Without explanation and to my surprise Padilla (by whom I was called to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and from where I have just returned) stated that during the course of the day he had given to the Ambassadors of Uruguay, Cuba, and Brazil a memorandum (which was to be read to me) and had held conversations with those Ambassadors. Stating that the memorandum (resume of which was given in November 7, 3 pm telegram numbered 1399 from this Embassy, and which is a brief restatement of the memorandum contained in my November 7 despatch number 21,242) which he was about to give me, had been handed to the Ambassadors of the above mentioned countries, Padilla said that the Argentine matter had certain aspects of urgency.

There follows a translation of the memorandum:

The unity of continental America must be defended at all costs.

A grave danger to this unity would be constituted by a meeting of Foreign Ministers for discussing the case of Argentina.

It is urgent that Argentina be reincorporated in Pan American cordiality.

Justification has been given by the actual government during recent periods and by the Argentine Governments during the course of the war for the belief that the manner in which the Rio de Janeiro agreements have been complied with by Argentina has not been satisfactory, as well as that Argentine cooperation has fallen below the standards of what could be expected from the traditions of Argentina.

A formula which as well as preparing the way for a satisfactory understanding, will also satisfy the dignity of the Americas which have withheld relations with the Argentine Government, must be found.

The following procedure, in our opinion, would be the most advisable:
Rather than for the specific purpose of discussion of the case of Argentina, that the meeting of Foreign Ministers be initiated for the purpose of discussing questions of permanent mutual interest regarding the postwar such as armament control of the American countries; our hemisphere's economic solidarity; coordination of the various American instruments and organisms which now exist; matters regarding the establishment of an American Society—coordinating the continental organization into the general organism which is being created by the United Nations; and the agenda may include other subjects of interest.

That February 1 be set as the date of the meeting, thus providing sufficient time for the definitive Dumbarton Oaks project to be crystallized; it could be understood that if the United Nations reach an agreement on the project mentioned above during December 1944 or January 1945, the date could be advanced. By this plan sufficient time will be given to the Governments of the Americas for studying the topics which the agenda will include.

Meanwhile, in order to discover the proper conditions for renewal of relations with Argentina, the American Republics who do not currently maintain relations with the Farrell Government will exchange impressions.

**Such conditions would be formed mainly from a balance between the steps taken by Argentina to fulfill the Rio de Janeiro agreements and those measures which the American republics decide must be accomplished by Argentina; in addition, it would be attempted to obtain the democratic guarantee that on this matter of continental interest, the people of Argentina will be asked to express their opinion. Since this pertains to a matter which depends on their sovereign rights, unquestionably we have no right to discuss the internal life of this continent's nations, but we are interested, especially in time of war such as this, in the reaction on international affairs of such internal life. Invaluable evidence of what continental solidarity should be has been given by some American countries, despite the fact that their internal regime does not conform with strict democratic standards.

The meeting on February 1 of Foreign Ministers would be held with the participation of Argentina (which is highly desirable) if, by means of the brotherly and friendly intervention of the other American Governments, Argentina accepts this chance to reincorporate herself completely in our continental unity.

It is hoped that we shall receive the views of the other American countries on the foregoing points in order to be able...
to work harmoniously with all these Governments in regard to
this matter.

That a provision for elections (even if not held in
advance of the meeting) was essential to the participation
of Argentina in an eventual meeting, is the opinion as stated
by Padilla. (Reference is made to preceding paragraph marked **)  

It was also stated by Padilla that this procedure would
be strongly supported before their respective Governments by
the Ambassadors of Uruguay, Brazil, and Cuba, who expressed
themselves as being fully in agreement with this procedure.
With the exception of Argentina, the memorandum will tomorrow
be handed by Padilla to the Chiefs of Mission of all the other
Republics; and since this is the opportunity they have been
seeking, I venture to express the opinion that most of the
Republics of Latin America, if not all of them, will concur
with this proposal.

Since I had understood that no further action would be taken
by Padilla until he had heard further from us, I expressed some
surprise to the Foreign Minister that he had taken this action.
Except to state that this was an urgent matter, he did not explain
his going ahead with the transmission of this memorandum today.

It is my opinion that Padilla should be promptly informed that
we are supporting his initiative in this matter, in view of the
fact that this action gives strong promise of providing a satis-
factory solution, and because it is so probable that most, if
not all, of the other American Governments, will be in favor of the
action taken by him.

MESSERSMITH

GSM