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Memorandum on a Speech by the Secretary of State, May 21, 1910

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

May 21, 1910.

STRICKLY CONFIDENTIAL.

Sent to the Division of Latin-American Affairs, the Diplomatic Bureau, the Division of Far Eastern Affairs, the Division of Near Eastern Affairs, the Bureau of Trade Relations, the Bureau of Citizenship, the Bureau of Indexes and Archives, Mr. Clark, Mr. Dennis, Miss Hanna and Mr. Finch.

On the 15th of June the Secretary of State has promised to deliver an address at the University of Pennsylvania. He has chosen as his subject the spirit and purposes of American diplomacy (making a point of its altruism and unselfishness). The Secretary has given me the following indications which, by way of suggestion, I subdivided and somewhat expanded below:

1. The cosmopolitanism of this University makes diplomacy a suitable topic. The Secretary has in mind various philosophical remarks as a general background and envelope for the discussion, making a variety of points such as for example:

2. American diplomacy characterized by candor due to the national character;

3. and by consideration for the rights of others, due also to the evolution of this Government through many years when the United States was not a world power of the first class but had to deal with such nations.
4. National solidarity and its factors such as unity of the Government, unity of the nations in the world, all dependent upon good citizenship, tolerance and patriotism of the public and the press.

5. Solidarity of international public opinion as a result of an international social compact, healthy units, healthy family; reciprocity of respect and consideration and of justice.

6. Peaceful work; arbitral court; arbitration treaties; Central American Court of Justice.

7. Peaceful work in the ordinary course of diplomatic negotiation (adjustments such as the British question, Emery case, Alsop case, etc., etc.

8. Example of altruism and unselfishness:

Far East:

(a) Perry.

(b) Townsend Harris.

(c) Return of Shimonoseki indemnity.

(d) 1894 treaty revision.

(e) 1903 China treaty revision.

(f) China-Japan war and protection in respective countries.

(g) Boxer troubles; open door.

(h) Return of Boxer indemnity and Chinese students in the United States.

(i) Likin tariff currency reform.

(j) Opium.

(k) Kukuang loan.

(l) Neutralization scheme.

(m) Chin-Ai railway.
(n) Siamese treaty revision.

The Far Eastern Division is requested to prepare a few pages illustrating American diplomacy in the Far East, bring in incidentally our long and uninterrupted friendly relations with China (see memorandum prepared sometime ago; also see Einstein's book.)


(a) Mr. Dennis is requested to prepare a brief explanation of the cause, principles, nature and results of the Santo Domingo arrangement showing its beneficial results.

(b) In this connection the Honduras arrangement should be set forth.

(c) Allusion to the Guatemala probability.(?).

(d) Cuba.

(e) Panama. (?)

(f) Nicaragua. (?) The elimination of Zelaya and explanation of our policy.

(g) Venezuela. (Mr. Dennis) Elimination of Castro.

(h) Chile.

(i) Mexico. (Maximilian).

(j) Early recognition of Latin-American independence by the United States.

(k) Pan-American railway.

(l) Costa Rica-Panama boundary.

(m) Argentine-Brazil boundary.

(n) Argentine-Chile boundary.

(o) Bolivia-Peru.

(p) Ecuador-Peru. First invocation of these articles of the Hague Convention and first
prevention of war by the United States.(?)

(q) Mexico-Guatemala difficulty.
(r) Chamizal.
(s) United States-Mexico boundary.

Barring the two items referred to Mr. Dennis the Latin-American Division is requested to prepare a few pages on these and other points suitable to the illustration and elaboration of the Secretary's subject.

10. CANADA.

Mr. Pepper is requested to prepare a few pages on the proposed Canadian reciprocity and on the subject of generous reciprocal trade agreements in furtherance of American solidarity.


(a) Young Turk Party.
(b) Influence of American schools.
(c) American sympathy with the new regime.
(d) Acquiescence in tariff increase.
(e) Right of forum.
(f) Capitulations.

The Division of Near Eastern Affairs is requested to prepare a few pages suitable to the subject on these and other points of our diplomacy in the Near East.

12.

Improvement in the treatment of Jews.
Passports.
Expatriation.

The Bureau of Citizenship is requested to prepare a little suitable material on the humanitarian and advanced policy of the United States in such matters.

13. The KONGO. An allusion to our influence and its
its results not unlike that in the President's Message but brought down to date.

Miss Hanna is requested to prepare this briefly.

14. LIBERIA.

Mr. Finch will please prepare a paragraph on our policy toward Liberia.

15. BRITISH NEGOCIATIONS.

Mr. Smith is requested to prepare a brief survey of the British negotiations by which so many matters have been and are being so happily settled.

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Please send the material to my office not later than next Saturday, the 28th instant; as this leaves a full week the material should be in very finished shape. So many subjects overlap that it is desirable that the different officials consult in preparing their parts of the work. As an illustration, what we are doing in Liberia is analogous to the Santo Domingo plan although geographically far away. Our educational influences in Turkey and China are similar. Our attitude towards Governments seeking to throw off extraterritoriality is alike in the Far East and Near East, etc, etc.

The subject of the address being broad enough to admit almost anything, suggestions or contributions by officers of the Department illustrating the subject will be welcome.