CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Mr. Secretary:

We received late Friday night, June 23, the Department's long strictly confidential circular telegram of June 22, 11 p.m., on the Argentine, in the closing paragraphs of which you state that we are asking Ambassador Armour to return for consultation and that as soon as he has made his report to the Department, we intend to initiate a new exchange of views through ordinary diplomatic channels with the other American Republics, with a view to arriving at an understanding with respect to our future common course of action with respect to the Argentine. You also ask me to see the President and the Foreign Minister at the earliest opportunity to advise them in full of our position as set forth in the telegram under reference and to state that in the opinion of our Government, the attitude of the non-recognizing Governments would be more fully brought home and more forcefully to the Farrell regime, if all of the remaining Chiefs of Mission were recalled for consultation within the next two weeks. You also asked me to express your particular interest in receiving the views of the Mexican Government with respect to our position and the course of action outlined.

In view of the length of this telegram and that it came in a secret code, we were not able to get it decoded until Sunday morning, June 24. In the meantime I had also received the Department's strictly confidential telegram no. 1204 of June 24, 7 p.m., stating that the Mexican and Brazilian Ambassadors had called on you on June 23 at your request, and that you had set forth to them our position with respect to the Argentine along the lines of the circular telegram of June 22, 11 p.m., above referred to. I note that you made an earnest appeal to each of them that their

The Honorable
Cordell Hull,
Secretary of State.
their Governments and individual members thereof cooperate with us in support of true continental unity. I further note that both the Mexican and Brazilian Ambassadors indicated that they fully appreciated your remarks and agreed to give their cooperation along the lines suggested by you.

I also wish to tell you that it was very useful for us to receive the Department's circular telegram of June 22, 12 p.m., which gives in full the present status of the Diplomatic Corps in Buenos Aires.

The Minister for Foreign Relations, Dr. Padilla, and the President of Mexico were both in Cuernavaca over the weekend, having left there on Friday evening, June 23. I prepared on Sunday, June 25, a letter to the Minister for Foreign Relations in which I incorporated the substance of your telegram of June 22, 11 p.m., on the Argentine and in the closing paragraph thereof I made a reference to your conversation with the Mexican Ambassador in Washington on June 23.

In your telegram you state that I am to take up this matter with both the President and the Foreign Minister, Dr. Padilla, but I am sure you will understand when I say that I thought it would be more effective here if I did not take it up directly with the President but only through the Foreign Minister, Dr. Padilla. You know how fully we can depend upon Dr. Padilla for a full and complete presentation of these matters to the President of Mexico and how fully we can depend upon his complete understanding and fullest collaboration. I, therefore, deemed that the most effective method of presentation of this matter with respect to the Argentine would be by my presenting it only to the Foreign Minister and through him to the President.

While the telegram of June 22, 11 p.m., did not indicate that I should convey the substance thereof to the Foreign Minister and to the President in writing, I felt that in view of the importance, as well as the potency and clarity of the argumentation and presentation in your telegram, that it would be desirable for me to give it to Dr. Padilla in written form, as it would also help him in presenting our point of view to the President.

I, therefore, wrote a confidential letter to the Foreign Minister, dated June 26, in which I incorporated in full the substance of the telegram of June 22, 11 p.m., and I am transmitting herewith for your information and the Department's record a copy of this letter.

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The Minister for Foreign Relations received me this morning immediately upon his return from Cuernavaca, and I had a long talk with him. He said that he had just spent the weekend with the President but that he would see him again immediately this afternoon on this matter. He did not have time during our conversation this morning to read fully my letter, but I set forth to him orally in resume the substance thereof.

Dr. Padilla said that while he could not state anything definitely until after he had talked with the President that he would be almost certain to be able to discuss this matter with him this afternoon and that he would see me again tomorrow when he could give an indication of their attitude. Although the Mexican Government and Dr. Padilla feel, I think, as strongly about this Argentine situation as we do, I had been of the opinion that they might be reluctant to withdraw their Ambassador even for consultation so as not to burn all bridges. You will recall that I expressed this thought to you in a previous letter, making it clear, however, that I had not discussed such a possible course of action with Dr. Padilla.

I was, therefore, gratified when Dr. Padilla indicated to me this morning that he also thought that the time had come for energetic action and that he thought one of the best ways immediately to impress the seriousness of the situation on the Farrell regime was for all of us to call back our Chiefs of Mission for consultation. He did not give me a definite answer on this, but I am sure that this is the recommendation that he will make to President Avila Camacho this afternoon. From present prospects, therefore, it appears that Mexico will be prepared to call back her Ambassador in Buenos Aires "for consultation", as we are doing. I will, however, be able to let you know definitely about this tomorrow.

I think the manner in which Dr. Padilla received your communication and expressed his own agreement that our Chiefs of Mission should be brought back for consultation very shortly is a further evidence of his complete understanding of these problems, of his deep devotion to inter-American unity and collaboration, and of the attitude of the Mexican Government and of Dr. Padilla to collaborate with us in these important matters.

This is in the nature of a preliminary reply to your telegram of June 22, 11 p.m., and I hope to be able to give you a definite reaction tomorrow after the Minister has seen the President.
May I take the liberty of saying that I think the circular telegram of June 22, 11 p.m., is as forceful, as clear, as convincing and as helpful a document as I have seen for a long time. I think our course of action is not only entirely justified but necessary. It is my sincere hope that the Mexican Government will collaborate with us in this matter of bringing back their Ambassador for consultation, which I believe from present indications, they will do.

With all good wishes,

Cordially and faithfully yours,

G. S. Messersmith

Enclosure:  
To Dr. Padilla,  
June 26, 1944.

(In duplicate)

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