7-11-1910

Letter From Francis Mairs Huntington-Wilson to Philander C. Knox, July 11, 1910

Francis Mairs Huntington-Wilson

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

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

https://digitalcommons.ursinus.edu/fmhw_knox/6

This Letter 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 Correspondence With Philander C. Knox by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ Ursinus College. For more information, please contact aprock@ursinus.edu.
July 11, 1910.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The Alsop case must go to the printer in a very few days. It has to be signed by the Agent of the United States. Since Mr. Clark has handled this case throughout I recommend that he be Agent. I have the impression that this has been your intention all along. Will you please let me know tomorrow or next day if convenient? I venture also to recall to you that it will be very helpful to the Solicitor's office if the questions of personnel now before you can conveniently be passed upon. There are also a few other small questions of personnel still awaiting your decision.

As I understand it we are to send Rockhill his instructions at his post after the lines indicated in the Far Eastern Division memorandum have been passed upon.

The results of the consular examination will not be known for a while because there were eighty candidates and it takes a good deal of time for the Civil Service Commission to mark the written examination papers.
papers. So soon as we have the results I shall let you know about Mr. Edwards with the suggestion, if happily he passes, of a post which could be given him in the East or South America, as I understand is your wish.

Córea has evidently given the press the German Emperor's letter recognizing Madriz. We have not it officially but I enclose a translation of it as it appeared in Spanish in one of Madriz's newspapers in Managua. To all questions as to what governments have recognized Madriz I have again and again explained to the newspaper men that our position was peculiar in that we broke off relations with Zelaya and from that moment have recognized no government of Nicaragua, that thus a positive step would be necessary on our part to recognize Madriz or anyone else, while in the case of other governments who had relations with Nicaragua and whose interests in and knowledge of Nicaraguan affairs were comparatively slight they would not particularly care who was President. I pointed out too that the attitude of Salvador and Guat-

omala is the same as our own, that Honduras has been dominated by the Zelaya people and that Costa Rica has been indifferent but has taken no actual step in the way of recognizing Madriz. Madriz appears to have written
written some pretty lies to Germany about his election. Of course, the letter of the Emperor was purely routine; taken together with the fact that the German cruiser BREMEN is enroute from Callao to Corinto, it may, however be exploited. Possibly the NORTH DAKOTA which is at Callao might just as well stop a few days at Corinto on her way up, especially so in view of the latest development in the Pittman case. Unless you express a contrary wish I shall ask the Navy Department to arrange this, very unostentatiously.

Arizaga, the new Ecuadorian Minister will present himself and enter on his duties tomorrow morning at ten. The Chargé d'Affaires of Argentine and Brazil will be at the Department tomorrow noon. Mr. Fox's telegram saying that the President, Government, and people of Ecuador would not stand for even a remote contingency of the Spanish award makes this last move delightfully complicated. My plan is to have Lima and Villegas join me in putting the Protocol before the Ministers of Ecuador and Peru and then discussing it with them after they have studied it. We know that the Chilean Minister at Quito has been quite blatantly making trouble
trouble for the mediators. At the proper moment we would express through our legation at Santiago pain, grief, chagrin, surprise and incredulity at his thus exceeding his instructions and at the same time ingenuously give Chile a copy of the new protocol and ask, as a matter of course, for her cooperation at Quito. This last can be the more gracefully done in view of the following paragraph in the recent message of the Chilean Congress at the opening of its session on June 1st:

"Under the inspiration of this exalted purpose and, as within our proper sphere of action under the circumstances, at the proper moment we suggested the idea of mediation. We cherish the hope of seeing the good offices tendered by three friendly powers crowned by an equitable agreement which will satisfy the aspirations and harmonize the interests of Ecuador and Peru."

Mr. Yoacham, the Chilean Chargé d'Affaires, leaves at the Department the following telegraphic instruction from his Government:

"Santiago, July 9. Chilean Legation, Washington. The newspapers publish the circular of the Ecuadorian Government to the mediating Powers, denouncing blockades and invasions by Peruvians. I ask you to transmit to me what impression this has made on the Secretary of State and to renew to him an expression of our good will toward influencing Ecuador to maintain peace. Indicate to him the advisability of proceeding promptly
in obtaining from Peru some explanation, if the incidents stated are, in fact, true. I hope that the United States will use its influence in the same sense with Peru. (Signed) Izquierdo, Minister of Foreign Affairs."

Here again is a most excellent peg upon which to hang a reliance upon Chile's cooperation about the Protocol, so strong and so well founded in Chilean assurances as to make it very embarrassing to Chile not to cooperate really. Mr. Yoacham was just here. I said in a few days I could give him an answer and that we could not believe Peru was continuing military activities. In the course of a conversation I referred to the reports of injurious activities by their Minister at Quito. He joined me in viewing these things with surprise and attributing them to the Minister's failure to understand the situation and the attitude of his Government. This conversation was merely to prepare the way for pursuing the subject and, incidentally, to a bid for Chilean support of the Protocol.

Once the discussion is under way I would give copies of the correspondence confidentially to the Spanish Minister. If Arisaga takes the same view that Fox expresses and thinks that there is too much about the award in the
Protocol then he might meet the Spanish Minister and the latter might report to his Government in a way which, what with the extreme irritation of Spain at the insolence of Ecuador, might cause the Spanish Government to undertake at an early date to announce its entire withdrawal. In case of great obstacles some such plan may save the situation without compromising anyone. Of course, one must be guided more or less by circumstances as they arise. I shall do my very best with this important and difficult thing and I shall try not to bother you more than necessary. I have tried, however, to indicate some of the lines which suggest themselves to my mind. Please be sure to let me know whether, in this as in all other matters, I bother you too little or too much.

I had a talk the other night with Doctor Falkner just before he took the train enroute to sail for Hamburg where he will meet Paul Warburg. I enclose a memorandum of his conversation with the banking group in New York, comment by Mr. Finch and a paper I gave Doctor Falkner for his guidance. As things now stand the group will leave everything to Warburg, who in turn, will be advised by Falkner both as to the policy of this Government and
of the interests of Liberia. Some other suggestions I made Falmor are these:—(1) better get entirely solid with the British and perhaps the French also before having any issue with the Germans, and (2) better consider taking in the Erlangers, both to please the British and to cheapen the business for Liberia. How do you like the cheek of the Germans? They certainly are the most scientifically and unctuously disingenuous foreign office we have to deal with. There is a glamour and smoothing barbaric and picturesque about the insincerity of Russian diplomacy. There is something crude, rococo and naive about that of much of Latin America. The East is the East. But oh the Germans!

I am today telegraphing the Embassy at Paris to sound in advance the attitude of the French Government towards the listing on the Paris Bourse of bonds which The National City Bank and Spaer propose to take in return for a loan of twelve and one half million dollars to Haiti to retire their internal debt, reform their currency and put them on their feet on a gold basis. When these negotiations reach a more advanced stage the question will doubtless arise as to what relation to the
plan this Government shall adopt with a view to making
the bankers feel themselves adequately secure. It
occurs to me an exchange of notes and an agreement
similar to that of the bankers with Liberia may meet the
situation in a manner politically satisfactory and not
of a formidable appearance. I am rather glad to hear of
Speyer's going into one of these things. This particular
arrangement seems desirable also because of its tendency
to squelch the other projects by which French or German
lines were to get coaling stations in Haiti,—something
to which the Navy Department objects as strenuously as
it did to the alienation of the Galapagos Islands (a
fact of which we have notified the Legation to Haiti).
Its tendency would be also to eliminate the rights claimed
by The National Bank of Haiti, a French corporation,
which has been dominant in Haitian finances for many
years and for the last five years has had very serious
difficulties with successive Haitian Governments.

The time grows so short that I venture to inquire
again whether you approve the proposed effort to advance
the Honduras matter which I mentioned in my previous
letter.

Mr. Hoyt tells me that he understands that you have
definitely
definitely decided to appoint Mr. Knapp to confer with the Canadian Commissioner about railway matters. The certificate of appointment has been drawn up and I hold it as well as the instructions Mr. Hoyt has drafted to Mr. Knapp pending your confirmation of our understanding.

This morning Mr. Takahashi, of the Japanese Embassy, and later Mr. de Thal, of the Russian Embassy, called each to leave a copy of the Convention signed at Petersburg July 4th, together with one or two amiable remarks about its effect which each was instructed to make. I enclose herewith copy of the English version transmitted by the Japanese Embassy. I have just glanced at it but it seems fairly harmless. With it I send a copy of the 1907 Convention of which it seems to be a codicil. Since the provisions of that Convention are all subject to the "open door" policy and the rights of other Powers, and since Russia and Japan cannot bargain away rights held from China by others, one reaches the conclusion that the bare or moral effect is the main thing about this Convention rather than its bite or legal force. One does reflect, however, that confirming and consolidating a status quo is a thing not lightly to be acquiesced in when
when one considers how often the status quo changes.
This last idea was one of my chief objections to the
Root-Takahira exchange of notes. We are asked, by
the way, to keep the Convention confidential until the
13th when it will be officially published.

I think this somewhat disjointed letter will bring
to your attention the more important things before the
Department at this date.

Hoping soon to hear definitely that you are thoroughly
well and enjoying yourself, I remain always, my dear Mr.
Secretary,

Yours very sincerely,

Huntington Wilson

The Honorable P. C. Knox,

Valley Forge,

Pennsylvania.

Enclosures.