

AIR MAIL

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SECSTATE

WASHINGTON

677 - June 5, 11 a.m.

PERSONAL FOR THE SECRETARY

I received at 9:30 this morning your telegram no. 478 of June 4, 7 p.m., stating that the President has instructed you to inform me that my mission having been completed as announced in the press on June 3 my resignation is accepted and that it is desired that I return to the United States. You state that in reaching this decision, the President has been moved by the over-riding interests of the country and is not unmindful, as he will tell me on my return, of the years of distinguished service, which, he states, I have given to our Government. You request me to inform the Foreign Office immediately of my recall in as much as the President may be compelled to announce this change at his press conference the morning of June 5.

I shall immediately after forwarding this telegram call on the Foreign Minister and inform him that the President has "accepted my resignation" considering my mission as completed and that he desires me to return to the United States. I shall make no further comment and intend for the present to refrain from making any comment here to the press of any kind.

I will appreciate your bringing the following to the immediate attention of the President and I hope that it will reach him before the press conference today which you mention in your telegram.

I recall very distinctly the conversation which then Secretary Byrnes had with me on the telephone on April 1, 1946, during which he urgently requested me on behalf of the President and himself to accept this post in the Argentine. I recall very clearly also, as I am sure does the President, the conversation which I had with him and with then Secretary Byrnes later in April 1946 in Washington and during which there was the most complete accord with reference to the mission which I had been requested to carry through in the Argentine. I also recall the conversation, as I am sure does the President, which I had with him before returning to the Argentine in January of this year after a stay of some weeks in Washington on consultation.

In view

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In view of these conversations and all the circumstances, I am frankly unable to understand the reasons for this precipitate acceptance of "my resignation", but I am entirely prepared to accept the President's statement that he has been moved by "over-riding interests of the country".

I am sure, however, that the President is not unmindful of the fact that I have carried through, I believe, with success, the primary mission with which he entrusted me which was to secure compliance by the Argentine with her inter-American commitments and my reports show that in this I have had the full collaboration of the present Government of the Argentine. The further mission entrusted to me was to bring our relationships with the Argentine on that cordial and collaborative basis that they should be in the interests of both countries and of the hemisphere and I believe that the record of the last year will show that very great progress in this respect has been made. This part of my mission is not fully completed and it had been my hope that my mission here would continue several months longer in order to contribute to further consolidating so important a position.

I have been guided in my actuation constantly by what I considered the President's and our country's policy of consolidating hemisphere collaboration and that the collaboration of the Argentine with us and the other American countries in such a policy is indispensable.

The President will understand when I say that I regret that I will not be able to complete this phase of my mission for which such favorable auspices exist.

I am sure that the President will recall in the handling of this matter of "my resignation" that I have for more than 33 years, as I hope the record will show, loyally and completely dedicated myself to the service of our country. It had been my intention in the next few days to write to the President and to you that if the President so desired I would be ready, in accord with the conversations which I have had with him and his indications to me, to accept another suitable post in the field.

Please say to the President that I am sure that he appreciates that he is placing me, after all these years of what I believe the record will show to be constructive service at many posts, in a very difficult position and particularly so as I have no indications of the President's further intentions and as there is no indication in the telegram as to when it is desired that I return.

In this

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In this connection, I must state that when I do leave here I shall be leaving with my wife and am under the necessity of packing up my household goods. I shall be obliged to proceed by steamer as I cannot ask my wife to make the trip by air. I am unable to determine at this time when appropriate steamship accommodations may be available and in view of not having had any holiday for years and as it is a long trip I wish to proceed by a comfortable steamer. I shall look into this matter.

I would be glad to have as soon as possible further indications of the President's wishes. I think it is my duty to state that a precipitate departure will not be helpful in the interests of both countries. The developments in the Argentine have recently all been in the direction of more understanding and collaborative relationships with us and it is my very deep hope that nothing may interfere with the course of this development so happily begun.

I wish to repeat that I am presently refraining from any comment to the press, after the President's announcement, beyond that my resignation has been accepted by the President and you will appreciate that any further information that can be given me will be very desirable and helpful.

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