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Letter From Francis Mairs Huntington-Wilson to George von Lengerke Meyer, March 29, 1909

Francis Mairs Huntington-Wilson

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Confidential

March 29, 1909.

The Honorable

The Secretary of the Navy.

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that, in the judgment of the Department of State, it is necessary to the interests of this Government that a vessel of the Navy be immediately ordered to La Guaira, with instructions to keep informed of the movements of Ex-President Castro, in so far as his return to Venezuela may be for the purpose of overthrowing the Government, and to be prepared to protect American interests in case of the conditions indicated.

The Legation of the Netherlands has informed the Department that Mr. Castro was to sail from Bordeaux on the twenty-sixth instant by the Steamship GUADALOupe, and would attempt to land either in Venezuela or at Colon. The statement made in this despatch is now confirmed by a telegram from the Legation at Caracas. Copies of the despatch and of the telegram referred to are enclosed herewith, for your information.

From the statements contained in our Minister's telegram, you will observe that Mr. Castro is liable to arrest in Venezuela upon criminal charges, while he himself seems to intend returning there with confidence in his ability to overthrow the Government, an eventuality which would be disastrous not only to American but to all other foreign interests in that Republic.

I have the honor to be, Sir

Your obedient servant,

Acting Secretary.