

WNCC 091 - PANAMA
Miscellaneous

LIST OF PAPERS

FILE UNDER NO. SWNCC 091 - PANAMA

Serial No.	From	Date	To	Synopsis
1	Act. Sec. Grew	3/23/45	Sec. Stimson	Letter enclosing correspondence re Panamanian interests in bombing of vessel "Masbat" at Macoa.
2	Sec. of War	11/22/46	Sec. of State	Re: Defense Sites Agreement with Panama.
3	Sec. of War	1/27/47	Governor of Panama Zone	Re: Panama defense sites.
4	Sec. of War	8 Mar 47	Sec. of State	Re: Negotiations for the Defense sites in Panama.
5	Sec. of the Army	2 Feb. 48	Sec. of State	Re: Possibility of the Panamanian Government indicating a desire to reopen discussions with respect to U.S. requirements for defense sites in Panama.
6	Sec. of the Army	2 Mar 48	Sec. of Defense	Panama Defense Sites Negotiations
7	Sec. of the Army	10 Jun 48	Sec. of State	Ltr re: Re-institution of direct importation of alcoholic beverages into the Canal Zone.
8	Sec. of the Army Dir. of Logistics	9 Jul 48 28 Jun 48	Sec. of State	SUMMARY: Cable for government of Panama establish communications between Albrook Air Force Base in Canal Zone and Tocuma International Air Port in Panama - Army would determine quantity and type cable required and advise State.

SECRET

091 Panama

1 APPROVAL
2 SIGNATURE

1 CHIEF OF STAFF
2A/ SECRETARY OF THE ARMY

Exec Br. Exec Office, Leg Div.

Major Buntell/72878

CROSS/AL 8145

Cable for Government of Panama

28 JUN 1948

SUMMARY

1. Reference is made to a request from the Department of State for cable to establish communications between Albrook Air Force Base in the Canal Zone and Tocumen International Air Port in Panama, and the interim reply thereto, dated 15 March 1948, stating that the Department of the Army would determine the quantity and type cable required and advise the Department of State as to availability.

2. The Commander-in-Chief, Caribbean Command, has confirmed that the cable is available in local Army stocks and recommends authority be granted to make surplus declaration thereof for conditional sale to the Government of Panama since a communications line between the two airfields, over which the U.S. Government might exercise control, would contribute to the military security of that area. The type cable involved is currently under procurement in the U.S. and, although excess in the Caribbean Command, it is not surplus to overall Signal Corps requirements. It is estimated that 17 miles of cable, valued under current procurement rates at approximately \$100,000, will be needed to establish this facility.

3. The Government of Panama has subsequently indicated an intent to pay for the installation and maintenance of the proposed communications line, but not for the cable itself. Accordingly, since sale of this material can no longer be considered applicable, the military justification for establishing this facility has been examined. In this connection the following factors were considered jointly by representatives of the Departments of the Army and Air Force in coordination with the Department of State and the Civil Aeronautics Administration:

a. The only air traffic control center operated in Panama or the Canal Zone is the U.S. Air Force center at Albrook Air Force Base. With the establishment of the International Airport at Tocumen the necessity arises for control of aircraft destined for or departing from these two airfields. Due to the proximity of the fields an unsafe operating condition would arise if all aircraft movements in the area were not controlled or coordinated in the same traffic control center. The Government of Panama has recently requested that Albrook assume traffic control of Tocumen aircraft. However, if the U.S. does not support Panama's request, assistance may be accepted from using carriers of other governments resulting in the establishment of an independent facility. Installation of the cable in question would permit the U.S. to exercise traffic control of all aircraft in the area thus contributing to the air safety and defense of the Canal Zone.

b. State Department and Civil Aeronautics Administration representatives point out that use of this cable to support operations at Tocumen will serve as an incentive for Panama to accept the terms of a bilateral Civil Air Transport agreement to be negotiated with the Republic in the near future.

4. It is concluded that the cable should be made available as a matter of military necessity in accordance with provisions of an agreement to be negotiated by the Department of State and acceptable to the Departments of the Army and Air Force between the U.S. and the Republic of Panama under the following conditions:

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- a. The cable remain the property of the National Military Establishment.
- b. The cost of installation and maintenance during peacetime of the facility to borne by the Government of Panama.
- c. The operational control of the line of communications be vested in the U.S. during peacetime.
- d. Operational control and responsibility for maintaining the communications line be vested in the U.S. Government in time of emergency.
- e. Since the military objective to be accomplished by providing this cable is of primary interest to the Air Force, the supplying agency will be instructed to apply this requirement, under appropriate accounting and supply control procedures, to the U.S. Air Force.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

6. It is recommended that the attached letter to the Assistant Secretary of State, outlining the terms under which cable will be made available for use by the Government of Panama, be signed and dispatched.

COORDINATION:

U.S. Air Force (Col C. M. Jones/3481) concurs.
 Plans and Operations Division, USA (Maj N. E. Cole/71079) concurs.
 Office, Chief Signal Officer (Col A. E. Wray/5248) concurs.
 Office, Judge Advocate General (Lt Col R. E. Benthere/3251) no legal objection.

2 Incls.

- 1-Ltr to AS/State for sig AS/A.
- 2-OCS R/S, 11 Feb 48, w/incl (Ltr fm AS/State, 9 Feb 48)

SANACC SECRETARIAT

- State Member _____
- Army Member _____
- Navy Member _____
- Air Force Member _____
- Ass't State Member _____
- Ass't Army Member _____
- Ass't Navy Member _____
- Ass't Air Force Member _____

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NOTED - DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF
U. S. ARMY 30 JUN 1948
WAK

SIGNED

H. S. AURAND
Lieutenant General, GSC
Director of Logistics

RECEIVED
 JUL 13 1948
 State Army Navy Air Force
 Coordinating Committee

4852

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Major Boutell/72678/hhn

~~rewritten: CSUSA/2455~~~~Lt Col Harris/av/bjs~~

Honorable Garrison Norton
 Assistant Secretary of State
 Department of State

9 JUL 1948

Dear Mr. Norton:

This is a final reply to your letter dated February 9, 1948, file IV.

Reference my interim reply dated March 15, 1948, the Commander in Chief, Caribbean Command, has advised the Department of the Army that the necessary cable for the establishment of communication between Albrook Air Force Base and Tocumen International Airport is available in U.S. Army stocks in the Canal Zone. Although the type cable required is excess to the Caribbean Command, it is not over and above Army-wide requirements and cannot be sold to the Government of Panama as surplus property.

However, in view of the military considerations involved the problem has been reviewed jointly with the U.S. Air Force and discussed with representatives of your Department and the Civil Aeronautics Administration in conjunction with the proposed bilateral Civil Air Transport Agreement to be negotiated with the Government of Panama. It has been recognized, in conjunction with this agreement, that certain military objectives can be achieved by establishing control of air traffic at Tocumen through a communications tie-in with the facilities at Albrook.

Accordingly the Department of the Army agrees to make the cable available for this purpose provided the Department of State will negotiate an agreement acceptable to the Departments of Army and Air Force incorporating the following conditions:

- a. The cable remain the property of the National Military Establishment.
- b. The cost of installation and maintenance during peacetime of the facility be borne by the Government of Panama.

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c. The operational control of the line of communication be vested in the U.S. during peacetime.

d. Operational control and responsibility for maintaining the communication line be vested in the U.S. Government in time of emergency.

Pending Department of State concurrence to the above proposal, the Commander in Chief, Caribbean Command, will be advised of the conditions under which the cable will be provided.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) G. K. Heiss

~~Gordon Gray
The Assistant Secretary of the Army~~

G. K. HEISS
Colonel, U. S. G.
Executive, OASA

SECRET

(8)

CONFIDENTIAL

P&O/LA Br/71079
Major N. E. Cole/flw

10 JUN 1948 *Ken Mason*

The Honorable

The Secretary of State

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Reference is made to your letter, dated 12 March 1948, forwarding your comments on my proposed action as outlined in my memorandum of 23 February 1948 concerning the (re-institution of direct importation of alcoholic beverages into the Canal Zone.)

I have been recently reviewing the situation imposed on the residents of the Canal Zone under paragraph 8, Executive Order 6997, dated 25 March 1945. The present restrictions which have necessitated the importation of alcoholic beverages through the Republic of Panama, where excessive import duties have been levied, has caused me to consider the practicability of utilizing the provisions of Executive Order 9746, dated 1 July 1946, in order to alleviate this condition. I do not believe that the proposed action on our part will cause any further lessening of the goodwill of the Republic of Panama.

In view of current developments, I would appreciate an expression of your views on the timeliness of ameliorating this situation.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) KENNETH C. ROYALL

Kenneth C. Royall
Secretary of the Army
SANACC SECRETARIAT

4815

Copies furnished

- OSA (2)
- OC/S
- TAG
- P&O



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- Army Member
- Navy Member
- Air Force Member
- Ass't State Member
- Ass't Army Member
- Ass't Navy Member
- Ass't Air Force Member

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 - Next to 'Army Member': *JK*
 - Next to 'Navy Member': *JK*
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#14-A SANACC

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3 1948



2 MAR 1948

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MEMORANDUM FOR: THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
SUBJECT: Panama Defense Sites Negotiations

1. Reference is made to your Memorandum of 24 January 1948 transmitting a letter from the Department of State, subject as above.

2. Pursuant to your request I have obtained and transmitted to the Department of State the agreed opinions of the Departments of the Army, Navy and Air Force. There is attached for your information a copy of the letter to the Department of State.

SANACC SECRETARIAT

(Signed) KENNETH C. Royall

State Member
Army Member
Navy Member
Secretary of the Army

1 Incl
Copy ltr to S/S
from S/A
RECEIVED OF THE USMA
OFFICE

Air Force Member
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COORDINATION & RECORD
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CONFIDENTIAL

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CONFIDENTIAL

091 Panama

The Honorable

8 FEB 1948

The Secretary of State

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Your letter of 23 January 1948 to the Secretary of Defense concerning the (possibility of the Panamanian Government indicating a desire to reopen discussions with respect to United States requirements for defense sites in Panama) has been referred to me with the request that I inform you of the position of the National Military Establishment on this matter.

Essentially the same requirements that prompted our recent unsuccessful attempt to consummate an agreement with the Republic of Panama on the defense sites issue prevail at this time. Under the circumstances I believe it inadvisable for this Government to initiate any action that would tend to prompt the Panamanian Government to reopen discussions on the defense sites; however, in the event that Panama does indicate its desire to reopen this matter, the National Military Establishment is of the opinion that this Government should indicate its willingness to consider the Panamanian proposals. If negotiations should be reopened in the immediate future, the minimum military requirements for defense sites would be approximately the same as heretofore. However, the passage of time, coupled with constant review of our defense requirements might indicate changes therein. The State Department will be kept informed of such changes.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd) **KENNETH C. ROYALL**

Kenneth C. Royall
Secretary of the Army
OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY

FEB 4 1948

SWNCC SECRETARIAT



WAR RELIEF & RECONSTRUCTION
COMMISSION

- State Member
- Army Member
- Navy Member
- Ass't State Member
- Ass't Army Member
- Ass't Navy Member
- Executive Secretary
- Ass't Exec. Secretary
- State Adm. Assistant
- Army Adm. Assistant
- Navy Adm. Assistant
- File

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3 FEB 18 1948

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CONFIDENTIAL

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TOP SECRET

091 Panama
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Cross

The Honorable
The Secretary of State

22 AUG 1947

Dear Mr. Secretary:

May I refer you to your letter of 19 August 1947 relative to negotiations with the Republic of Panama for a Defense Sites Agreement.

I am entirely in accord that expeditious action should be initiated to present to the Government of the Republic of Panama a proposal for the settlement of the defense sites problem. To this end, Draft "G" has been modified in a manner compatible with your suggestions and those submitted by the Embassy. I believe that Draft "G" is a more desirable instrument than the Alfaro proposal, but appreciate that it may not be entirely acceptable to Panama. As you have pointed out, the existing circumstances in Panama may lead to favorable consideration of Draft "G", and therefore, I agree that it should be presented forthwith to the appropriate Panamanian authorities.

Should it appear that Draft "G" is not likely to be acceptable or that its presentation is resulting in digression into a negotiating phase, I share your thought that it must be immediately withdrawn. Should this situation arise, I agree that the Alfaro Plan should be presented at once on a "take-it-or-leave-it" basis.

You will note that as an effort to satisfy Panamanian susceptibilities, the War Department has revised its requirements as to the duration of rights in the various defense sites, omitting in this case the requirement for an option of renewal. While it is desirable from a military point of view to insure that the military authorities have the right to the use of the Panama Airport, I share your opinion that in the event of an emergency, such rights could probably be acquired. Therefore, reference to the new international airport of Panama has been deleted from the proposed agreement.

Sincerely yours,

SWNCC SECRETARIAT

(Sgd. KENNETH C. ROYALL

Kenneth C. Royall
Secretary of War

- State Member _____
- Army Member _____
- Navy Member _____
- Ass't State Member _____
- Ass't Army Member _____
- Ass't Navy Member _____
- Executive Secretary _____
- Ass't Exec. Secretary _____
- State Adm. Assistant _____
- Army Adm. Assistant _____
- Navy Adm. Assistant _____
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2 Incls

- 1. Draft "G"
- 2. S/D Draft

TOP SECRET

(4)

091 Panama

R&O 091 Panama (25 Feb 47)

SECRET

8 - MAR 1947

The Honorable
The Secretary of State

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Reference is made to your letter of January 14, 1947 with regard to the negotiations for the Defense Sites in Panama in which you suggest the ferry service at Balboa be improved in order that at the appropriate time request could be made to release us from our commitment in the May 10, 1942 Agreement.

I have now received a rather complete report on the ferry service at Balboa from the Governor of the Panama Canal Zone. A copy is inclosed for your information.

Apparently the ferry service at Balboa is now satisfactory and any changes would be quite expensive. Inasmuch as the report, required by Public Law 280 - 79th Congress, for increasing the capacity and security of the Panama Canal will include plans for changes in the transportation service at Balboa and will be received by 31 December 1947, I suggest that we take no specific action until plans for the revision of the Canal are approved.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) ROBERT P. PATTERSON

1 Incl
Cy of ltr from
Governor of the
Panama Canal, dtd
25 February 1947

Secretary of War

SWNCG SECRETARIAT

- State Member _____
- Army Member _____
- Navy Member _____
- Ass't State Member _____
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- Ass't Navy Member _____
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- State Adm. Assistant _____
- Army Adm. Assistant _____
- Navy Adm. Assistant _____
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3643

U.S. DEPT. OF WAR & NAVY DECLASSIFIED
COMMITTEE

SECRET

Copy for SWNCG
(4)

SECRET

*091 Panama
Mrs.*

27 JAN 1947

Brig. Gen. Joseph C. McHaffey
Governor The Panama Canal
Balboa Heights, Canal Zone

Dear Governor:

A copy of the letter from the Secretary of State and the War Department's reply on the Panama Defense Sites problem is inclosed. Your attention is invited to the next to the last paragraph of the letter of the Secretary of State with regard to improving the ferry service at Balboa.

In this respect it is desired that you make a study of the problem and submit your recommendations to me. In the meantime, it is desired that you improve the ferry service now existing at Balboa to the extent practical at this time.

There is also inclosed for your information a copy of the letter to General Grittenberger.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) ROBERT P. PATTERSON
Secretary of War

3 Incls
Ltr from Sec of State to
Sec of War, dtd 14 Jan.
Ltr from Sec of War to
Sec of State.
Ltr to Gen. Grittenberger.

SWNCC SECRETARIAT

- State Member _____
- Army Member _____
- Navy Member _____
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- Ass't Navy Member _____
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- Army Adm. Assistant _____
- Navy Adm. Assistant _____
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Panamanians to tolerate Washington their national highway near the Rio Hato base. I think we should therefore reroute the highway at **January 14, 1947** such a way as to by-pass the airstrip which presently cuts across the road.

SECRET With respect to transportation across the Canal at Balboa, we have both a moral obligation and a definite commitment to Panama. The Zone divides the Republic into two distinct parts and since passage across it depends *091 Panama Wise -*
 My dear Mr. Secretary: provide, these facilities should be made entirely consistent with Panamanian needs. On May 18,

1946 Reference is made to your letter of December 7, 1946 and to General Lincoln's memorandum, with enclosure, of December 9, 1946, relative to the defense sites issue in Panama. As you know, officials of this Department had the opportunity of discussing this problem in some detail with the Panamanian Foreign Minister in New York and during his subsequent visit to Washington. However, before Dr. Alfaro returned to Panama late in December the Acting Foreign Minister had accepted from Ambassador Hines for his Government's consideration a draft of our proposed new defense sites agreement.

I feel that the mere act of receiving and discussing the draft represents an improved disposition on the part of the Panamanian authorities to negotiate a new agreement. Dr. Alfaro is again insisting on terminating the 1942 agreement and substituting for it some interim arrangement to be effective until a new accord can be reached. With respect to the draft agreement, he is concerned over its extent and great detail. Dr. Alfaro has made specific mention of our desire to double the acreage at Rio Hato. If we can reduce our presently estimated needs at this base, I am sure it would facilitate negotiations.

It is my opinion that in the course of these discussions in Panama we must be prepared to meet certain Panamanian desires which I feel are entirely justified; namely, the construction either of a tunnel under or a road around the Rio Hato airstrip and a substantial improvement of transportation facilities across the Canal at Balboa. We cannot expect the

Panamanians

The Honorable
 Robert P. Patterson
 Secretary of War

SECRET

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Panamanians to tolerate our interruption of traffic on their national highway near the Rio Hato base. I think we should therefore reroute the highway at our expense in such a way as to by-pass the airstrip which presently cuts across the road.

With respect to transportation across the Canal at Balboa, we have both a moral obligation and a definite commitment to Panama. The Zone divides the Republic into two distinct parts and since passage across it depends on the facilities we provide, these facilities should be made entirely consonant with Panamanian needs. On May 18, 1942, we agreed to construct a tunnel under or a bridge over the Canal at Balboa when the war emergency had ended. This would be an expensive undertaking which it is desirable to avoid if possible. To do so, we must guarantee wholly adequate transportation across the Canal. Accordingly, I suggest that the present ferry service be greatly improved to the extent that we could justifiably at the appropriate time request Panama to release us from our commitment.

I should appreciate receiving your views on the foregoing at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely yours,

/signed/ James F. Byrnes

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The Honorable

The Secretary of State

27 JAN 1947

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Reference is made to your letter of 14 January concerning the Panama Defense Sites Agreement.

It was hoped that it would be possible to negotiate a new defense agreement without the intermediate temporary agreement. However, I understand the position Dr. Alfaro is taking and the War Department will accept any temporary agreement which contains the minimum provisions for working interim agreement as recommended by General Crittenberger in his memorandum forwarded to you as an enclosure of General Lincoln's memorandum to State Department, 9 December 1946. In this connection it is important that the temporary agreement provide for retention of U. S. troops on defense sites without withdrawal and that the agreement has no definite period of duration which might result in an embarrassing position for the War Department as the end of the period approaches if no new agreement is reached.

The principal increase in acreage at Rio Hato is to provide an impact area for a permanent training ground. It is not a requirement of the airfield. It is probable that this requirement could be met in some subsequent arrangement. General Crittenberger has full authority to adjust this matter and I will see that he is instructed to discuss the problem with Ambassador Hines.

The War Department responsibility to relocate the Panama Highway at Rio Hato is fully realized. I am willing that this be made a provision of the base agreement and will also see that General Crittenberger is instructed to discuss this item with Ambassador Hines.

Transportation across the canal at Balboa is a function of the Governor of the Panama Canal. I am instructing him to submit his recommendations to me and in the meantime to proceed with improving the ferry service at Balboa as much as is practical at present.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) ROBERT P. PATTERSON

Secretary of War

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091 Panama (14 Jan 47)

21 January 1947

SUBJECT: Defense Sites Issue in Panama

TO: Lt. Gen. Willis D. Crittenger
Caribbean Defense Command
Quarry Heights, Canal Zone

1. A copy of a letter from the Secretary of State and the Secretary of War's reply on the Panama Defense Sites problem is enclosed for your information and guidance.
2. Since the additional acreage at Rio Hato is required not for the airbase but for ground training facilities it is believed that use of such acreage could be obtained under an informal agreement subsequent to the Base Agreement. It is desired that you discuss this with Ambassador Hines with a view to deleting from the Rio Hato Base that acreage not required for the airbase.
3. The relocation of the Panama National Highway at Rio Hato is a War Department responsibility and it is desired that you work out its solution with Ambassador Hines and incorporate it in the Base Agreement.
4. There is also included for your information a copy of a letter to the Governor of the Panama Canal on increasing ferry service at Balboa.

FOR THE CHIEF OF STAFF:

3 Incls
 Ltr frn Sec. of State
 to Sec of War, dtd 14 Jan.
 Ltr frn Sec. of War to
 Sec. of State
 Ltr to the Gov. of the
 Panama Canal.

LAMAR HORSYAD
 Major General, USG.
 Director of Plans & Operations.

(Sgd)
 John C. Steele
 Lt. Col., U.S.C.
 Executive, A.O.

SECRET

TOP SECRET



*091 Panama
misc.*

P&O 686 TS (12 Nov 46)

The Honorable

The Secretary of State

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of November 12 with regard to the U. S. interpretation of the Defense Sites Agreement of May 18, 1942 with Panama. Your action in protecting the War Department position on defense sites in the Republic of Panama is appreciated, and I concur heartily with you in entering into a new agreement with Panama at the earliest possible date.

Colonel R. B. Warren, Base Planning Section, Plans and Operations Division, War Department, extension 6709, is designated as the War Department representative for discussions in connection with drafting the new agreement.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) ROBERT P. PATTERSON

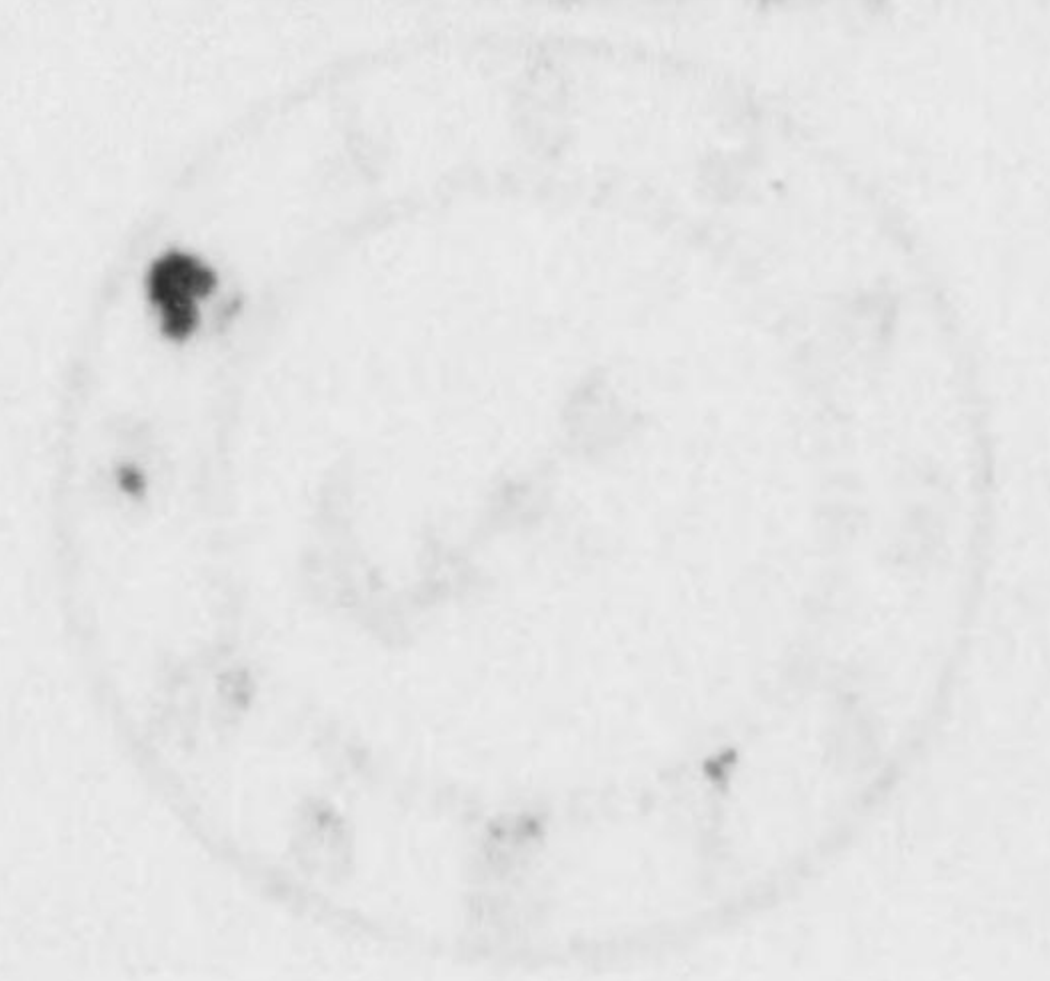
Secretary of War

SWNCC SECRETARIAT

- State Member _____
- Army Member _____
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- Executive Secretary _____
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- State Adm. Assistant _____
- Army Adm. Assistant _____
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OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF WAR



NOV 22 1946

TOP SECRET

SWNCC

(2)

25

March 29, 1945

*Mr. Stinson
State War Dept
auditing room
Room 178*

RESTRICTED

In reply refer to
SWP 740.0011 Pacific War/3-2045

*091
Panama*

My dear Mr. Secretary:

I am enclosing for your attention copies of four telegrams recently received from the American Embassy at Chungking concerning two reported attacks on January 16 and February 25, 1945, respectively by American planes on the Panamanian vessel Masbate while lying in the harbor at Macao. There are also enclosed a copy of the Department's communication to the American Embassy at Panama on March 12 and a copy of a communication which is now being sent to that Mission.

It will be noted from this correspondence that the master of the Masbate is requesting the Panamanian Government to enter a strong protest against these reported attacks and to claim compensation for the damage allegedly done. The master also requests that steps be taken to prevent recurrence of the attacks. In addition the Norwegian Embassy at Chungking has requested information concerning the steps taken by this Government to prevent repetition of the attacks on the Masbate.

I should appreciate it if the War Department would investigate these reported attacks in order that this Department may be prepared to answer any protest which the Panamanian Government may care to make in this regard.

In the

The Honorable

Henry L. Stinson,

Secretary of War.

-2-

In the event that investigation should establish that United States aircraft have attacked Portuguese territory, I should appreciate being informed whether steps have been taken to prevent a recurrence of such an infraction of neutral Portuguese territory at Macao, a procedure which would likewise prevent a repetition of the reported attacks on the Masbate.

A letter in a similar sense is being sent to the Secretary of the Navy.

Sincerely yours,

Joseph C. Grew
Acting Secretary.

Enclosures:

1. From American Embassy, Chungking, no. 127, January 29, 1945.
2. From American Embassy, Chungking, no. 348, March 2, 1945.
3. From American Embassy, Chungking, no. 430, March 14, 1945.
4. From American Embassy, Chungking, no. 461, March 20, 1945.
5. To American Embassy, Panama, no. A-282, March 12, 1945.
6. To American Embassy, Panama.

A true copy of
the signed original.

SWP:GTHawley:MA

3-23-45

WE CCA NOE

COPY SWP:MA
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DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

LFR-941
This telegram must be
paraphrased before being
communicated to anyone
other than a Government
Agency. (RESTRICTED)

Chungking via Navy

Dated January 29, 1945

Rec'd 9:35 a.m.

Secretary of State,

Washington.

Tel. #127, January 29, 8 a.m.

British Embassy informs us it has received from
British Consul at Macao message for this Embassy as
follows:

"I have been asked to forward following:
Panamanian steamship PORTUGAL ex-MASBATE Self
Norwegian master machine-gunned by Allied plane
in broad daylight when lying in Macao Portuguese
waters. Ship under repair and empty. Crew:
One killed, one injured. Hereby enter strong
protest. Will claim compensation. Reporting to
you as representing Panamanian interests.
Jorgensen."

We are sending copy of message to local United
States Army Headquarters.

HURLEY

BB

COPY SWP:MA
COMP *[Signature]*

DEPARTMENT OF STATE INCOMING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

MH-1277
This telegram must be
paraphrased before being
communicated to anyone
other than a Government
Agency. (RESTRICTED)

Chungking
Dated March 2, 1945
Rec'd 10:35 a.m.

Secretary of State,

Washington.

348, March 2, 5 p.m.

Embassy's 127, January 29, air attack on
Panamanian steamship PORTUGAL EX-MASBATE.

According to letter from LMBMN United States
Army headquarters results of investigation indicate
that plane participating in attack was not under
China Theater Command.

ATCHESON

WSB

COPY SWP:MA
COMP for

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

EDW-1313

This telegram must be paraphrased before being communicated to anyone other than a Government Agency. (RESTRICTED)

Chungking via Navy
Dated March 14, 1945
Rec'd 2 p.m.

Secretary of State

Washington

430, March 14, 1 p.m.

Following is text of telegram received by British Embassy from British Consul Macao regarding attack on SS MASBATE (Embassy's 348, March 2, 5 p.m.):

"Reporting to you as Panamanian representative. Panamanian ship with my Norwegian master was machine-gunned by American planes in Macao harbor January 16. One of the crew killed, another wounded, damage to ship amounts to 4,200 Macao patacas. Again machine-gunned and near-missed bombed by American planes February 25. Self wounded forehead and leg, damage to ship over 10,000 Macao patacas. All wounded still in hospital. Will claim damages. Ship and crew absolutely loyal to Allied cause, in refuge here against Japanese seizure. Please protest appropriate quarter at once and obtain assurance against repetition. Trygve Jorgensen."

Norwegian Embassy has given us text of similar telegram received through British Embassy from British Consul Macao. He has requested that investigation be made and steps be taken to prevent recurrence. US Army Headquarters here informed.

ATCHESON

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INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

GEM-1054

This telegram must be
paraphrased before being
communicated to anyone
other than a Governmental
agency. (RESTRICTED)

Chungking via Navy

Dated March 20, 1945

Rec'd 9 a.m.

Secretary of State,

Washington.

461, March 20, 8 a.m.

Norwegian Embassy has formally requested informa-
tion (Embassy's 430, March 14) regarding steps taken
to prevent repetition of attacks on SS MASBATE.

ATCHESON

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RESTRICTED

A-282

March 12, 1945

American Embassy,

Panama.

Panamanian Interests - Macao.

British Embassy Chungking recently transmitted to American Embassy a message from British Consul at Macao which concerns Panamanian interests Macao. Substance of message follows:

According to Jorgensen, the Norwegian master of Panamanian steamship Portugal (ex Masbate), when vessel was lying in Portuguese waters Macao it was machine-gunned by Allied plane in broad daylight. Vessel was empty and being repaired. One member of crew injured and one killed. Strong protest is entered and compensation will be claimed. Report being made to British Consul as representing Panamanian interests.

Department is informed that results of investigation show that plane which attacked was not under China Theater Command.

Please communicate foregoing to Panamanian Foreign Office.

740.0011 EW/3-245

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AIRGRAM

SECRET

American Embassy,

Panama.

Panamanian Interests - Macao

Reference Department's A-282 March 12, 1945 concerning reported attacks on Panamanian vessel Masbate (Portugal).

Department has received additional message from British Consul at Macao through Embassy Chungking. Substance of message follows:

Norwegian master of Panamanian ship was machine-gunned on January 16 in Macao harbor by American planes. Damage to vessel amounts to 4,200 Macao patacas. One member of crew wounded and one killed. On February 25 American planes again machine-gunned and near-missed bombed. Damage to vessel over 10,000 Macao patacas. Master wounded leg and forehead. All wounded crew members are still in the hospital. Damages will be claimed. Ship and crew in refuge here against seizure by Japanese and are completely loyal to Allied cause. It is requested that a protest be made in appropriate quarter immediately. Please obtain assurances so incident will not be repeated. Trygve Jorgensen.

Please communicate foregoing to Panamanian Foreign Office.

For the Embassy's information Norwegian Embassy Chungking has formally requested information concerning steps which have been taken to prevent repetition of attacks on the Masbate. United States Army Headquarters at Chungking have been informed by American Embassy.

740.0011 Pacific War/3-2045

25

March 29, 1945

*Mr. Morley
State-Nav-Dep
conducting Com.
Room 17A*

RESTRICTED

In reply refer to
SWP 740.0011 Pacific War/3-2045

My dear Mr. Secretary:

I am enclosing for your attention copies of four telegrams recently received from the American Embassy at Chungking concerning two reported attacks on January 16 and February 25, 1945, respectively by American planes on the Panamanian vessel Masbate while lying in the harbor at Macao. There are also enclosed a copy of the Department's communication to the American Embassy at Panama on March 12 and a copy of a communication which is now being sent to that Mission.

It will be noted from this correspondence that the master of the Masbate is requesting the Panamanian Government to enter a strong protest against these reported attacks and to claim compensation for the damage allegedly done. The master also requests that steps be taken to prevent recurrence of the attacks. In addition the Norwegian Embassy at Chungking has requested information concerning the steps taken by this Government to prevent repetition of the attacks on the Masbate.

I should appreciate it if the Navy Department would investigate these reported attacks in order that this Department may be prepared to answer any protest which the Panamanian Government may care to make in this regard.

In the

The Honorable

James Forrestal,

Secretary of the Navy.

243

-2-

In the event that investigation should establish that United States aircraft have attacked Portuguese territory, I should appreciate being informed whether steps have been taken to prevent a recurrence of such an infraction of neutral Portuguese territory at Macao, a procedure which would likewise prevent a repetition of the reported attacks on the Masbate.

A letter in a similar sense is being sent to the Secretary of War.

Sincerely yours,

Joseph C. Grew

Acting Secretary.

Enclosures:

1. From American Embassy, Chungking, no. 127, January 29, 1945.
2. From American Embassy, Chungking, no. 348, March 2, 1945.
3. From American Embassy, Chungking, no. 430, March 14, 1945.
4. From American Embassy, Chungking, no. 461, March 20, 1945.
5. To American Embassy, Panama, no. A-282, March 12, 1945.
6. To American Embassy, Panama.

A true copy of
the signed origi-
nal.

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3-23-45

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DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

LFR-941
This telegram must be
paraphrased before being
communicated to anyone
other than a Government
Agency. (RESTRICTED)

Chungking via Navy

Dated January 29, 1945

Rec'd 9:35 a.m.

Secretary of State,

Washington.

Tel. #127, January 29, 8 a.m.

British Embassy informs us it has received from
British Consul at Macao message for this Embassy as
follows:

"I have been asked to forward following:
Panamanian steamship PORTUGAL ex-MASBATE Self
Norwegian master machine-gunned by Allied plane
in broad daylight when lying in Macao Portuguese
waters. Ship under repair and empty. Crew:
One killed, one injured. Hereby enter strong
protest. Will claim compensation. Reporting to
you as representing Panamanian interests.
Jorgensen."

We are sending copy of message to local United
States Army Headquarters.

HURLEY

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

MH-1277

This telegram must be
paraphrased before being
communicated to anyone
other than a Government
Agency. (RESTRICTED)

Chungking
Dated March 2, 1945
Rec'd 10:35 a.m.

Secretary of State,

Washington.

348, March 2, 5 p.m.

Embassy's 127, January 29, air attack on
Panamanian steamship PORTUGAL EX-MASBATE.

According to letter from LMBMN United States
Army headquarters results of investigation indicate
that plane participating in attack was not under
China Theater Command.

ATCHESON

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INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

EDW-1313

This telegram must be paraphrased before being communicated to anyone other than a Government Agency. (RESTRICTED)

Chungking via Navy
Dated March 14, 1945
Rec'd 2 p.m.

Secretary of State

Washington

430, March 14, 1 p.m.

Following is text of telegram received by British Embassy from British Consul Macao regarding attack on SS MASBATE (Embassy's 348, March 2, 5 p.m.):

"Reporting to you as Panamanian representative. Panamanian ship with my Norwegian master was machine-gunned by American planes in Macao harbor January 16. One of the crew killed, another wounded, damage to ship amounts to 4,200 Macao patacas. Again machine-gunned and near-missed bombed by American planes February 25. Self wounded forehead and leg, damage to ship over 10,000 Macao patacas. All wounded still in hospital. Will claim damages. Ship and crew absolutely loyal to Allied cause, in refuge here against Japanese seizure. Please protest appropriate quarter at once and obtain assurance against repetition. Trygve Jorgensen."

Norwegian Embassy has given us text of similar telegram received through British Embassy from British Consul Macao. He has requested that investigation be made and steps be taken to prevent recurrence. US Army Headquarters here informed.

ATCHESON

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INCOMING
TELEGRAM

VISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

GEM-1054

This telegram must be
paraphrased before being
communicated to anyone
other than a Governmental
agency. (RESTRICTED)

Chungking via Navy

Dated March 20, 1945

Rec'd 9 a.m.

Secretary of State,

Washington.

461, March 20, 8 a.m.

Norwegian Embassy has formally requested informa-
tion (Embassy's 430, March 14) regarding steps taken
to prevent repetition of attacks on SS MASBATE.

ATCHESON

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A-282

March 12, 1945

American Embassy,

Panama.

Panamanian Interests - Macao.

British Embassy Chungking recently transmitted to American Embassy a message from British Consul at Macao which concerns Panamanian interests Macao. Substance of message follows:

According to Jorgensen, the Norwegian master of Panamanian steamship Portugal (ex Masbate), when vessel was lying in Portuguese waters Macao it was machine-gunned by Allied plane in broad daylight. Vessel was empty and being repaired. One member of crew injured and one killed. Strong protest is entered and compensation will be claimed. Report being made to British Consul as representing Panamanian interests.

Department is informed that results of investigation show that plane which attacked was not under China Theater Command.

Please communicate foregoing to Panamanian Foreign Office.

740.0011 EW/3-245

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American Embassy,

Panama.

Panamanian Interests - Macao

Reference Department's A-282 March 12, 1945 concerning reported attacks on Panamanian vessel Masbate (Portugal).

Department has received additional message from British Consul at Macao through Embassy Chungking. Substance of message follows:

Norwegian master of Panamanian ship was machine-gunned on January 16 in Macao harbor by American planes. Damage to vessel amounts to 4,200 Macao patacas. One member of crew wounded and one killed. On February 25 American planes again machine-gunned and near-missed bombed. Damage to vessel over 10,000 Macao patacas. Master wounded leg and forehead. All wounded crew members are still in the hospital. Damages will be claimed. Ship and crew in refuge here against seizure by Japanese and are completely loyal to Allied cause. It is requested that a protest be made in appropriate quarter immediately. Please obtain assurances so incident will not be repeated. Trygve Jorgensen.

Please communicate foregoing to Panamanian Foreign Office.

For the Embassy's information Norwegian Embassy Chungking has formally requested information concerning steps which have been taken to prevent repetition of attacks on the Masbate. United States Army Headquarters at Chungking have been informed by American Embassy.

740.0011 Pacific War/3-2045