THE NETHERLANDS.

Mr. Van Limburg to Mr. Hunter.

[Translation.]

NEW YORK, May 16, 1865.

SIR: In the Netherlands, as everywhere else, the news of the assassination of President Lincoln, and of the attempt on the life of the Secretary of State, has caused an universal shock and deep indignation.

On the part of the royal government, the minister of foreign affairs would have wished to request Mr. Pike to be so good as to transmit to Washington the assurances of the sorrowful impression caused throughout the Netherlands by this double crime, but the temporary absence of the minister resident of the United States not putting that in my power, it is in virtue of the King's order, and in accordance with a resolution adopted by a council of ministers, that I am charged to present, without delay, to the American government the assurance of lively sympathy in the loss and profound indignation at the crime, in which all the Netherlands partake with the King.

I am charged to express, sir, at the same time, the wishes of his Majesty and of the royal government that Divine Providence may preserve the life of Mr. Seward, so precious to the people of the United States.

In acquitting myself of this duty, sir, I have the honor to repeat to you the assurances of my high consideration.

ROEST VAN LIMBURG.

Hon. William Hunter,
Acting Secretary of State, Washington, D. C.

Mr. Van Limburg to Mr. Hunter.

[Translation.]

DETROIT, May 25, 1865.

SIR: The minister of the King for foreign affairs has just given in charge to me, to communicate to you, a resolution passed on the 2d instant by the Second Chamber of the States General, tending to invite the royal government to make known to the government of the United States the sorrow and indignation the Chamber has felt on learning the perfidious and base outrage of which President Abraham Lincoln has been the victim.

On the occasion of this resolution, its mover, Mr. de Zuylen de Nywelt, remarked that in the Netherlands it was caused, more perhaps than any like resolution could be elsewhere, not alone by the ties of friendship and of alliance which for a long period have existed between the two countries, but moreover by the circumstance that a great many old families of Holland have established themselves in the United States, and that our country at a period already remote contributed much to the sowing of the seed from which the great American nation has sprung forth at a later day.
The minister of foreign affairs, fully adopting this principle, expresses anew the general indignation at the horrible crimes by which the President of the United States was snatched away from his great task at the moment when achieving the object of his efforts, and by which the lives of the Secretary and Assistant Secretary of State were put in peril.

It was in the nature of things, said Mr. Cremers, that the assassination of a man whose character bore so great a resemblance to that of the noble founder of our liberties should make a profound impression. Here, where the name of Balthazar Gerard (the assassin of William of Orange) is, even now, never pronounced without horror, a crime resembling his must excite extraordinary sympathy and indignation.

I take pride, sir, in being again instructed to express to you similar sentiments; they cannot but convince you, as well as the President and people of the United States, of the lively and sincere friendship which attaches the Netherlands to the United States of America.

Please accept, sir, the fresh assurance of my very high consideration.

ROÊST VAN LIMBURG.

Hon. William Hunter,
Acting Secretary of State, &c., &c., &c.

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Mr. Pike to Mr. Hunter.

[Extract.]

No. 164.]

[United States Legation,
The Hague, May 3, 1865.

SIR:

The announcement of the assassination of the President, the news of which reached here last week, fills me with profound emotion. The dreadful suspense we were in, for many days, in regard to the Secretary of State and the Assistant Secretary, is happily removed by this mail. The tenor of our first advices was such that we had not dared to hope for the recovery of Mr. Seward, while we had taken for granted that the Assistant Secretary was no longer among the living. It is an inexpressible relief to receive the assurance that the lives of both are saved.

I have forwarded to the department a copy of Galignani’s Messenger, containing one day’s summary of the public commentary upon the hideous crimes committed by the assassins, which is but one of a series of the same character. By this record you may, in some measure, judge of the violent shock these monstrous assassinations have given to the European public. It would be difficult for me to exaggerate it by any description I could give.

I have been called upon by numerous gentlemen of high political distinction, among them the ministers of foreign affairs, who have desired to manifest their sympathy with the government in its distress; to bear their testimony to the pure and lofty character of the deceased President, and to express the universal horror and indignation at the foul deeds which have at once robbed the nation of its head and daringly put in imminent peril the life of his first cabinet officer.

I have the honor to be, with great respect, your most obedient servant,

JAMES S. PIKE.

Hon. W. Hunter,
Acting Secretary of State, Washington.
Mr. Pike to Mr. Hunter.

No. 165.

UNITED STATES LEGATION,
The Hague, May 4, 1865.

SIR: Yesterday the Second Chamber of the national legislature, the only branch now in session, passed resolutions instructing the ministers of foreign affairs to communicate to the cabinet at Washington their sense of the great loss sustained by the United States in the death of the President, to tender to them the sympathy of the Chamber, and to express their horror and detestation of the foul crimes by which the President's life has been terminated and that of the Secretary of State endangered.

These resolutions were supported in debate by the minister of foreign affairs on the part of the government, and by M. Van Zuylen on the part of the opposition, and were unanimously carried.

To-day the minister of foreign affairs has called and communicated to me this action on the part of the Second Chamber, and requested me to transmit it to the government at Washington, and to add that nowhere in Europe has there been a profounder emotion felt than in Holland over the awful tragedy enacted in the United States, and nowhere can its condemnation be more heartfelt and unanimous.

I have the honor to be, with great respect, your most obedient servant,

JAMES S. PIKE.

Hon. W. HUNTER,
Acting Secretary of State, Washington.