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## Memorandum From Francis Mairs Huntington-Wilson to Philander C. Knox, November 20, 1911

Francis Mairs Huntington-Wilson

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Memo.

November 20, 1911.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

It is most urgent that we suggest to Nicaragua the remaining member of the Claims Commission and Mr. Rudolf Dolge is recommended for that post. Mr. Dolge has lived for about thirteen years in the city of Caracas where he was engaged in business, and as Secretary of the American-Venezuelan Mixed Claims Commission, sitting in 1903. Subsequently Mr. Dolge became manager of the Orinoco Corporation and was engaged for four years in bringing about a settlement of the claim of that corporation against the Venezuelan government. Although not a lawyer he has managed considerable litigation in Venezuela and his ten months experience as Secretary of the American-Venezuelan Commission should have given him much useful information in regard to claims matters.

Mr. Dolge is an energetic, hard worker, gets along excellently with the Latin-American type, and reads, writes, and speaks Spanish practically as well as English. He is also thoroughly conversant with German and has a working knowledge of French.

Conditions in Nicaragua are such that we certainly should at once send a strong minister there. Mr. Weitzel is recommended for this post. He has a most thorough knowledge of the departmental point of view and policy in Central America, Mexico, and the Canal Zone and should prove most efficient at Managua. Mr. Weitzel's previous service is as follows:- Secretary at Managua in 1907, Secretary at Panama City in 1908, Assistant Chief of the Latin American Division of the Department in 1910. He did temporary duty at the Embassy in Mexico during the crisis and also visited Nicaragua with Admiral Kimball. Although Mr. Weitzel's claims would be exceeded in the matter of seniority by

those

The Honorable

The Secretary of State.

those of a few other secretaries, nevertheless there is in addition to his peculiar qualifications for this post the fact that promotions from the Department encourage the good men to desire to undertake the hard work of the Divisions here. Mr. Weitzel's recommendation is conditioned upon another recommendation, namely, that Mr. Dearing, now Secretary in Mexico and who will be here in a few days, be transferred to Mr. Weitzel's present place. In this way we shall have, what is now so essential, a man in the Latin American Division who is an expert on Mexican affairs and a man at Managua who is expert on the Central American affairs before the Department. It is known that Mr. Dearing would welcome departmental service.

Realizing the undesirability of leaving the first secretaryship of Mexico vacant it is recommended, at the same time, that Mr. Grant Smith be transferred from Brussels to proceed at once to Mexico. Mr. Grant Smith's service is as follows:- 1903, Secretary at Constantinople, 1906, Third Secretary at London, 1908, Secretary at Santiago, and since August 4, 1909, Secretary at Brussels. On seniority Mr. Grant Smith would be entitled to this promotion to be Secretary of Embassy and I think that he should be ordered to Mexico at once. I suppose he will appreciate the promotion although he has at times shown a disappointing disposition to prefer a European post.

Dr. Craig, the army doctor who examined Mr. Hitt, said that Caracas would be an improvement over Guatemala in regard to his health, pointing out also that there is a United States medical officer at La Guaira. It might therefore be suggested that Mr. Hitt be transferred to Venezuela and that Mr. Northcott be transferred to Guatemala, which has a better climate than Nicaragua and which is more accessible. Mr. Northcott, however, says that he could not take his wife to the altitude of Guatemala but could take her to Caracas with safety (Mrs. Northcott

you will

you will remember is still in precarious health as a result of fevers contracted at Managua). Since Mr. Northcott has had two trying posts, Colombia and Nicaragua, it is recommended that he be given Caracas and that Mr. Hitt be given leave of absence at those seasons of the year when Guatemala becomes dangerous for him, and be borne in mind for transfer at the next opportunity.

I think there is no other secretaryship question which cannot well wait until after the examinations of next month when the questions of the transfers of Messrs. Cresson, William Walker Smith, and others can be considered in connection with the filling of existing vacancies and distribution of the new eligibles.

For the post of Chief of the Division of Information I recommend Mr. John Martin, now one of the translators of the Department. Mr. Martin is a very clever man; he has done much in the editing of "Foreign Relations" and, indeed, prepared the index to "Foreign Relations". To this familiarity with that subject he adds a fine knowledge of foreign languages and excellent judgment and ability. He once declined a post as chief of bureau and he is not fond of responsibility but I think he is exceptionally qualified for the proposed post.

If Mr. Martin were selected there could be found among the clerical personnel of the foreign service a man familiar with about four languages to take Mr. Martin's post which pays \$2100.00.