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Letter From Francis Mairs Huntington-Wilson to Charles D. Hilles, September 6, 1911

Francis Mairs Huntington-Wilson

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September 6, 1911.

Personal and Confidential.

My dear Hilles:

May I trouble you to take for me a moment of the President's time for the following small question? A year or more ago, after a Cabinet meeting, Secretary Knox showed me a bit of paper on which the President had written the inquiry whether I should like to be Ambassador to Russia. I remember it was when the Rockhills were complaining of the expense of the post. Secretary Knox then made me this offer and I cherish the compliment he paid me by saying, after my pious expressions of appreciation and of preference for remaining in the work here, that he would not have told me if he had thought I would accept. To make a long story short, - people always take the attitude that one's diplomatic career should be crowned with an appointment as Ambassador. In my own case I have been Special Ambassador and I think it very probable that after this Administration domestic politics would appeal to

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to me more than further diplomacy. In these circumstances it would be a satisfaction to me to have the President's kind offer of record. I should like to do this by having inserted in our Department's official Register in the paragraph giving my service since 1897 these words, among the other items, "In 1910 was offered by the President appointment as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Russia but declined in order to remain in the Department". The Register is about to go to press. Will you please drop me a line saying whether my doing this would be entirely agreeable to the President?

Apologizing for troubling the President and you yourself with such a trifle, I remain, always, with kind regards,

Very sincerely yours,

Sgd: Huntington Wilson.

Charles D. Hilles, Esquire,

Secretary to the President,

Beverly, Massachusetts.