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Memorandum on the Appropriation Bill of 1912, May 14, 1912

Francis Mairs Huntington-Wilson

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May 14, 1912.

Gentlemen:

In view of the expectation of support from the Department of State and the Diplomatic and Consular Services to their foreign trade and business enterprises, which expectation the activities of this Department have encouraged on the part of the business men of the country, and the fact that the destruction of the Department as reorganized three years ago must necessarily make impossible the continuance of the same support to American commercial interests and enterprises in foreign countries, I deem it my duty to invite your attention to the fact that the House of Representatives has reduced the appropriations for this Department by over $94,000, and by so doing has abolished the entire organization with which alone the Department has been able during the past three years to extend to American commercial interests that measure of support which every other great nation extends to its national interests in foreign countries.

The effect of the proposed legislation, together with the offices which will be abolished if the action of the
House is approved by the Senate, is set forth in the enclosed memorandum.

It now rests with the Senate and the Appropriations Committee of the House whether or not American commercial interests will be deprived of the assistance which this Department is at present able to extend to them.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

[Signature]

Acting Secretary of State.