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John C. ... 11/30/45

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE VISIT OF A DEMONSTRATION UNIT OF THE ARMY AIR FORCE TO MEXICO CITY FROM DECEMBER 6 TO DECEMBER 10 AND NOT TO BE USED IN ANY WAY BEFORE DECEMBER 3

In accord with arrangements between the appropriate officials of the Mexican Government and our Government, a number of combat units of various types of the United States Army Air Force which participated in the European and Pacific theaters through the war against the common enemy will visit Mexico on a demonstration visit arriving at the Mexico City airport on Thursday, December 6, and returning to the United States on Monday, December 10.

The purpose of the demonstration visit is to make it possible for high officials of the Mexican Government and for the Mexican public to become familiar with these various types of aircraft concerning which they have read so much during the course of the war and in which they have been so much interested.

The return of Squadron 201 recently to Mexico and the demonstrations held in connection therewith have aroused great interest and enthusiasm with respect to the participation of this Squadron in the Pacific theater and naturally deep interest in all phases of the participation. Among the units which will be shown in the demonstration unit will be the type of plane which the Mexican Squadron used as well as the type of very heavy bomber, the operations of which the Mexican Squadron helped to facilitate.

The Mexican Air Force is deeply interested in seeing these various types of planes, none of which it would otherwise ~~not~~ have the opportunity of seeing except through such a demonstration visit. The visit will give the opportunity to high officials of the Mexican military, air and naval establishments to get first hand knowledge of these planes.

The planes will arrive at the Mexico City airport very probably during the course of the morning of Thursday, December 6, and will return to the United States on Monday, December 10. The planes will not be available for visit or inspection on Thursday, December 6. On Friday, December 7, at a time to be determined, the planes will be visited and inspected by the President of Mexico, the members of the

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cabinet and by high officials of the Mexican army, air, and naval establishments. On Saturday, December 8, the planes will be open to visit and inspection by high Mexican civilian officials and officers of the Mexican Army, Air Force, and Navy. On Sunday, December 9, the planes will be open to visit by the public and appropriate arrangements will be made by the military and police authorities so that the opportunity will be afforded to the public for an orderly view of the planes.

An announcement will be made during the first days of next week to indicate at what ~~the~~ time the Americans in Mexico City will have an opportunity of seeing the planes. By arrangement with the Mexican Air Force, it is probable that this will be on Saturday, December 8, between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Notice will be published by the Embassy on the English page of the Mexico City newspapers early next week as to the day and hours during which the Americans resident in Mexico City will have an opportunity of viewing the planes.

November 30, 1945.

BSM:clp