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Mother and Her Majesty's Government subscribe to the position that if the convention did not bear the meaning attached to it by the government of the United States, it would have imposed upon the government of the United States a self-denying obligation which was not equally contracted by Great Britain, and that such a state of things could not have been in the intention of the contracting parties, because the execution of it bear the meaning attached to it by the U. S., it would then have imposed upon Great Britain the obligation to renounce possessions and rights without any equivalent renunciation on the part of the United States. If the government of the United States can complain in the case of the construction as pressed by Lord Bodley that such construction is unfavorable to the United States, with much greater reason might the government of Great Britain, on the other case, if the assumption of the United States were to be acted upon in the construction of the convention, complain of it as prejudicial to England.

But looking at the object the contracting parties had in view at the conclusion of the convention, namely, the security of the proposed ship canal, the British government considered that the design of the contracting parties was not to disturb any state of things then existing, but to secure the future creation of a state of things which might by possibility interfere with the security of the canal. Such, as my predecessor stated in the design of the convention is obvious from the provision in the sixth article, by which the contracting parties engaged to invite every State to enter into stipulations with them similar to those contained in the convention. But if the positions of the United States government were sound, and the convention was intended to interfere with the state of things existing at the time of its conclusion, and to impose upon Great Britain to withdraw from portions of territory occupied by it, a similar obligation would be contracted by other States according to the rules of interpretation, as stated in the seventh article,) and the government of the Central American States would, by the mere act of accession, sign away their rights to the territories in which they are situated.

The British government share the conviction of the President of the United States that the interest of the two countries, and their common desire to maintain existing friendly relations with other independent powers in the neighborhood of the Mosquito territory, strongly point to the necessity of removing, as far as possible, every cause of jealousy and misunderstanding, but to guard against the future creation of a state of things which might by possibility interfere with the security of the proposed ship canal, the British government considered that the design of the contracting parties was not to disturb any state of things then existing, but to secure