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Assistant Secretary of State (1909-1913)

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Untitled Report on Court of Arbitral Justice, 1910

Francis Mairs Huntington-Wilson

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It is our purpose to insist upon a respect for the just rights of American citizens wherever they may be. This is a duty which cannot be sacrificed to any policy. We also propose to bend every effort to give a full measure of protection in our own country to the rights of foreigners of whatever nationality or race, and in our dealings with other Governments to combine a patient insistence upon our rights with a scrupulous respect for theirs. By this means and by the every day efforts of a sincere diplomacy to contribute here and there to the cause of progress and prosperity, the great work of peace is carried on, and let me assure you that this work of every day is making for the cause of the world peace quite as much as the arbitration treaties and the fine modern movement which in more obvious ways works to make war impossible.

Among the direct contributions to the cause of peace it is a great pleasure to call your attention to the fact that the Government of the United States has broached to the Powers a project for evolving a general Court of Arbitral Justice out of the theory of the Prize Court Convention drawn up at the last Hague Conference. The

very sure that it will in the not distant future take tangible form and result in a forum always open to all nations which have a confidence in the justice of their causes which would make them willing to substitute calm and equitable autiquated decision for the inadequate method of force.