

1666
Enclosure No. 3 to Despatch No. 21,986, dated December 14, 1944 from the American Embassy, México, D.F.

TRANSLATION

Ministry of Foreign Relations
México, D.F.

December 14, 1944.

My dear Mr. Ambassador:

In reply to your letter of December 12, in which you are good enough to set forth the points of view of the Department of State on the Argentine situation and with reference to a future consultative meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the American Continent, I desire first of all - to express to the Department of State my very sincere thanks for having submitted this matter to my consideration, before discussing it with the other Chanceries of this hemisphere.

I consider that the next meeting of Foreign Ministers should be surrounded with all kinds of precautions, to the end that it will not turn out to be a failure. When the Farrell Government requested a meeting of Ministers to consider its situation, it was following one of the two following objectives: to receive the recognition of all of the American countries in a graceful form, or to provoke disunion among the other American countries. The reaching of either of these objectives would signify a moral breakup of Continental unity.

I consider that the proposal submitted by the Department of State is practical in all of its aspects, if all of the precautions are taken to assure beforehand the agreement of the other countries which will meet in the meeting of Foreign Ministers, to the end that there be excluded from this meeting the present governments of Argentina and El Salvador. The reason on which this exclusion would be based is that the great majority of the American countries do not have relations with the Farrell Government nor with the de facto government of Salvador. Therefore, it is not possible to invite these to a meeting of Foreign Ministers as this would imply "recognition" or a reestablishment of normal diplomatic relations which the majority of the American countries are not disposed to give at present.

The plan should be made known, first, to all of the countries which do not maintain relations with the Farrell Government; and once a majority of these can be counted upon to be in accord with the plan, the proposal may be presented to the countries which have recognized the Farrell Government, namely, Chile, Bolivia, Paraguay and Ecuador, as something which has already been agreed upon by the majority of the American states, to the end that they will place themselves in

accord

1666

accord with these majorities. But even in this case, the procedure should be such that there will be eliminated all possible pretext on the part of any state to show disagreement even in the form of abstention on the question of the exclusion of the present governments of Argentina and El Salvador. If such procedure is not followed, we would run the risk that even before the meeting would take place the problem of the Argentine at the solicitation of the Farrell Government could be raised or through the interpellation of any one of the countries. In this way before or during the meeting there would be frustrated the proposal to not discuss except at the end of the assembly the Argentine case. And at all moments we would be in the danger that there would be produced a dissension in the midst of the conference.

If we guarantee in this way previously the success of the meeting, I consider practical the procedure suggested by the Department of State and very convenient a near meeting of Foreign Ministers.

In the hope of knowing your opinion with respect to these further amendments to the plan suggested by the Department of State, I take pleasure in reiterating the assurances of my sincere friendship, high consideration and personal esteem.

Ezequiel Padilla