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Enclosure No. 1 to Despatch No. 21,476 of November 17,  
from the American Embassy, Mexico, D.F.

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SECRET

Mexico, D.F.,  
November 17, 1944.

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

I talked with Mr. Armour and Mr. Spaeth in the Department over the telephone this morning at about 11 o'clock, Mexico City time, saying that I had received the Department's helpful telegram No. 2024 of November 16, 2 p.m. I said that I was planning to see Dr. Padilla during the day as he was going to Monterrey on official business, to be absent for some days, but that I would be able to remain in contact with him there if necessary.

I said I gathered from the above-mentioned telegram that our objective was a meeting of Foreign Ministers without the Argentine as long as this present Government was in power in view of the fact that nothing could be accomplished by dealing with the men actually in power in the Argentine. Mr. Armour and Mr. Spaeth said that that was what we thought was the best course but that naturally we were not refusing to sit in such a meeting if the other American Republics would insist upon it.

I said I was not clear altogether with respect to the statement in the telegram under reference, having regard to Dr. Padilla's second memorandum that steps in that direction are unquestionably premature - reference being made to my telegram No. 1423 of November 14, 6 p.m. I asked Mr. Armour and Mr. Spaeth if by this they meant that they thought that Dr. Padilla should not continue with the consultations with the other American Republics along the lines of the two memoranda he has already delivered to them, with the exception of the Argentine. They said that they did not mean that they were against his continuing such consultation but they thought that it would not lead to any useful result in the sense that Dr. Padilla had in mind - that is, getting adequate changes in the Argentine. I asked specifically if the telegram meant that I was to discourage Dr. Padilla from further explorations with the American Republics which he had under way with reference to arriving at a common attitude of what could be said or should be said to the Argentine regime. They said that they saw nothing against this and there was no reason why I should say anything discouraging in that sense.

I expressed my appreciation to Mr. Armour and Mr. Spaeth for this clarification as it would help me in my conversation with Dr. Padilla.

Mr. Armour and Mr. Spaeth were good enough to express appreciation of the way in which I was handling this delicate matter here and said that the Department was entirely satisfied with the way I was handling it and again expressed appreciation of what I was doing.

At this

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At this moment the communication was interrupted and when it was renewed Mr. Armour said that he had merely intended to say further how much the Department appreciated what I was doing here in this delicate matter and that I was also to say to Dr. Padilla how much we appreciated his helpful collaboration.