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TELEGRAM SENT

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US URGENT

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WASHINGTON

687 - June 6, 1 p.m. (1947)

For the President and Secretary Marshall.

I am drafting this telegram under the assumption that the President is familiar with the substance my telegram 676, June 5, 10 a.m. and 682, June 5, 1 p.m. to you and that the President and you have read my telegram 677 of June 5, 11 a.m., the foregoing having reference to your telegram to me no. 478 of June 4, 7 p.m.

I am completely in the dark as to what has been happening and the reasons therefor and as the matter is one which goes beyond any personal considerations I think it is important that the President and you have the following chronological data. The personal message from you to me conveyed in your telegram 478 of June 4, 7 p.m. reached me about 9:30, June 5, and I immediately transmitted the personal telegram 676, June 5, 10 a.m. as I thought it desirable the President and you have certain information in reply thereto before the President's press conference mentioned in your telegram 478, June 4, 7 p.m.

In my telegram 677 of June 5, 11 a.m. for you and the President, I did not submit a resignation but stated that I accepted the President's decision that my mission was completed here and that I was to return to the United States. In my telegram no. 682, June 5, 1 p.m., I informed you that I had not been able to reach the Foreign Minister to carry through the instruction in the last paragraph of your telegram 478 of June 4, 7 p.m. until after the news came in from the press agencies in Washington covering the President's press conference during which he is reported to have said that I had not resigned nor been recalled but would return having completed

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successfully my specific mission and I, therefore, conveyed to Foreign Minister before noon the substance of the statements of the President at the press conference.

On June 2, President Perón had asked Mrs. Messersmith and me to lunch with him and Mrs. Perón privately on June 5 in view her departure today to various European countries. I informed the President before lunch of the substance of the press conference of President Truman and that while I could not give any definite indication as to when I would be leaving I would keep him advised. The President expressed deep concern and disappointment and said that while it might be possible for him and the members of the Government to understand in a measure my leaving here, the Argentine people would not be able to understand it. I said to the President that my principal concern had been and was that the relationships between the two countries should be put on the normal collaborative and friendly basis on which they now are as indicated in your statements to the press and that my only desire was to see that situation consolidated and regretted that I could not continue to play a part therein. The President had obvious and very strong feelings for there is no doubt of his real desire to place the relationships between the Argentine and ourselves on that basis and so maintain them but frankly stated that he saw this made more difficult. I emphasized that no consideration concerning me must be permitted to interfere with the consolidation of that situation.

I wish the President to know how deeply I appreciate the statements he made to the press on June 5 which obviously were made before he had been able to read my telegram no. 677 of June 5, 11 a.m., and which I, therefore, appreciate and value all the more.

In view of the President's statement that I had not resigned and not been recalled and as my telegram 677 of June 5, 11 a.m., was based on your telegram 478, June 4, 7 p.m. and the acceptance of a situation therein set forth, I am unable to understand the reported statement to the press last evening by the Department that it was now able to state that my resignation had been accepted.

I have received numerous inquiries for comment on various phases of this whole matter and have refrained from making any.

Some of the press comment from home is to the effect that my resignation is to become effective immediately and that I will be returning immediately.

I have not and I shall not inject any personal considerations into this matter any more than I have in my work for our Government in the past, but I am sure that the President and you will wish to see that I receive that consideration which is decent and proper

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and that the handling of this matter will be such as not in any way to interfere with consolidation of friendly relations between the two countries. I would appreciate your giving me adequate clarification of the situation after having consulted with the President. I feel a very deep responsibility in this matter and for my guidance must have information on the following points.

1. As I have not submitted any resignation to the President, has my "resignation" been accepted by him?

2. If so, when is it to be effective and before my departure or on arrival in the United States, which latter would be more customary and fitting in the particular circumstances?

3. I must travel by steamer and sailings are infrequent. There is a sailing of a passenger vessel of the Delta Line for New Orleans on June 20 and July 11 and on the S.S. ARGENTINA Moore-McCormack Line, on August 15. As I have valuable household effects which must be packed under our supervision it will be extremely difficult for this and other controlling reasons for us to leave on June 20 and July 11 would be more acceptable and I would prefer that sailing if agreeable to the President and to you.

I am refraining from any comment whatever to the press or otherwise for the present.

I would appreciate a copy of this telegram being brought to the President's attention whom I wish to have the assurance that I continue to keep in mind above all things the importance of our relationships with this and the other American countries.

MESSERSMITH

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DRAFTED: GSM

ENCODED: ASW

Original and 3 copies typed: ej

Copies to: the Ambassador  
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