

Correspondência expedida

1914

To the Honorable Woodrow Wilson,

President of the United States,

My Dear Mr. President: White House.

I have read with much interest and a great deal of satisfaction those portions of your speeches in which you have referred to the future relations of the United States with Latin American Countries. I particularly have in mind your speech made at Mobile last October and your recent address delivered at Philadelphia on July 4th.

Your assurances to the effect that the future policy of the United States towards Latin America will be guided by a spirit of justice and of mutual interest is extremely gratifying and if carried into effect, as it no doubt will be, it should remove the fear and distrust which unfortunately has existed in the past - perhaps erroneously - towards the policies of the United States, and conquer in its stead the friendship and trust of all Latin America.

It may be due to a misunderstanding, but nevertheless it is a fact, that in many of the actions of the United States in their relations with these countries, we have felt that only the interests of the former have been consulted, and even the Monroe Doctrine, which no doubt has been a great protection to the weaker countries of this Hemisphere, has been looked upon as conceived solely for the protection of the United States.

Your desire for a better understanding, which will make it possible for your policy of consulting mutual interests to be a practical one, has prompted me to address this personal letter to you, for it seems to me that it would be of great assistance in bringing about that friendly understanding mentioned in your speeches and so greatly desired by us, to communicate by means of informal personal letters the impressions which the ~~XXXXXXXX~~ acts of one country make upon the people of the other. These impressions of the people are after all a great factor in preserving

or cementing the friendship between two countries, or causing an estrangement or distrust, and not infrequently the manner of executing a perfectly ^{is} ~~friend~~ proper and friendly act, which is as important as the act itself, is done in such a manner that it destroys all the beneficial ~~effects~~ ^{results} expected of it.

The Weitzel-Chamorro Treaty, for example, which is now pending before the Senate of the United States, is the cause of much speculation in Central America and is looked upon with misunderstanding and no good will. In the United States, I understand, the public opinion considers this action of the Government as almost philanthropic, as coming to the rescue of a country in trouble and that in order to give Nicaragua financial assistance, the United States is willing to pay for a canal zone and a naval base that it does not consider itself very much in need of, and is willing besides to assume the responsibility of a Protectorate over Nicaragua for the benefit ~~and protection~~ of that country, and no doubt it appears to you that the people of Nicaragua, through their Government, are requesting this aid of the United States. From your point of view this action of the American Government must appear as most liberal, and that it will make a favorable impression in Central America and strengthen further the ties of friendship which exist between ~~the~~ small countries and the great North American Republic. In Central America however, this most important matter is looked upon from an entirely different point of view. The public opinion here is undoubtedly quite in disaccord with that in your country and it is not believed that the United States is guided in this matter by a desire to aid Nicaragua, but that an attempt is being made to acquire the canal concession from Nicaragua by means similar to those used at Panama, and knowing how you have disavowed that action of the American Government with the Republic of Colombia, we cannot help feeling convinced that you have not looked

at this matter from our point of view, and for this reason I take the liberty of calling it to your attention. In Central America it is feared that the Protectorate over Nicaragua is a step ~~towards~~ towards a predetermined plan to acquire control of all the Central American Republics.

Sometime ago it was rumored here that you intended to send a personal representative of very high standing on a visit to the five Central American Republics to study conditions more closely than has been done in the past and create a stronger friendship and better understanding between these countries and the United States. This project was well received in Central America as showing a desire on your part to obtain the true facts and reliable information as to the conditions here, to serve as a guide for the future dealings of the United States with these Republics. With past administrations we have too often felt that conclusions were arrived at in Washington, affecting our countries, without the United States Government having shown much desire to obtain reliable knowledge of conditions.

If you should now carry out your idea of sending a personal representative to investigate thoroughly all the phases of the Nicaragua situation before further action is taken by the Senate of the United States on the Nicaragua Treaty, it will have the happiest result in establishing confidence in the sincerity of purpose of the Government of the United States.

As a result of his mission, your representative should be able to present this important matter in a new and different form which would secure for the United States all the essential benefits of the Treaty and remove all the fear and distrust, which its present form seems to have created.

With assurances of my distinguished consideration, I have the

honor to be

Yours very sincerely,

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Fernando de Robles

Hon. Woodrow Wilson,
President of the United States,
White House.

My dear Mr. President:-

It is with great interest and appreciation that

I have read those portions of your speeches referring to the
future relations of the United States with Latin-America. In
particular your speech at Mobile in October last and your recent
address in Philadelphia on July Fourth.

We have been accustomed, in Latin-America, to
dealing with a United States whose policy towards our countries
appears to have been based almost exclusively upon its own
interests. Even the Monroe Doctrine, which has been of great
protection to the weaker Republics on this continent, having
been conceived entirely for the protection of the United States.

You may consider then, how welcome to us are these expressions

from you as to a future policy based on mutual interest. If

your intentions are only carried into effect you should win

for the United States the friendship and trust of all Latin-

America, where now exist suspicion, fear and dislike.

It is in the interest of a fuller and more friendly understanding, which shall aid in the making effective of your policy, that I am writing you this personal letter. Much information as to the sentiment and desires of our countries is debarred by diplomatic usage from coming before you through the usual channels. This is ~~especially~~ true as to the effect on public opinion of various acts of the United States ~~States~~. It would seem to be of great assistance in ^{bringing} about that friendly understanding that you desire, to communicate by means of informal personal letters the impressions that the actions of one country are making upon the people of another. It is, after all, the impressions that are obtained by the public that finally determine the question of friendship or dislike between alien peoples. The method by which a perfectly proper act may be carried out may be as important as the act itself.

There is action pending now on the part of the United States that is productive of much misunderstanding and ill will in Central America. This is in connection with Nicaragua. In the United States I understand the matter is

looked upon in the light of coming to the rescue of a country that is in trouble and that in order to give Nicaragua financial assistance you are willing to pay for a canal zone and naval bases that you do not consider yourselves very much in need of. Also that you are willing to assume the responsibility of a protectorate for the benefit of Nicaragua. And it appears to you that the people of Nicaragua are requesting this aid of you through their government. From your viewpoint this must appear as a disinterested action calculated to win the friendship of Central America.

In Central America the public has quite a different viewpoint of the matter. No credence is popularly given to any idea that the United States is actuated by a desire to aid Nicaragua. The popular impression is that an attempt is

being made to acquire the Nicaragua Canal by means similar to those that it is charged were used to acquire Panama, only the details of the Nicaragua matter are held to be considerably the worse of the two. The public fear that the protectorate is only one step in a plan to acquire control of all Central

States. As a result of his mission such a man should be able to

America.

It is because I am positive that it has never
occured to you that it was possible to view the Nicaragua matter
 from such a ^{standpoint} ~~XXXXXXXX~~ that I call it to your attention.

Towards the end of February it was rumored that
 you intended to send a personal representative, of very high
 standing, to visit all Central America to study conditions and
 create a more friendly understanding with the United States.
 This idea was welcomed in Central America as showing a desire
 on your part to secure first hand knowledge of our countries
 as a ~~XXXXX~~ basis for future relations. In past administrations
 we have too often felt that relations were determined in Wash-
 ington without there having been any desire to have real
 knowledge of our conditions.

If you should now carry out this idea of sending
 a personal representative and have him investigate all phases
 of the Nicaragua situation, before action is taken on the
 Treaty, it would have the happiest results in establishing
 public confidence in the integrity of purpose of the United
 States. As a result of his mission such a man should be able to

present to you a program that would secure to the United States all the essential benefits in the purposed Nicaragua Treaty, but secure them with the goodwill and confidence of Central America in place of its distrust and dislike.

I have the honor of subscribing myself,

Sincerely yours;

President of Costa Rica, C.A.

because I am positive and

because I am positive and

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San José, Costa Rica,
October 31st., 1914.

To the Honorable Woodrow Wilson,
President of the United States, Marine Building, which
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United States towards Latin America will be guided by a spirit of
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carried into effect, as it no doubt will be, it should remove the
fear and distrust which unfortunately has existed in the past -
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and conquer in its stead the friendship and trust of all Latin
America.

It may be due to a misunderstanding, but nevertheless it is
a fact, that in many of the actions of the United States in their

relations with these countries, we have felt that only the interests of the former have been consulted, and even the Monroe Doctrine, which no doubt has been a great protection to the weaker countries of this Hemisphere, has been looked upon as conceived solely for the protection of the United States.

Your desire for a better understanding, which will make it possible for your policy of consulting mutual interests to be a practical one, has prompted me to address this personal letter to you, for it seems to me that it would be of great assistance in bringing about that friendly understanding mentioned in your speeches and so greatly desired by us, to communicate by means of informal personal letters the impressions which the acts of one country make upon the people of the other. These impressions of the people are after all a great factor in preserving or cementing the friendship between two countries, or causing an estrangement or distrust, and not infrequently the manner of executing a perfectly proper and friendly act, which is as important as the act itself, is done in such a manner that it destroys all the beneficial results expected of it.

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