

Extra copy

1818

Buenos Aires, Argentina, November 13, 1946

No: 1199

Subject: With Reference to an Article Which Appeared in the New York Times of Monday, November 11, 1946, from its Buenos Aires Correspondent to the Effect that the Argentine Government was Instituting Legal Action which would have the Effect of Destroying La Prensa and La Nación and Destroying the Freedom of the Press in the Argentine

SECRET

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

Sir:

I have the honor to make, in view of the importance of the matter, a full report on an article which appeared in the New York Times of November 11, 1946, from its Buenos Aires correspondent, Mr. Frank Kluckhohn, in which it is clearly implied that the Argentine Government is behind an action in the courts in Buenos Aires directed against La Nación and La Prensa, the two leading papers in the city, for the purpose of destroying them and at the same time destroying the liberty of press in the Argentine. As the article in the Times is available in the Department, a copy thereof is not transmitted herewith, nor reference made to all the statements therein. In view of the fact that the Kluckhohn article stated that there was information to the effect that President Perón; Mr. Miranda, the President of the Central Bank; and a high legal officer of the Argentine Government had met in order to bring about this action in the courts against these two papers, the article has a very real importance from various aspects.

The background is as follows.

For some time, rumors have been current that the Government was contemplating action against La Prensa and La Nación which opposed the candidacy of President Perón during the electoral campaign which brought him to the Presidency and which, since he assumed the Presidency, have been critical of many acts of the Government and in some cases extremely critical. I can not speak of the attitude of La Prensa and La Nación during the political

campaign as

campaign as I was not in the Argentine at the time; but as there was a good deal of passion in the country at the time, there is apparently no doubt that the attitude of both papers was very strongly against Perón as candidate for the Presidency.

Since I have been in the Argentine (May 22, 1946), the attitude of La Prensa and La Nación has remained critical of the Government, but both papers have maintained their high standard which is well known, and for the most part their criticism of acts of the Government has been constructive and restrained. While there is no doubt that the attitude of La Prensa and La Nación has been a cause of considerable concern, particularly to some of the supporters of President Perón, I have felt that these rumors with regard to proposed action by the Government against both papers were without any foundation, for so far as this Embassy could observe, there has been complete freedom of the press since President Perón was inaugurated, and in marked distinction to the situation which prevailed before that. This Embassy, therefore, did not take seriously any of the rumors which reached it with regard to proposed action against these papers, particularly as in this city there are all sorts of irresponsible rumors and there are irresponsible men in the Government as well as in the opposition who do not hesitate to make statements without authority and representing only their personal views, but giving the impression that they are speaking either for the Government or for the opposition.

On the evening of Saturday, November 9, 1946, a reception was given in the Naval Club in honor of Admiral Greer, of our Navy who was passing a few days in Buenos Aires, and at this reception I met Mr. Kluckhohn who took me aside and said that he was most likely going to send a very important story to the Times the next day. He spoke very mysteriously about it and said he could not give me any information concerning it at the time but that he would tell me about it after he had further verified certain circumstances and when he sent in his story as I "would probably wish to telegraph the Department of State about it". I told Mr. Kluckhohn that I had no idea about what he was talking and asked him if the story had to do with enemy aliens. He said that it did not but that it had something to do with the press. He did not volunteer any information concerning the story he had in mind.

On Sunday evening, November 10, 1946, Mr. Kluckhohn called me on the telephone at the Embassy residence to state that he had sent in a story to the New York Times, and he gave a brief résumé of the story as it appeared in the Times, but only the briefest possible résumé. My one observation to Mr. Kluckhohn was that his story seemed to carry the implication that the Government was behind this suit which, so far as I could see, had been entered by a private individual and that he had very slender basis for assuming that the Government was

behind it.

behind it. He then went on to say that he had his information from a most reliable source and that the information came from someone who had been present at the conversation, which, it is alleged in the article, took place between President Perón, Mr. Miranda, and a high legal authority of the Government. As Mr. Kluckhohn had sent in his story before talking with me on the telephone, I could merely confine myself to saying that I thought the reference to these high officials of the Argentine Government was based on very slender and uncertain evidence. I said that it would be a serious thing if the Argentine Government were in reality behind such a suit but that I was inclined to doubt it. Mr. Kluckhohn reiterated that he had his information from such reliable sources that they were dependable.

On Monday morning, November 11, 1946, after the appearance of the New York Times in New York, the AP and the UP both sent resúmenes of the story to their Buenos Aires offices asking for information, but I gather not necessarily for information but rather as a query. The AP sent practically the whole text, and I believe the whole text of the story in the Times. The UP sent a shorter resúmen of the story. The AP gave the text of the telegram to the press here. The UP, as it came more as a query than as information to be passed to the press here, did not immediately give out the story, but informed me that after they learned that the AP had given it out they gave out their story.

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7/ The Crítica, which is an evening paper, in the issue of November 11 published the AP story. Of the morning papers of November 12, 1946, the English-language newspapers in Buenos Aires were the only ones which carried the AP and UP story respectively. The Buenos Aires Herald carried merely the story, while the Standard carried both the story and an editorial. These are transmitted as enclosures to this despatch as well as the article from Crítica of the evening of November 11.

The AP and the UP both asked me for information with regard to this New York Times story and with reference to the suit allegedly entered, and I told them I could give them no information as we had no information concerning the issuance of such a suit other than the statement in the Times article. I suggested that it would be advisable to check carefully on the suit and also to determine whether it was entered by a private individual or by the Government or whether there was any indication that the Government was behind the suit.

This Embassy realized, as did the American press in Buenos Aires, that this article in the Times was a serious matter. It realized that if the Government was really behind the suit, even though entered by a private person, which had for its objective the wrecking of the Prensa and the Nación, two world-known newspapers, it

would have

would have a tremendous significance not only so far as these two papers are concerned but so far as the freedom of the press is concerned. I was of the opinion that no action which the Argentine Government could take would be more disastrous in many respects than such action against the press. On the other hand, this Embassy was convinced that, so far as the Argentine Government was concerned, it had been giving complete liberty to the press since President Perón became President, in marked distinction to the situation which existed before that time when various and varying controls had been placed on the press. So far as this Embassy could learn, there were no restraints of any kind on the press and not only foreign correspondents enjoyed complete liberty in the sending out of despatches, but also complete liberty in receiving despatches from their agencies and in giving them to the local press and that the local press had complete liberty in publishing these despatches from abroad as well as complete freedom of comment which they were exercising both for and against the Government. In view of the attitudes which I had heard high officials of the Argentine Government express, I was confident that the Government was not taking any action against the press and that Mr. Kluckhohn had sent in this story in a form in which it carried implications which were not correct.

During the course of the day of November 12, the American news agencies here were able to verify that a man named Eugenio Alberto Marggi had filed a suit in a Buenos Aires court, as an "informer" claiming that the Nación and Presencia had been importing paper free of duty for cultural purposes and were using it also for the printing of paid advertising. That such a suit has been entered by this individual, who is a private citizen, there seems to be no doubt and under the Argentine law and code, a private person can file such a suit as an "informer". There was no evidence, however, of any kind to the effect that the Government was behind this suit other than the statement of Kluckhohn in the New York Times article which he had assured me was based on the most reliable information and came from someone who had been present at the alleged conversation between President Perón, Mr. Miranda, and a high legal authority of the Argentine Government.

On Tuesday afternoon, November 12, Mr. Kluckhohn called an officer of the Embassy and stated that it was a friend of his who was in President Perón's office on an entirely different matter when Senator Molinari came in to talk to the President. According to Kluckhohn's statement to this officer of the Embassy, instead of the President asking this friend to leave, the President permitted him to remain and to hear what happened. According to Kluckhohn's statement to the officer of the Embassy, President Perón pressed Senator Molinari to expand the scope of his trip to Mexico to include a visit to the United States and that Senator Molinari objected, largely on the basis of the unfavorable

press which

press which such newspapers as La Nación and La Prensa would give him. According to Kluckhohn, President Perón said in effect that he was fed up with La Nación and La Prensa and it was up to them to figure out a way to clip their wings. Further, according to Kluckhohn's statement, Miranda was immediately called in as well as the Procurador del Tesoro, and a discussion ensued in which this plan to have a suit filed was evolved. According to Kluckhohn, Kluckhohn's friend, who was present at the interview, told him about this; and he immediately put a lawyer on the job of tracing down the court action and after four days this lawyer which Kluckhohn put on the matter located the particular court in which the suit had been filed and Kluckhohn said that he himself has seen the court register in which the case is entered.

This officer of the Embassy during this conversation above-referred to asked Mr. Kluckhohn if he considered this friend a reliable and trustworthy informant in a matter of this kind and Kluckhohn's answer was "No", and that this was the reason why he put the whole thing into the hands of another person, that is this lawyer, who verified the fact that a suit had been entered.

It will be noted from Mr. Kluckhohn's statement to this Secretary of the Embassy above-referred to that it differs very much from his statement to me on the Sunday evening before, after he had sent in his story, at which time he stated to me that he had this information from an absolutely reliable source who had been present at the interview.

As a further indication of the probability that Mr. Kluckhohn was completely deceived and misled by someone who claimed to be present at such a conversation between the President, and Mr. Miranda, et cetera, the reference to the conversation between the President and Molinari with regard to a trip to the United States can not have any foundation and must be pure invention. From top secret despatches which I have sent the Department with regard to the visit of Senator Molinari to Mexico for the inauguration of the new President of Mexico and one going forward by this same pouch, secret no. 1188 of November 8, 1946, the Department will note that the President and the Foreign Minister are opposed and have been opposed to Senator Molinari's attempting to go to the United States at this time on the ground that such a trip would be inopportune until completely normal relationships have been established. The situation is, therefore, entirely the contrary from that which Mr. Kluckhohn's informant presented. It was undoubtedly Senator Molinari, who has been pressing the President to have him seek an invitation for Senator Molinari and the party accompanying him to go to the United States and that the President has refused. It is well known, and I have it from both the President and the Foreign Minister, as well as from the Senator himself, that Senator Molinari has tried to get the Argentine Government to seek such an invitation and that the President

and the

and the Foreign Minister have refused to give their approval thereto.

There seems to be no doubt whatever that Mr. Kluckhohn was lead into the error of sending this despatch to the New York Times and of making so unhappy a reference to an alleged conversation between the President and others on the basis of information which is utterly irresponsible and given to him by a person who stated that he was present at a conversation which he undoubtedly did not participate in even, as Mr. Kluckhohn says, as a bystander.

On the morning of November 11, as a result of Kluckhohn's conversation with me on the evening of November 10 when he had sent this story, I thought it desirable to send a brief telegram to the Department no. 2401 of November 11, 1946, in which I expressed the opinion that Kluckhohn's information was very vague and that we believed that any judgment with respect to government initiative in the alleged suit should be reserved for the present.

Various of the American correspondents in Buenos Aires spoke to me about this story in the Times and were considerably troubled about it because they realized that if the Government was behind such action as the Kluckhohn story indicated, it was indeed a very serious matter and one of the most unhappy and dangerous acts which the Argentine Government could undertake. They were of the opinion that the Argentine Government should make a statement. I told them that this was a matter for the Argentine Government so far as a statement was concerned, but that I did agree that if it was established that there was government initiative behind this private suit it would be a serious matter. I did express the personal opinion to them purely for background that I considered it was most unlikely that the Government was behind such a suit in view of the fact that the correspondents must themselves know that very complete liberty of the press existed in the Argentine.

It so happened that during the course of the day, the President took up another matter with me connected with enemy aliens. I took this occasion to ask the President whether he had knowledge of the article which had appeared in the New York Times on Monday morning. His attitude showed that he had not seen it. He said that he had taken the opportunity of November 10 (Sunday) and November 11 (Monday), a holiday, to take a little rest and he had not yet seen the press clippings for these two days. I told him that the only Spanish-language paper in which the New York Times article had been published was Crítica of November 11 and that La Prensa and La Nación had not carried the story that day, although they had undoubtedly received it from the AP and UP offices here. The President showed a good deal of interest. I told him that I did not wish to enter into the matter and could not do so officially, but that, entirely informally and unofficially, I could

say to

say to him that I considered the matter of extreme importance. I said that the freedom of the press was one of the things which was occupying public opinion and governments in so many countries. I spoke to him about the importance of the most complete freedom of the press. I said that I had noted with interest the policy followed by the Argentine Government since he became President and the freedom which the press enjoyed and that I thought this was something which should be conserved by all means. The President stated that the policy of the Argentine Government was to conserve the freedom of the press and that all that he expected from the press was objective and constructive criticism and factual reporting. He said that there had been a good deal of criticism which was neither constructive nor made with the desire to be helpful to the country. He said there had been a good deal of reporting within the country and from correspondents within the country to their papers and agencies abroad which was anything but objective and factual. He said that he considered this was a necessary part of the freedom of the press and that so far as he was concerned and the Argentine Government was concerned, the freedom of the press would be maintained at all costs. He expressed great interest in this New York Times article which he said he had not seen and that he would give immediate attention to the matter as he realized the importance of such erroneous information being given such wide circulation by a great and important newspaper such as the New York Times. He said that so far as the alleged conversation between himself and Mr. Miranda, et cetera, was concerned, and reported in the Times, no such conversation had ever taken place and so far as this man, Marggi, is concerned, who was said to have entered the suit, he knew nothing whatever concerning him or his identity and certainly the Argentine Government was not behind the suit.

Late last evening, I learned from the press agencies here that the Argentine Government had issued a press release denying the statements made in the New York Times article and affirming in the strongest way the policy of the Argentine Government to continue to maintain freedom of the press. The UP informed me that they sent the complete text of the government's statement to the United States. The AP informed me that, in view of their limited allowance of words which they can send, they had sent a résumé of the story rather than a complete text; and I suggested to a responsible officer of the AP that, in view of the fact that it was they who had given the press here the full text of the New York Times article in question, I thought it was very desirable for the AP in all fairness to send the full text of the Argentine Government's statement. I said this to the AP last evening, and I learned this morning that they did not send the whole text but only a résumé which, while it is relatively adequate, does not really give all the substance of the statement of the Argentine Government, which in many ways is so important. I make mention of this, because it is

characteristic of

characteristic of a good deal that is happening in connection with news going out from the Argentine these days. The AP gave out the whole of the New York Times article to its subscribers here, but it sent only a résumé of the Argentine Government's statement; while, in view of the importance of the statement for the present and the future, and in all equity, it would have been desirable for them to send the whole text of the government's statement.

It is interesting to note in this connection that La Prensa and La Nación which received from the AP and UP, respectively, on Monday these stories concerning the New York Times article of Kluckhohn, did not publish anything in the issue of November 12. This, I think, showed commendable restraint and understanding on their part, because it must have been quite obvious that the statements that were printed in the New York Times, made by Kluckhohn with respect to the Government's being behind the suit, had not been verified adequately; nor had the statement with respect to the actuation of President Perón and others in the Government, which was a serious allegation, been adequately verified.

In view of the importance of the matter, however, and of the statement of the Government under reference, both La Prensa and La Nación carry the government's statement in the issue of this morning in full. The article in La Prensa states that it had refrained from publishing the Times article on the preceding day, but, in view of the government's statement, it was publishing both the Times article and the government's statement.

In view of the fact that the confidential pouch is leaving this afternoon, I am not in apposition to comment as fully on this matter as I should with particular reference to certain aspects thereof. I have confined this despatch more particularly to the Kluckhohn article and the fact that it was transmitted without adequate checking; and I am sure Mr. Kluckhohn himself is the first to realize now that he sent this article without adequate checking.

So far as this suit is concerned, which has been entered against Prensa and Nación, it has been entered by this man, Eugenio Alberto Marggi; and the most we can learn up to this time is that he is not a too well known lawyer in Buenos Aires, but we have not been definitely able to verify that he is a lawyer. Under the Argentine law, any private citizen can enter a suit as an "informer". The law in question is no. 12578 of February 9, 1938, which is entitled "Presupuesto General de Gastos y Cálculo de Recursos Para el Año 1939". The article in question is no. 48 of this law and in accord with this law, the Argentine newspapers have been getting their paper duty free since that time, because they are considered as cultural organs. The obvious purpose of the suit in question is to endeavor to establish the fact that Prensa and Nación have been using newsprint imported free for other than cultural purposes; and if such a suit would prosper, it would have very serious consequences

for both

for both the Prensa and Nación and for all Argentine newspapers. In view, however, of the fact that Prensa and Nación are probably the only two really solvent newspapers in the Argentine, it would be impossible to collect fines or back duties from the other papers. If, therefore, there were really government backing to such a suit, either direct or indirect, it would have very serious implications for these two newspapers; but what is far more serious would be the action of the Government against freedom of the press which would be indirectly involved if the Government were really attacking La Prensa and La Nación.

I can not in this despatch go into the newspaper situation in Buenos Aires and in the Argentine; but the Department is aware that since the death of Mr. Botana, formerly owner of the Crítica, the only other newspaper property in the Argentine which was really a money maker, other than Prensa and Nación, has disappeared. Most of the newspapers in the Argentine live a very precarious existence. Some of them are undoubtedly receiving government subsidies. Some of them are living in ways it is difficult to determine. Today Prensa and Nación are the only ones in a sound financial state and on a really independent financial basis.

Both of these newspapers have continuously made a good deal of money, and as the Department is aware, this is more particularly true of the Prensa than of the Nación. The financial position of the Prensa has always been particularly strong. Both papers have been able from time to time, and the Prensa almost continuously, to make a good deal of money; and there is no doubt that this duty-free newsprint has been of greater advantage to Prensa and Nación, and particularly to Prensa, than to other newspapers in the Argentine for it is these two papers which carry a very great amount of paid advertising of all kinds and which is most lucrative. It is true, therefore, that they are importing paper duty free which is used for purposes of paid advertising.

I think there is little doubt that the Government is seeking ways and means, as a part of its financial program, to get greater revenue from those newspapers which are really earning a good deal of money and on which they are paying very little tax. I can not enter into the income tax, or general tax, situation in this despatch; but it is my opinion that if these two newspapers have anything to fear, it is not from control of the press in the form of news but rather greater taxes which would apply relatively to all newspapers. The Embassy is going to go into this matter and keep the Department informed; but it is sufficient to say at this time that there is no basis for the statement that the Government is behind this suit which has been instituted against Prensa and Nación. There is every reason to believe that the suit will not prosper and

if any

if any action were taken so far as rescinding the newsprint free importation privilege, it would have to apply to all newspapers and would have to come through an act of the Congress to amend the basic law.

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7/6/9/ The New York Times also published a recent editorial concerning which AP and UP despatches are transmitted herewith. This had reference to an order issued by one of the Argentine administrations to the effect that on specified days in the year, some seven or eight, the Argentine newspapers could not be sold or distributed on the streets in order to give the paper carriers, distributors, et cetera, some days of rest. The principal outcry with respect to this order came from Prensa and Nación which are the principal sufferers therefrom; and while it is believed that the action of the Argentine Government in this respect was unhappy in the form in which it was carried through, there can not be anything basically against such procedure. In Mexico, where I was stationed before I came here, newspapers did not appear on the day following certain holidays. This is a custom in a number of Latin American countries and is a custom in certain other countries of the world. The action of the Argentine Government was exaggerated so far as its importance is concerned and its implications as it was given the appearance in Prensa and Nación in the Argentine, and for example, in the New York Times editorial, as indicating repression of the press or action against the press, when so far as the purpose of the order is concerned, it would be difficult to find anything in it which involved repression of the press or action against it.

So far as I can see, Mr. Kluckhohn should have checked further on this article which he sent to the Times before transmitting it and he should have confined himself to what he had established apparently to be a fact and that is that a suit had been entered against La Nación and La Prensa by a private person acting as an "informer". With respect to the statement that the Argentine Government was behind the suit, he should, I believe, as a responsible correspondent not have made the statement on the basis of the information which he had as he himself has stated to an officer of the Embassy that he did not have too much confidence in his informer and in fact did not consider him reliable.

I think further the statement in Mr. Kluckhohn's article which according to the text we have here reads "At present the members of the Argentine Supreme Court are under impeachment proceedings in the Senate and the nation's court system is increasingly - if not completely - at the mercy of the administration" goes far beyond what we consider responsible reporting which should be factual. It is a fact that the impeachment proceedings have been

undertaken against

undertaken against the Supreme Court and that these are now before the Senate. In that respect, Mr. Kluckhohn's article is correct. When he goes on, however, to state that the Argentine court system is increasingly if not completely at the mercy of the administration, I think Mr. Kluckhohn is going far beyond what it would be proper for him to say, because while there may be those who feel, and those who say, that the Argentine courts are being influenced by the Government and that it is the desire of the executive to control the courts, there is no indication that such control exists at this time and there is no positive indication which would warrant such a statement that the Government intends to exercise such control over the courts. There is no doubt that there are certain persons in the present Argentine Government who are interested in the Government's endeavoring to get control of the courts just as there are certain persons in the Argentine and in the Government who are interested in expropriating practically all foreign interests in doing away with private initiative, et cetera, but so far the action of the responsible Argentine authorities has not been in this sense as reports and despatches of this Embassy which are prepared objectively and on the basis of the facts will show.

Mr. Kluckhohn has indicated that he will come in to see me today as he is obviously disturbed about his article and said over the telephone "I do not think that the New York Times can back down". I informed him that I had no comment to offer as this was a matter for the Times which had a reputation throughout the world for correctness and accuracy and objectivity. I think the matter resolves itself very largely into a question between Mr. Kluckhohn and his own paper because so far as the Times is concerned, I am sure that it will publish the Argentine Government communiqué. I will see Mr. Kluckhohn later today when he has indicated he will come in, but it will be too late for this confidential pouch which leaves today.

While Mr. Kluckhohn's article, I believe, was unfortunate, it has served one purpose and that is of the Argentine Government's definitely going on record and reaffirming its position that there is and will be complete freedom of the press and expression of opinion. There are no indications that there are any restrictions on the press in the Argentine at this time nor since President Perón became President and any allegation or reports in this connection can not be proved and are in fact without foundation. That some of the newspapers such as Critica can not get credit from the banks is undoubtedly true, but the reports which were sent to the United States from here to the effect that it was the Government which had ordered the Banco de Español to refuse credits are not correct. I do not believe that there is a responsible bank in the Argentine

which would

which would give a credit to Critica at this time because its financial position does not warrant it and the Banco de España has stated in the most definite manner that in refusing a credit to Critica it was proceeding entirely on sound financial considerations and without any directives from the Government.

This morning, President Perón made a brief address to the Argentine delegation going to Mexico for the inauguration of President-elect Alemán and in it he made reference to the Kluckhohn story in the Times. As of possible interest in this connection, I send herewith a copy of a memorandum prepared by Mr. Riley, of the Embassy staff, covering the statements made by the President.

After completing the dictation of this despatch Mr. Kluckhohn came in to see me. He had really nothing to say. I gathered the impression that he is disturbed over some phases of the despatch which he sent to the Times. He reiterated that his information came from very reliable sources concerning the conversation in the Presidencia. This, it will be noted, is in contrast to what I have reported in the body of this despatch to the effect that yesterday he informed an officer of the Embassy that he had little confidence in the source of his information as to the alleged conversation.

Mr. Kluckhohn seemed to be interested in knowing my own reaction to his despatch, and I told him that I thought this was a matter between him and the Times. I told him that if I had written the despatch as a correspondent of the New York Times, I would have confined myself to reporting on the information secured as to the filing of a suit by a private person. I said that I would not have made any reference, even as a rumor, to what he said concerning the alleged conversation in the Presidencia as he had too little basis for this and as the Head of State of another country was involved. I said, further, that his article definitely carried the inference that the Government was behind this matter and that he had not had enough information to say this. I further said that if I had been sending the despatch as a correspondent of the Times, I would not have made the remarks with regard to the courts which he made in his despatch to the Times. When he had said that the Supreme Court was under impeachment he was reporting a known fact which he had already reported, but when he said that the courts of the country were under the domination of the Government this was not a fact and known here not to be a fact and, therefore, not proper to state in a despatch to the New York Times.

Mr. Kluckhohn seemed to be interested as to whether I had said anything to the Department so I had no hesitation in giving him the substance of my telegram no. 2401 of November 11, noon. After some rather aimless conversation,

Mr. Kluckhohn

Mr. Kluckhohn left.

After he had left, I saw one of the Secretaries of the Embassy who informed me that before coming in to see me this afternoon, Kluckhohn had been in to see him and said that he "was going to have it out with me". When he was asked what he meant by this, he seemed rather aimless in his reply. After leaving my office, he saw this same Secretary and said that "everything had gone nicely". I am making mention of these apparently trivial details in this despatch because it is quite clear that Mr. Kluckhohn is utterly disorientated and realizes that he has gotten himself into a difficult position. Why he should take this hostile attitude with respect to me and certain officers of the Embassy is inexplicable for we have always endeavored to be as helpful as possible to him and show him every courtesy and consideration. Perhaps the Department in this connection will wish to consider a despatch which, I think, Ambassador Beaulac in Asunción sent to the Department with reference to a visit which Mr. Kluckhohn recently made to Asunción and during which his conduct was anything but courteous and correct towards our Chief of Mission. It may also wish to take into account his recent reporting from La Paz with respect to food-stuffs from Argentina, et cetera, concerning which this Embassy and the Embassy in La Paz have made appropriate comment.

It is also necessary to note that in a conversation which Kluckhohn had with a Secretary of the Embassy yesterday, he stated that his informant had told him that President Perón had pressed Senator Molinari to extend his trip to include the United States. When I mentioned this to Mr. Kluckhohn this afternoon as an indication of the unreliability of his informant in view of the known attitude of President Perón against such a trip, Mr. Kluckhohn blandly stated to me that he had made no such statement to the Secretary of the Embassy. As the Secretary of the Embassy is thoroughly reliable in every respect and whose head is not muddled with liquor at any time, there is no doubt as to who has informed me correctly in this particular respect.

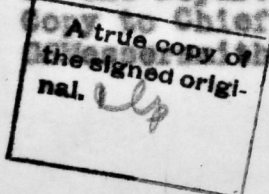
I have added this additional detail as it shows the state of mind of Mr. Kluckhohn who is obviously not in a very clear state of mind.

I am appending hereto clippings which may be of interest.

Respectfully yours,

George S. Messersmith

Enclosures listed on following page
To the Department in quadruplicate
Copy to Chief, Division of River Plate Affairs
for information:elp



Enclosures:

1. Copy of memorandum prepared
by Mr. Riley
2. La Prensa
November 10, 1946
3. La Nación
November 10, 1946
4. The Standard
November 12, 1946
5. The Standard
November 12, 1946
6. The Herald
November 12, 1946
7. Critica
November 11, 1946
8. El Laborista
November 12, 1946
9. Democracia
November 12, 1946
10. El Lider
November 11, 1946
11. The Standard
November 13, 1946
12. The Standard
November 13, 1946
13. The Herald
November 13, 1946
14. La Nación
November 13, 1946
15. La Prensa
November 13, 1946
16. El Mundo
November 13, 1946
17. Clarín
November 13, 1946
18. El Clarín
November 13, 1946
19. El Lider
November 13, 1946
20. Tribuna
November 13, 1946
21. El Laborista
November 13, 1946