Newberry place above the other colleagues.

2. Rule 1 is reversed, following the doctrine of colleagues of the last ranking after guests.

3. By the usage of courtesy a foreign Minister generally ranks an Assistant Secretary.

4. By the usage of courtesy a foreign Minister generally ranks an Assistant Secretary.

5. Mr. Hay decided that American Ambassadors and Ministers, when in the U.S. or leave, have no personal rank by reason of their foreign service but are simply distinguished citizens — the exceptions to this ruling being those you have distinguished citizens.

A.A.S.