

CENTRAL AMERICA.

DISSOLUTION OF THE UNITED STATES OF CENTRAL AMERICA.

Mr. Merry to Mr. Hay.

No. 174.]

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
San Jose, Costa Rica, December 1, 1898.

SIR: I have the honor to inclose herewith copy and translation of official telegram received this a. m. by the Government of Costa Rica announcing the final dissolution of the newly formed United States of Central America by the executive council thereof.

With assurances of my highest consideration, etc.,

WILLIAM LAWRENCE MERRY,
United States Minister.

[Inclosure 1 in No. 174.—Translation.]

[Telegram deposited in Amapala November 29 at 12.40 p. m. Received in San Jose November 30 at 9.20 a. m.]

To the Minister of Foreign Relations:

With real regret I fulfill the duty of advising your excellency that the executive federal council has decided to-day to declare that the existence of the Republic of the United States of Central America is dissolved, not being able to continue in the exercise of its functions consequently. I will send to your excellency separately the documents justifying such a transcendent resolution taken as extraordinary necessity in consequence of the important events in Salvador. Central American patriotism feels injured in its most legitimate interests and leaves the responsibility to those who insisted in destroying their work.

On leaving my post I have the honor to repeat to your excellency the protestations of my consideration and respect.

J. SANSON.

Mr. Merry to Mr. Hay.

No. 175.]

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
San Jose, Costa Rica, December 2, 1898.

SIR: Respectfully referring to my No. 174, dated 1st instant, I have the honor to advise that the Government of Costa Rica has officially recognized the Regalado anti-Federal Government of Salvador. Guatemala has not, so far as I am advised, taken like action, but is expected to do so soon. I have inclosed herewith telegram just received from Hon. Erasmo Calderon, minister of foreign affairs of the newly habilitated Republic of Nicaragua, which is self-explanatory, and follows the proclamation of President Zelaya, dated November 30, announcing the

resumption of her sovereignty as a Republic. I have already advised that the Government of Honduras has recognized the new Government of Salvador.

I have, etc.,

WILLIAM LAWRENCE MERRY,
United States Minister.

[Inclosure in No. 175.]

[Telegram deposited in Palace Managua, December 11, 1898, at 6.20 p. m. Received in San Jose December 2, 1898, at 3 p. m.]

UNITED STATES MINISTER: I have the honor to advise your excellency that by decree of my Government of this date Nicaragua has assumed the full sovereignty of a free and independent Republic, through the dissolution of the Federal Republic of the United States of Central America, to which it belonged, the ministry of foreign relations being reestablished. In communicating to your excellency the foregoing I have also the satisfaction of advising you that I have taken charge of that important post by disposition of the President, and that in it I will second the decided intention of my Government to continue cultivating with that of your excellency the most frank and cordial relations for the mutual interest of both countries. While I may be at the head of such an important department I shall have the pleasure of maintaining the most sincere friendship with your excellency.

With all consideration, your excellency's most attentive, sincere servant,

ERASMO CALDERON.

Mr. Merry to Mr. Hay.

No. 178.]

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
San Jose, Costa Rica, December 10, 1898.

SIR: I have the honor to inclose herewith documents which may be of interest in connection with the dissolution of the newly formed Estados Unidos de Centro America.

With assurances, etc.,

WILLIAM LAWRENCE MERRY,
United States Minister.

[Inclosure 1 in No. 178.—Translation]

Executive power—General ministry.

Considering that the compact of Amapala, celebrated in June, 1895, and all that proceeds therefrom, has not obtained the legitimate sanction of the Salvadorean people, and moreover has been a violation of the political constitution of Salvador; that the assembled constituent assembly of Managua, reunited in June of the present year, the deputies of Salvador were not directly elected by the Salvadorean people, and for that reason had no legal authority to concur to a constituent law that could bind the Republic; that the union with the Republics of Honduras and Nicaragua under the contracted terms will seriously injure the interests of Salvador, decrees:

ART. 1. The Republic of Salvador is not obliged, by the contract of Amapala, to acknowledge any authority in the constitution of Managua of the 27th August of the current year, and it is released from the contract of union with the Republics of Honduras and Nicaragua.

ART. 2. The Republic of Salvador assumes in full its self-government and independence, and will enter into the union with the sister Republics of Central America when the same is convenient to its positive interests and is the express and free will of the Salvadorean people.

Given in the Executive Palace, November 25, 1898.

T. REGALADO,
General of Division and Provisional President of the Republic of Salvador.
E. ARANJO,
The General Minister.

[Inclosure 2 in No. 178.—Translation.]

A circular from the general ministry.

SAN SALVADOR, *November 30, 1898.*

SEÑOR GOVERNOR OF THE DEPARTMENT, *present:*

You will please make public the following:

Peace in the Republic is now a real and positive fact, without fear that anyone may be able to disturb it. The federal council was dissolved yesterday in Amapala through want of any assistance.

The Republics of Nicaragua and Honduras have assumed, like Salvador, their autonomy and independence, and we have now frank and friendly relations with their respective Governments. The Government of the country occupies itself now in mustering out its troops, keeping only those needed for the conservation of public order. All the Salvadoreans can now quietly devote themselves to their industries, and, without distinction, may be certain of enjoying every guarantee and that the Government is determined to preserve the peace, in order that it may bring prosperity to the country and well-being for all.

Your obedient servant,

E. ARANJO.

[Inclosure 3 in No. 178.—Translation.]

Decree issued at Managua, December 1, 1898.

Inasmuch as the federal executive council, installed at Amapala on the 1st ultimo, has declared dissolved the Republic of the United States of Central America by act of the 29th of same month, obliging the State of Nicaragua to reassume its sovereignty, therefore the council of ministers decrees:

First. Nicaragua assumes her full sovereignty of a free and independent Republic, and in consequence the constitution of 1893, with the reforms of 1896, will continue in force throughout.

Second. The department of foreign relations is reestablished and annexed to that of Gobierno [Interior].

Third. All danger of peace and public tranquillity not having yet disappeared, the martial law ruling prior to 1st November last remains in force.

Fourth. With this decree report shall be made at the next assembly of the national legislature and will take effect from its publication.

Signed: J. S. Zelaya, and by ministers of the departments of interior, treasury, instruction, and development.

Mr. Merry to Mr. Hay.

No. 197.]

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
San Jose, Costa Rica, December 29, 1898.

SIR: Herewith I have the honor of inclosing a translated and Spanish copy of a communication from the late "executive federal council," of the late United States of Central America, officially announcing its dissolution, and stating some of the causes that lead thereto. Although you have been already informed of the facts therein stated, the communication is respectfully forwarded to the Department of State, as therein requested.

With assurances, etc.,

WILLIAM LAWRENCE MERRY,
United States Minister.

[Inclosure in No. 197.—Translation.]

Mr. Sansón to Mr. Merry.

EXECUTIVE FEDERAL COUNCIL OF THE
UNITED STATES OF CENTRAL AMERICA,
Amapala, November 29, 1898.

SIR: The executive federal council was inaugurated in this city on the 1st instant, putting into force the political constitution of the United States of Central America, decreed by the constituent of Managua the 27th August of this year. This political entity was born to national life with the spontaneous assemblage of the Governments of the States of Nicaragua, Honduras, and El Salvador as signers of the pact of Amapala, that has been the chief generator of the idea of union, and with all the assistance of public opinion frankly manifested through the organs of the press of most authority and by the majority of the political clubs of these States.

It seemed as if the work of national union, so longed for by Central American patriotism, was consolidated, presenting in the lap of peace the charming fruit of order and of liberty. The council complied religiously with the mandate of the law, and in its first work of organization was directed in the straight path of justice, without overlooking the peculiarities of these countries, in order not to wound for a moment the customs of many years; but before entering upon the full exercise of its functions and taking into its hands the means of public administration that corresponded to its constitutional sphere, it was surprised by the cry of rebellion that the barracks of the State of El Salvador raised against it, proclaiming as supreme head Gen. Tomas Regalado, who declared dissolved the Federal Republic in name of the people of Salvador, who submitted through the force of arms to his will.

As soon as it had knowledge of the successes the executive federal council exerted itself to suffocate the rebellious movement, and in this noble effort employed all the means that patriotism demands under the circumstances.

Unfortunately events took place with great rapidity, many military commanders in the service of the federation failed in their duty and weakened the prompt and timely action of the council, and in consequence the State of El Salvador remained in fact separated from the body of the Republic.

In presence of occurrences so serious that the council found it impossible to overcome them for the reasons given, and through the circumstance of its recent installation it not being permissible to remove many of the military commanders who were not in its confidence, it has seen itself under the painful necessity of declaring the Republic of the United States of Central America dissolved, and the council being unable to continue in the exercise of its powers, declines in its persons the responsibility of the rupture of the federation.

Upon bringing the foregoing to the knowledge of your excellency, in order that you may duly place it before your Government, I have the honor to repeat the assurances of my highest esteem, etc.

J. SANSÓN.

Mr. Sansón to Mr. Hay.

[Translation.]

NATIONAL PALACE, *Managua, December 5, 1898.*

MR. SECRETARY: I have the honor herewith to transmit to your excellency the autograph letter which is addressed by His Excellency General President Zelaya to His Excellency the President of the United States of America, informing him of the political change which took place in Nicaragua on the 1st instant.

Begging your excellency to forward the autograph letter in question to its high destination, I offer you the assurance of my most distinguished consideration.

Your excellency's faithful and obedient servant,

J. SANSÓN.

[Inclosure.—Translation.]

J. Santos Zelaya, General of Division and Constitutional President of the Republic of Nicaragua, to His Excellency the President of the United States of America.

GREAT AND GOOD FRIEND: The military occurrences which have taken place in the State of El Salvador since the 13th ultimo have put an end to the Federal Republic of the United States of Central America, and the Executive Council which represented it was obliged, on the 29th of the same month, to declare the de facto separation of the signatory States.

The result of this situation has been that Nicaragua, an integral part of the federation, has recovered her absolute sovereignty as a free and independent nation, and has adopted her former name of a Republic, governed by democratic institutions.

While the end of this new attempt to form a federation, which was so greatly desired by all Central American patriots, is to be lamented, I entertain the firm conviction that the antecedents of this country and those of my Government in its relations with other nations, and especially with the United States, will render it possible to reestablish those relations in a satisfactory manner, and to strengthen them on a footing of the sincerest and most advantageous cordiality.

My Government will spare no pains to promote the accomplishment of these desires, and I avail myself of this occasion to inform you that the people and Government of Nicaragua feel the most lively sympathy for your beautiful country, and earnestly desire its further progress and prosperity.

With the sincerest wishes for the peace and well-being of the United States, and for your own personal happiness and welfare, I beg you to accept the assurance of my most distinguished consideration.

Your faithful friend,

J. S. ZELAYA.
J. SANSÓN.

Done at the National Palace of Managua, on this 5th day of the month of December, 1898.

A true copy of its original.

[L. S.]

MANAGUA, *December 5, 1898.*

J. SANSÓN.

Mr. Arango to Mr. Hay.

[Translation.]

GENERAL MINISTRY, REPUBLIC OF SALVADOR,
CENTRAL AMERICA, PALACE OF THE EXECUTIVE,
San Salvador, December 5, 1898.

SIR: I have the honor to inform your excellency that a political evolution took place in this country on the 14th of November last, which was designed to reestablish the autonomy and independence of this

Republic, breaking, to this effect, the bonds of union with the neighboring Republics of Nicaragua and Honduras. That movement, which was in harmony with public opinion and seconded by all Salvadorians, has called a new government into existence under the provisional presidency of Gen. Tomás Regalado, of which the undersigned is minister general; this Government has been spontaneously recognized by the whole country, which is in the full enjoyment of peace and tranquillity.

In consequence of the aforesaid event, the executive federal council that represented the ephemeral political entity which was called the United States of Central America was dissolved at Amapala by an instrument bearing date of November 29; the Governments of Nicaragua and Honduras have likewise thereby recovered their independent existence, and the separation of this from those Republics has been consummated, all three having resumed their former amicable relations. The Republic of El Salvador has therefore fully reassumed its autonomy and independence, and has begun once more by itself to form part of the great family of nations, and it desires to reestablish its relations of friendship with those nations with which it had the honor formerly to sustain them. I consequently have the honor to address your excellency for the purpose of informing you that the new Government of El Salvador earnestly desires to maintain and cultivate the most cordial relations of friendship with the Government of the United States of America.

Your excellency will find inclosed two copies of the Official Journal,¹ one of which contains the decree reestablishing the autonomy of this Republic, and the other the decree whereby the diplomatic ministers and consular corps of the Greater Republic of Central America are declared no longer to represent El Salvador in foreign countries, of which fact the said officers have already been informed.

I beg your excellency to bring the foregoing to the knowledge of your Government, and at the same time to accept, etc.,

E. ARANJO.

Mr. Ugarte to Mr. Hay.

[Translation.]

REPUBLIC OF HONDURAS,
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS,
Tegucigalpa, December 10, 1898.

SIR: In pursuance of a treaty concluded at Amapala on the 20th day of June, 1895, the States of Honduras, Nicaragua, and El Salvador delegated their transient sovereignty to the diet of the Greater Republic of Central America, which was installed September 15, 1896, and assumed charge of the foreign relations of the three countries.

That diet, according to the aforesaid treaty of Amapala, was to cease to exercise its functions as soon as the constitution should be adopted whereby the three contracting States were to unite their interests in a stable and permanent manner.

That constitution was discussed at Managua by the representatives of the three States, was signed on the 27th of August last, and was promulgated as a law of the new political entity called "The United States of Central America."

¹ Not printed.

On the 1st of November last, in pursuance of the provisions of the constitution adopted, a provisional executive council was installed at Amapala for the purpose of discharging the functions of president of the Republic, pending the election by the people of the citizen who was definitively to fill that high position.

Unfortunately, a movement for separation, headed in the State of El Salvador by Gen. Tomás Regalado, and the subsequent events mentioned in the instrument of dissolution of the council which I have the honor herewith to inclose for your excellency's information, resulted in a rupture of the federation, the States which formed it resuming in consequence their transient sovereignty under the name of Republics, and the decree being issued here in Honduras, an authenticated copy of which I likewise inclose to your excellency, in order that you may take note of its contents.

Having been called by the Government of this Republic to discharge the duties of minister of foreign relations, I take pleasure in assuring you excellency, in obedience to the instructions of the President, that the Government earnestly desires to continue to cultivate and daily to draw closer, if possible, the friendly relations which have happily existed, and still exist, between Honduras and the United States of America, and that it is firmly purposed to do all in its power to promote the moral and material interests of both by means of a policy of sincere cordiality.

With assurances, etc.,

ÁNGEL UGARTE.