

Small files: Guatemala: Small files: Guatemala - 8

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Guatemala

23 June - 6 July 54

Quintanilla, Luis (Chairman of The Inter-American Peace Committee)

- 3 letters to D. H.
- 1 letter to the Chargé d'Affaires of Guatemala
- 1 letter to the Ambassador of Honduras in USA.

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24 June 1954
ENGLISH
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CABLEGRAM DATED 23 JUNE 1954 FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF
THE INTER-AMERICAN PEACE COMMISSION
ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I HAVE THE HONOUR TO INFORM YOUR EXCELLENCY, AND THROUGH YOUR INTERMEDIARY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 54 OF THE UNITED NATIONS CHARTER, THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL, THAT ON 19 JUNE THE GOVERNMENT OF GUATEMALA THROUGH ITS CHARGE D'AFFAIRES IN WASHINGTON REQUESTED URGENTLY CONVENING OF THE INTER-AMERICAN PEACE COMMITTEE IN ORDER THAT "IT MAY TAKE THE MEASURES NECESSARY TO PREVENT THE DISRUPTION OF PEACE AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY IN THIS PART OF CENTRAL AMERICA AND ALSO TO PUT A STOP TO THE AGGRESSION IN PROGRESS AGAINST GUATEMALA". ON 21 JUNE THE GUATEMALAN CHARGE D'AFFAIRES APPLIED AGAIN TO THE COMMITTEE REQUESTING IT TO SUSPEND, FOR THE REASONS GIVEN IN THE SECOND DOCUMENT TRANSMITTED BY AIRMAIL, THE CONSIDERATION OF THE ABOVE-MENTIONED MEASURES. ON THE NIGHT OF 21 JUNE THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES OF GUATEMALA SENT THE COMMITTEE A THIRD NOTE IN WHICH HE ASKED THAT THE PARAGRAPH PREVIOUSLY INSERTED IN HIS FIRST COMMUNICATION SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WITHDRAWN. THE COMMITTEE WAS ABLE IN GOOD TIME TO INFORM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES OF GUATEMALA OF THE RECEIPT OF THESE THREE COMMUNICATIONS. FURTHERMORE, ON 22 JUNE THE AMBASSADOR OF HONDURAS IN WASHINGTON ASKED TO BE RECEIVED BY THE COMMITTEE IN ORDER TO TRANSMIT TO IT ON BEHALF OF HIS GOVERNMENT A COMMUNICATION CONCERNING THE CHARGES CONTAINED IN THE STATEMENT MADE BY THE GOVERNMENT OF GUATEMALA IN ITS NOTE OF 19 JUNE. FINALLY, THE AMBASSADOR OF NICARAGUA IN WASHINGTON TODAY REQUESTED A HEARING AT THE SAME TIME AS THE AMBASSADOR OF HONDURAS IN ORDER TO TRANSMIT TO THE COMMITTEE A COMMUNICATION FROM HIS GOVERNMENT. AT THIS AFTERNOON'S MEETING, DURING WHICH THE REPRESENTATIVES OF NICARAGUA AND HONDURAS HAD AMPLE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS, THE REPRESENTATIVE OF NICARAGUA MADE A CONCRETE PROPOSAL THAT THIS COMMITTEE SHOULD FORTHWITH SET UP A COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY CONSISTING OF MEMBERS OF THIS COMMITTEE TO PROCEED TO GUATEMALA, HONDURAS AND NICARAGUA TO OBTAIN THE NECESSARY INFORMATION TO ENABLE THE COMMITTEE TO ESTABLISH THE FACTS AND TO SUGGEST EFFECTIVE METHODS OF ACHIEVING A SPEEDY SETTLEMENT OF THE DISPUTE. THIS PROPOSAL WAS IMMEDIATELY SUPPORTED BY THE REPRESENTATIVE OF HONDURAS, AND BY UNANIMOUS DECISION OF THE COMMITTEE

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S/3245
English
Page 2

THE GOVERNMENT OF GUATEMALA WAS INFORMED OF THE FOREGOING THROUGH ITS CHARGE
D'AFFAIRES IN WASHINGTON. IN TRANSMITTING THIS INFORMATION THE COMMITTEE TOOK
THE LIBERTY OF EXPRESSING ITS HOPE THAT THE GUATEMALAN GOVERNMENT WOULD SEE FIT
TO AGREE TO THE PROPOSED PROCEDURE. ASSURING YOU THAT I WILL KEEP YOU INFORMED
OF DEVELOPMENTS IN CONNEXION WITH THIS INCIDENT, I HAVE THE HONOUR TO BE ETC.

(Signed) AMBASSADOR LUIS QUINTANILLA
CHAIRMAN OF THE INTER-AMERICAN PEACE COMMITTEE

Unofficial translation

INTER-AMERICAN PEACE COMMITTEE
Pan American Union
Washington 6, D.C.

27 June 1954

Mr. Secretary-General:

I have the honour to transmit to your Excellency, with this communication, copies of the following documents:

A Note from the Guatemalan Charge d'Affaires to the President of the Committee, dated 26 June;

A Note from the President of the Committee to the Charge d'Affaires of Guatemala, dated 27 June;

A Note from the President of the Committee to the Ambassador of Nicaragua in Washington, dated 27 June;

A Note from the President of the Committee to the Ambassador of Honduras in Washington, dated 27 June.

As indicated in the above-mentioned documents, the Inter-American Peace Committee, with the consent of the three Parties, has decided to establish itself as a Committee of Information and travel tomorrow to Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua, in accordance with the following itinerary:

1. - Leaving Washington Monday 28 at 9:00 p.m.; arriving in Guatemala Tuesday afternoon on the 29th; leaving Guatemala on Friday afternoon 2 July.
2. - Arriving in Honduras Friday night 2 July; leaving Honduras Monday afternoon, 5 July.
3. - Arriving in Nicaragua, Monday night 5 July; leaving Nicaragua, to return to Washington, Thursday 8 July; arriving in Washington, Friday 9 July.

Your Excellency may be assured that the Committee will continue to inform the United Nations on developments regarding this matter. I beg of you to bring the information herein contained to the attention of his Excellency the President of the Security Council of the United Nations.

(Signed) Ambassador Luis Quintanilla
Chairman of the Committee

His Excellency
Mr. Dag Hammarskjöld
Secretary-General of the United Nations
New York.

Unofficial summary translation

No. 867

Washington, D.C., 26 June 1954

Excellency:

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's note of today's date.

Having transmitted to my Government the contents of your note I have received instructions to communicate in reply to your Excellency, and through your offices to the Inter-American Peace Committee the following:

In view of the fact that since 20 June the case of aggression against Guatemala has been on the agenda of the Security Council of the United Nations at the request of my Government under Article 35 of the United Nations Charter and furthermore in view of the fact that the Council postponed consideration of the case until it receives a report from the Inter-American Peace Committee on the denounced aggression, the Government of Guatemala is willing to facilitate the achievement of this purpose as soon as possible and considering the generous offer of that high body places at the disposal of the Inter-American Peace Committee and the Committee on Information that it may appoint all the available facilities, assistance and information that can be helpful in the fulfillment of its task.

The Government of Guatemala considers that in fulfilling its task the Inter-American Peace Commission would, with the same facilities, assistance and information that would be offered to it, fulfill its task which by its own decision and at the request of the Governments of Honduras and Nicaragua it has been entrusted, The fulfillment of its task would in no way affect action by the Security Council regarding the act of aggression against Guatemala.

The Government of Guatemala hopes that the good offices of the Committee will contribute to clarifying the facts of the aggression denounced by the Guatemalan Government and to put an end to the bloodshed and destruction that is affecting the country in this criminal aggression.

I have the honour to be, etc.

(Signed) Alfredo Chocano.

His Excellency
Dr. Luis Quintanilla
Chairman of the Inter-American Peace Committee
Washington, D.C.

Unofficial summary translation

27 June 1954

Sir:

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your note of yesterday's date and to thank you for kindly delivering it to me personally.

By mandate of the Committee I have the honour to communicate to your Excellency that the Inter-American Peace Committee sees with pleasure the expressions contained in your note to the effect that the Government of Guatemala places at the disposal of the Inter-American Peace Committee and the Committee on Information that it may appoint, all the available facilities, assistance and information for the best way of fulfilling its task.

In this as in all its acts the Committee proceeds as an agent of the American regional system and its action is taken under its own responsibility. This action has been and will always be taken under the exclusive authority, and independently, by the Committee whose mandate, conferred by the American Governments under resolution 14 of the Second meeting of Foreign Ministers of the American Republics and confirmed by resolution CII of the Tenth Inter-American Conference, is to see that any conflict that arises between American countries finds a peaceful and friendly solution and to that end to suggest methods for their solution.

In accordance with resolution 14 and Article 23 of the Statute the Committee will inform the consultative meeting and Inter-American Conference on the development of this matter as well as the results of its activities relating to the same matter. Similarly it will inform the Security Council of the United Nations in accordance with Article 54 of the United Nations Charter.

Taking into consideration the expression of hospitality and cooperation to which you refer in your note, the Inter-American Peace Committee has decided to constitute itself in a Committee on Information and to travel tomorrow to Guatemala, for three days and then continue to Honduras and Nicaragua for the fulfillment of its task.

I have the honour to be, etc.

(Signed) Ambassador Luis Quintanilla
Chairman of the Committee

Don Alfredo Chocano
Chargé d'Affaires of Guatemala
Washington, D.C.

Unofficial summary translation

Washington, D.C., 27 June 1954

Letters addressed to:

His Excellency Dr. Guillermo Sevilla Sacasa,
Ambassador of Nicaragua,
Washington, D.C.

His Excellency Dr. Rafael Heliodoro Valle,
Ambassador of Honduras,
Washington, D.C.

(With reference to the suggestion of Dr. Guillermo Sevilla Sacasa presented to the Committee on 23 June) I have the pleasure of informing you that with the consent of the three interested parties the Committee has decided to constitute itself in a Committee on Information and to visit Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua in accordance with the following itinerary:

1. - Leaving Washington Monday 28 at 9:00 p.m.; arriving in Guatemala Tuesday afternoon on the 29th; leaving Guatemala on Friday afternoon 2 July.
2. - Arriving in Honduras Friday night 2 July ; leaving Honduras Monday afternoon, 5 July.
3. - Arriving in Nicaragua, Monday night 5 July; leaving Nicaragua, to return to Washington, Thursday 8 July; arriving in Washington, Friday 9 July.

Hoping that the decision of the Committee as well as the date set for the Committee to visit Nicaragua/Honduras would meet with your approval, I remain etc.

(Signed) Ambassador Luis Quintanilla
Chairman of the Committee

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6 July 1954
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LETTER DATED 27 JUNE 1954 FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE INTER-AMERICAN
PEACE COMMITTEE ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit to your Excellency herewith copies of the following documents:

A Note from the Chargé d'Affaires of Guatemala to the Chairman of the the Committee, dated 26 June;

A Note from the Chairman of the Committee to the Chargé d'Affaires of Guatemala, dated 27 June;

A Note from the Chairman of the Committee to the Ambassador of Nicaragua in Washington, dated 27 June;

A Note from the Chairman of the Committee to the Ambassador of Honduras in Washington, dated 27 June.

As indicated in the above-mentioned documents, the Inter-American Peace Committee, with the consent of the three Parties, has decided to establish itself as a fact-finding Committee and travel tomorrow to Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua, in accordance with the following itinerary:

1. - Leave Washington Monday, 28 June at 9:00 p.m.; arrive in Guatemala Tuesday afternoon, 29 June; leave Guatemala on Friday afternoon, 2 July.
2. - Arrive in Honduras Friday night, 2 July; leave Honduras Monday afternoon, 5 July.
3. - Arrive in Nicaragua, Monday night, 5 July; leave Nicaragua for Washington, Thursday, 8 July; arrive Washington, Friday, 9 July.

Assuring you that the Committee will continue to keep the United Nations informed of developments in this matter, I have the honour to request you to bring the contents of this letter to the attention of his Excellency the President of the Security Council of the United Nations.

I have the honour, etc.

(Signed) Luis Quintanilla
Ambassador,
Chairman of the Committee

Note dated 26 June 1954 from the Chargé d'Affaires of Guatemala
addressed to the Chairman of the Inter-American Peace Committee

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's note of today's date.

I have transmitted the contents of your note to my Government and have received instructions to communicate the following reply to your Excellency, and through you to the Inter-American Peace Committee:

In view of the fact that the case of aggression against Guatemala brought before the Council by my Government in the exercise of its right under Article 35 of the United Nations Charter has been on the agenda of the United Nations Security Council since 20 June, and in view also of the fact that the Council has postponed consideration of the case until it receives a report from the Inter-American Peace Committee on the reported aggression, the Government of Guatemala, anxious to facilitate the achievement of this purpose as soon as possible and considering the generous attitude shown by the Committee, makes available to the Inter-American Peace Committee and the fact-finding committee appointed by it all the facilities at its disposal, and any assistance and information it can furnish to assist it in the fulfilment of its task.

The Government of Guatemala considers that in carrying out the mission that has been entrusted to it, the Inter-American Peace Committee will be able, with the facilities, assistance and information offered to it, to fulfil the task for which it has assumed responsibility by its own decision and at the request of the Governments of Honduras and Nicaragua, which will in no way impair the action of the Security Council regarding the case of aggression against Guatemala.

I trust that the work of the Inter-American Peace Committee on this occasion will help to elucidate the facts of the aggression reported by the Guatemalan Government and to put an end to the bloodshed and destruction which have been brought upon my country by the criminal aggression of the invaders.

I have the honour to be, etc.

(Signed) Alfredo Chocano.

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6 July 1954
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CABLEGRAM DATED 5 JULY 1954 FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE INTER-AMERICAN
PEACE COMMITTEE ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I HAVE THE HONOUR TO INFORM YOU AND THROUGH YOU THE PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS
OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL THAT THE INTER-AMERICAN PEACE COMMITTEE
RECEIVED TELEPHONIC COMMUNICATIONS AT MEXICO CITY ON 2 JULY FROM GUATEMALA,
HONDURAS AND NICARAGUA IN WHICH THE AUTHORITIES OF THOSE SISTER REPUBLICS
CORDIALLY THANKED THE COMMITTEE FOR ITS GOOD OFFICES IN CONNEXION WITH THE RECENT
DISPUTE INVOLVING THOSE THREE COUNTRIES AND INFORMED THE COMMITTEE THAT THE
DISPUTE WHICH WAS THE CAUSE OF THE COMMITTEE'S JOURNEY HAD CEASED TO EXIST
BETWEEN THEM STOP WE SHALL HAVE THE HONOUR TO SUBMIT VERY SHORTLY A COMPLETE
REPORT ON THE COMMITTEE'S ACTIVITIES IN CONNEXION WITH THE AFOREMENTIONED DISPUTE
STOP I HAVE THE HONOUR ETC.

(Signed) LUIS QUINTANILLA, AMBASSADOR
CHAIRMAN OF THE INTER-AMERICAN
PEACE COMMITTEE

Note dated 27 June 1954 from the Chairman of the Inter-American
Peace Committee addressed to the Chargé d'Affaires of Guatemala

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your note of yesterday's date and to thank you for kindly delivering it to me personally.

On behalf of the Committee I have the honour to inform you that the Inter-American Peace Committee welcomes the intimation in your note that the Government of Guatemala makes available to the Inter-American Peace Committee and the fact-finding committee appointed by it all the facilities at its disposal, and any assistance and information it can furnish to assist it in the fulfilment of its task.

In this as in all its activities the Committee is acting as an agent of the American regional system and the action it takes is on its own responsibility. This action has been and will always be taken under its exclusive authority, and independently by the Committee, whose terms of reference, conferred by the American Governments under resolution XIV of the Second meeting of Foreign Ministers and confirmed by resolution CII of the Tenth Inter-American Conference, are to ensure that any disputes that may arise between American countries should be settled by pacific and friendly means and to that end to suggest methods and initiatives for their solution.

In accordance with resolution XIV and Article 23 of its Statute the Committee will inform the consultative meeting and Inter-American Conference on developments in this matter and on the results of its activities in this connexion. It will also inform the Security Council of the United Nations in accordance with Article 54 of the United Nations Charter.

Taking into consideration the expression of hospitality and co-operation referred to above, the Inter-American Peace Committee has decided to establish itself as a fact-finding Committee and to travel tomorrow to Guatemala, for three days and then continue to Honduras and Nicaragua to complete its task.

I have the honour to be, etc.

(Signed) Luis Quintanilla
Ambassador,
Chairman of the Committee

Note dated 27 June 1954 from the Chairman of the Inter-American Peace
Committee addressed to the Ambassador of Nicaragua in Washington

With reference to your note of 23 June and the suggestion you made on 23 June, I have pleasure in informing you that with the consent of the three interested parties the Committee has decided to establish itself as a fact-finding Committee and to visit Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua in accordance with the following itinerary:

1. - Leave Washington Monday 28 at 9:00 p.m.; arrive in Guatemala Tuesday afternoon, 29 June; leave Guatemala on Friday afternoon, 2 July.
2. - Arrive in Honduras Friday night, 2 July; leave Honduras Monday afternoon, 5 July.
3. - Arrive in Nicaragua, Monday night, 5 July; leave Nicaragua for Washington, Thursday, 8 July; arrive in Washington, Friday, 9 July.

I trust that the decision taken by the Committee and the date proposed for its visit to Nicaragua will meet with your approval.

I have the honour, etc.

(Signed) Luis Quintanilla
Ambassador,
Chairman of the Committee

Note dated 27 June 1954 from the Chairman of the Inter-American Peace
Committee addressed to the Ambassador of Honduras in Washington

Sir,

With reference to your note of 22 June and the suggestion made by his Excellency Dr. Guillermo Sevilla Sacasa, Ambassador of Nicaragua, and supported by you at the Committee's meeting on 23 June, I have pleasure in informing you that with the consent of the three interested parties the Committee has decided to establish itself as a fact-finding Committee and to visit Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua in accordance with the following itinerary:

1. - Leave Washington Monday 28 at 9:00 p.m.; arrive in Guatemala Tuesday afternoon, 29 June; leave Guatemala on Friday afternoon, 2 July.
2. - Arrive in Honduras Friday night, 2 July; leave Honduras Monday afternoon, 5 July.
3. - Arrive in Nicaragua, Monday night, 5 July; leave Nicaragua for Washington Thursday, 8 July; arrive in Washington Friday, 9 July.

I trust that the decision taken by the Committee and the date proposed for its visit to Honduras will meet with your approval.

I have the honour, etc.

(Signed) Luis Quintanilla
Ambassador,
Chairman of the Committee
