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Letter From Francis Mairs Huntington-Wilson to Pomponio Guzman, May 28, 1909

Francis Mairs Huntington-Wilson

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May 28, 1909.

My dear Mr. Chargé d'Affaires:

You will recall that at the beginning of April and at various other times Mr. Cortes told us of a possible effort on the part of Colombian revolutionists to work from Panama as a basis. As it was then promised should be done, the Government of the United States through the Legation at Panama, placed itself in touch with the Government of Panama upon this subject. With reference to these interviews, and particularly to our conversation day before yesterday, I am happy to give you what late news we have.

You will recall that on April 28th you left at the Department copy of a telegram you had received from your Government wherein it was stated to be within their knowledge that Colombians in Panama were planning an invasion of Cauca and were chartering for the purpose a gunboat. Upon bringing this matter to the notice of the Panaman Government the Legation was able to report to the Department that that Government is in entire accord with the views of the United States as to the correct course in the case of such activities in Panaman territories.
The middle of last month it appeared from a
telegram from the Legation at Panama that the local authorities at Colon were reported Colombian revolutionists led
by General Castillo to be coming there on route to Bocas del
Toro where it was supposed an attempt would be made to seize
a vessel for an expedition against Colombia. At the suggestion
of the Government of Panama the U.S.S. MARIKTA was despatched
to the scene. Her Commander now reports that he can obtain no
confirmation of the above rumor and can only attribute it to
the fact that the Colombian schooner Gertrude from Port Limon,
Costa Rica, left for St. Andrews Island on May second. The allega-
tions that three Colombian exiles were on board and that of these
General Castillo was landed near Bocas del Toro and is now going
to David, and that both of the others, General Caballernot and
Santo Sam were landed at St. Andrews Island are not susceptible
of confirmation.

As you have already been orally informed, the fol-
lowing persons accused of conspiring against the Colombian Govern-
ment have been arrested at Panama: Dr. Barcelona Hernandez,
Obando Espinosa, Luis Sanchez, Dr. Santiago Rojo, Dr. Francisco
Gonzalez Camacho, General Pedro Leon Acosta, and two others of
Rodriguez. The first three have been deported to Chile, and
The others will be given a few days time to settle their affairs
and will then be sent to Jamaica.
thus to have been able to give you these
I am glad it.
facts as showing the cordial co-operation of the United States and Panama to prevent the improper use of the region in question as a basis of hostile action against the friendly Government of Colombia.

I am, my dear Mr. Guzman,

Yours sincerely,

Señor Don Pomponio Guzman,

etc., etc., etc.,

Legation of Colombia.