México, D.F., October 9, 1945.

AIR MAIL:  FIRST PRIORITY

No. 26,697

Subject:  With further reference to the inquiry by the Mexican Government into the death of Gumansky, former Soviet Ambassador to Mexico.

SECRET

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to refer to the despatches and secret letters which I have written to the Department with regard to the airplane accident in which Gumansky, the former Soviet Ambassador to Mexico, lost his life together with Mrs. Gumansky and members of the Soviet Embassy staff, as well as Mexican members of the crew. The Department is aware that the Mexican military authorities made a painstaking and thorough inquiry and found that the crash was due to an accident and that no sabotage was involved. The Department is further aware that the Soviet Government expressed dissatisfaction with these findings and that this led to a strain in the relations between Mexico and Soviet Russia. It will be recalled that as a result of Soviet insistence the Mexican Government entered into a second investigation, on the progress of which this Embassy has been reporting. We had confidential information to the effect that an attempt would be made in this further secret inquiry to endeavor to place responsibility for the accident on Americans.

It now appears that the second investigation has been concluded and that it again shows no sabotage. It has, however, been impossible to get any information of a direct character with regard to this second inquiry as it
as it has been conducted with the utmost secrecy.

I now transmit a report from the Military Attaché of this Embassy (enclosure 1) in which he refers to articles which appeared in Mexico City newspapers, on October 6, from which it would appear that the Mexican Government again considers this matter closed with this second inquiry.

I am also transmitting herewith a copy of a secret report of the Military Attaché of this Embassy, dated September 28 (enclosure 2) in which reference is made to the probability that the secret report of the second inquiry will probably contain some findings "adverse to American interests". I do not believe that we are entirely justified in drawing the inference from the information in our possession concerning this inquiry that the report will contain such data adverse to American interests. I think the Mexican Government would be very slow in endeavoring to place any responsibility for this crash on "American interests", although, of course, there are elements in the Mexican Government and in the Mexican Army which would not be averse to endeavoring to shift responsibility for the accident from themselves to us. I think this statement under reference in the report of the Military Attaché is pure inference which is not adequately justified by the information which we have. The only reliable information we have in this respect is that during this second inquiry certain witnesses were closely examined as to who their American friends were. One interesting phase of this matter is that one of the witnesses, Mariam L. Troynitzky, who is the widow of one of the members of the Soviet Embassy staff who lost his life in the plane crash, is in Moscow now. The published accounts with reference to the inquiry, it will be noted, state that "the proceedings have been declared suspended until such time as it is possible to conclude this investigation by interviewing said witness". It is difficult to determine what evidence Mrs. Troynitzky would be able to give which would have any bearing on the accident.

It is the opinion of this Embassy, which the Acting Military Attaché shares, that it is likely that the military authorities of Mexico consider this matter as closed and that there will be no renewal of the investigation. That the Soviet Government has somewhat changed its attitude toward Mexico would seem to be indicated by the circumstance that according to press reports a member of the staff of the Soviet Embassy in Washington has been named Soviet Ambassador to Mexico.

The next time I see the President of Mexico I will endeavor to see whether I can elicit any information from him as to whether any attempt was made from any source to attempt to connect Americans with this accident.

It is
It is useless for us, or for me, to seek information with regard to this secret inquiry from other sources than the President of Mexico.

Respectfully yours,

George S. Messeramith.

Enclosures:


701.1-Russia
(In quadruplicate to the Department)