8-12-1910

Letter From Francis Mairs Huntington-Wilson to Philander C. Knox, August 12, 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
Huntington-Wilson, Francis Mairs, "Letter From Francis Mairs Huntington-Wilson to Philander C. Knox, August 12, 1910" (1910). Correspondence With Philander C. Knox. 17.
https://digitalcommons.ursinus.edu/fmhw_knox/17

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.
August 12, 1910.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Not having known your address since night before last I have been holding up the autograph letter to the Prince Regent, which I wanted to send to you for approval and counter-signature and then on to the President, but the time has grown so short that I have now sent Mr. Heintzleman direct to Beverly to try to get the letter signed together with a note from the President to Mr. Dickinson explaining the matter and enclosing a stereotyped address for him to make on the occasion of his audience. Herewith I enclose copy of the papers sent the President and of my note of transmittal.

Yesterday I had talks with Straight and McKnight. There is nothing now at all except that the American group have a virulent attack of cold feet. It is my most deliberate judgment that on account of their vanities and feelings you ought to arrange within a week, if possible, either in passing through New York, at Valley Forge or elsewhere, to receive the representatives of the four banks and to jolly them, congratulate on Huksag Loan
Loan success, appreciate their patriotism and point out the need of patience and conservatism, and being regardful of the future of China and of their own prestige and that of the Government, both of which were dealt such a blow when the Morgans formerly sold out the Canton Railroad. It seems they are impatient of the expense of the establishment at Peking. The proper plan would seem to be for them to sit tight, let Straight tactfully close their expensive establishment, and then place their Far Eastern interests in the hands of the International Bank, if possible taking an interest in or buying over the institution. A disorderly retreat would be the worst thing of all. If it comes to retreat it should not be difficult by intelligent and patient cooperation to make the movement an orderly one and to throw the blame on Great Britain.

From the record I sent you of my talk with the Group in New York and with what I have said above, you have all I know on the subject; but, as indicated above, the trouble with the Group seems highly psychological and I think the medicine imperatively necessary is the personal recognition involved in your seeing them. I took the liberty of authorizing Straight to say that I knew you would
would be very glad to see them at some early date as
you had endeavored to do in New York when passing through.
I do hope you will do this. If the program indicated is
carried out then Straight is to go to Europe and thence
to Peking to make the change.

Straight thinks Russian opposition is largely bluff
and that if Russia tried to take it out on China if we
went ahead with the Chin Ai line, British public opinion
would compel the British Government to resist Russian
pressure on China. I enclose an important letter which
has just come in from Morgan & Company.

Anyhow the urgent need is to get the bankers in a
mood to give us time for deliberate consideration and
action,—for which we should have at least as many months
as we like.

You may care to read the enclosed highly academic
letter from Einstein, although it contains nothing new
and, as usual, nothing very concrete.

Nicaragua. Here is a very interesting despatch from
a Consul-General at Large together with telegrams down to
this date showing the ugly mood of Madriz officials towards
Americans at Matagalpa and the outrages at Managua. In
view
view of what is revealed I thought it our duty to make to Madriz the sharp protest shown by my telegram, and I also asked the Navy to have the PRINCETON go to Corinto and remain there, the YORKTOWN taking its place at San Juan del Sur to keep telegraphic communication open.

Herewith is an account of my interview this morning when the two representatives of the Madriz faction were first received by the Department. From the papers they presented you will see the object of their mission, and from the written suggestions submitted this morning you will infer that the Madriz faction is feeling rather shaky. My idea is to consider what they have to say, keeping in mind, however, that ultimately any outside assistance should be based equally on the views and the positions of the Estrada and the Madriz factions.

Here is copy of telegrams recently exchanged with Mr. Straus and of the correspondence of last year to which he alludes. I send this now because it seems so important that you and the President have an understanding as to how to avoid having Constantinople or any other diplomatic post again mismanaged by Mr. Straus.
The Latin American Division send me for you copy of despatch from Sherrill and of one from Henry Lane Wilson, being "pleasant and unpleasant" apropos of Argentina.

The Bash outfit again comes forward with the enclosed letter from Littlefield, copy of my reply to which I include for your information.

There are also herewith a complete set of the telegrams of particular interest or importance since the last lot forwarded.

I believe Jennings and Parodes are coming here early next week for a final effort in the Honduras loan matter. My idea is to get a final draft of a bankers' contract, which we think equitable and good, and of such treaty or convention as is required to put the thing through. I should then send it to you and if you approved it let the bankers send a man to Honduras to negotiate directly on the spot with the hearty assistance of our Legation. I see no reason whatsoever why, in this way, this thing cannot be promptly put through.

You will remember our conversation about filling the two
two vacancies in the Embassy at Mexico. I made some suggestions and gathered the impression that you would not particularly care how it was done. Mr. Henry Lane Wilson is very properly screaming at finding himself two secretaries shy with the Celebration impending. The matter is so very urgent that in view of my belief that you would not care precisely how the matter was remedied I am sending telegrams today transferring Dearing from Second at London to First at Mexico (he being in the judgment of everyone here the proper man for the post) and promoting Moriarty, Third Secretary at Mexico, to be Second (Moriarty being above the average in experience) and sending as Third Secretary young Arnold, now on leave from Guatemala (a guileless youth whom Sands reports as quite too callow for anything but a third secretaryship). You will observe that this only causes one long journey—Dearing's. As to the Second Secretaryship at London my recommendation is that Harrison, Second at Peking, go to London and that Keintzlemon, who is about to start for Dalry as Consul and who would like to be made Second at Peking, be given such appointment. Do you care to pass upon this last suggestion now?

Pursuant to your authorisation we will keep Mr.

Weitzel
Weitzel in the Latin American Division at §1800.

As to the Peru-Ecuador mediation there is only the one enclosure, although we have reports that Chile is still really stirring up warlike preparations in Ecuador and is egging Ecuador on to sell the Galapagos Islands to Germany.

Hoping you are thoroughly enjoying your motor trip in that beautiful part of the country, and regretting to have to disturb you with a few matters besides informing you of others, I remain always,

Yours very sincerely,

The Honorable P. C. Knox,

Enclosures.