CENTRAL AMERICA.

Mr. Kimberly to Mr. Blaine.

No. 238.] LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES IN CENTRAL AMERICA,
Guatemala, January 24, 1891. (Received February 13.)

Sir: Referring to your instruction,* No. 7, of December 22, 1890, I have the honor to report that, 1 o'clock to-day being the hour set for my interview with the minister of foreign affairs regarding the Colima arms matter, I promptly appeared at the hour named, and after a discussion of probably one hour, in which his excellency displayed much courtesy, he informed me that neither he nor his Government should be censured; that the responsibility of noncompliance lay with Mr. Mizner; that at the conference referred to it was understood that Col. Toriello, the commandant who committed these faults, was to report to Mr. Mizner, under instructions of his Government, to arrange the manner and time in which the formalities agreed upon were to take place, and that Mr. Mizner would inform this Government of the arrangement and time, which the minister alleges he neglected to do, assuring me of his sincere desire that these formalities should take place, and acknowledging his Government to be at fault, and expressing the wish that I should intimate what action be taken under the circumstances, not deeming it prudent or necessary, at this late date, to depart from the terms set forth in the conference referred to. I courteously requested that the formalities already mentioned and agreed upon should be forthcoming immediately, and named Monday, the 26th instant, and not later, that Col. Toriello, the same commandant, appear at this legation to confer with me regarding the time and manner in which they are to take place, and I shall instruct our United States consular agent at San José to observe if they do occur, and will in connection therewith notify Capt. Johnston, of the steamer City of New York (Pacific Mail Steamship Company's line), who commanded the steamer San Blas at the time the arms were so unceremoniously returned, to inform me if the strict compliance of the terms therein mentioned was made to him, a copy of which letter I herewith inclose.

I have, etc.,

SAMUEL KIMBERLY,
Chargé d'Affaires ad int.

[Inclosure.]

Mr. Kimberly to Capt. Johnston.

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES IN CENTRAL AMERICA,
Guatemala, January 28, 1891.

Sir: I take pleasure in informing you that on to-morrow, Thursday, the 29th day of January, in the afternoon, Col. Toriello, the commandant of the port of San José, will, in full-dress uniform, including his sword, proceed to visit your ship and

* Erroneously printed in For. Rel., 1890, p. 142, as No. 225.
seeking you will then and there make such explanation and offer such apology as may in your judgment be satisfactory to you and most meet to the honor of our flag. This action is taken as the result of an interview I had with the minister of foreign affairs of this Republic, and in expiation of the manner in which the arms and ammunition were removed by this commandant from the Pacific Mail steamer Colima last July, and the very unceremonious way in which they were returned to the steamer San Blas during the period you were in command. You will extend to the commandant during these formalities such courtesy as the occasion calls for.

I have, etc.,

SAMUEL KIMBERLY,
Chargé d’Affaires ad int.

Mr. Kimberly to Mr. Blaine.

No. 239.]

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES
IN CENTRAL AMERICA,
Guatemala, January 26, 1891. (Received February 13.)

SIR: Learning a new minister for our Government is to presently appear here, I have the honor to suggest that while peace and tranquility are at present reigning that he be advised to arrange, if possible, a better and safer system of telegraphic communication with our home Government at Washington. These telegraphic lines being under the ownership and surveillance of this Government should make them all the more amenable under our treaty laws for the safe conduct, prompt and easy access to and from your agents here.

I have, etc.,

SAMUEL KIMBERLY,
Chargé d’Affaires ad int.

Mr. Kimberly to Mr. Blaine.

No. 243.]

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES
IN CENTRAL AMERICA,
Guatemala, January 31, 1891. (Received February 20.)

SIR: Referring to your instruction, No. 7, of December 22, 1890, and to my No. 238, of January 24, 1891, I have the honor to report that on Thursday, the 29th instant, between the hours of 4 p.m. and sun-down, the formalities prescribed in my interview with Señor Don Anguiano, the minister for foreign affairs, in expiation of the Colima arms matter, occurred on board of the Pacific Mail steamship City of New York, in command of Capt. Frank H. Johnston. I transmit a copy of the captain’s detailed report of all the circumstances.

I have, etc.,

SAMUEL KIMBERLY,
Chargé d’Affaires ad int.

[Inclosure in No. 243.]

Capt. Johnston to Mr. Kimberly.

PACIFIC MAIL STEAMSHIP CITY OF NEW YORK,
Off San José de Guatemala, January 29, 1891.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter bearing date of January 28, 1891, in which you inform me that on to-morrow (Thursday, the 29th instant) Col. Toriello, commandant of the port of San José, would, in full-dress uni-
form, visit this ship for the purpose of making such explanations and apologies as would in my judgment be satisfactory to me and most meet to the honor of our flag.

I have the honor to inform you that at 4 o’clock this afternoon Col. Toriello, accompanied by his aid-de-camp, Capt. Calderon, of the Guatemalan army made an official visit to this ship and was received with all the honors that could possibly be paid by a ship of the United States merchant marine.

Col. Toriello and I agreed upon the proper form in which the necessary apology to our Government and flag should be carried out.

The officers and crew were ordered to be mustered to starboard, and the passengers arranged themselves on the port side.

Accompanied by Col. Toriello, I then took position on the bridge, and in presence of those assembled read to them first your communication of yesterday, after which I explained in detail the unwarranted seizure and uncivilized return of the arms and ammunition taken from the Pacific Mail ship Colima on July 18 last and returned to steamship San Blas on August 31, 1890, while I was in command of the latter ship.

I then read to those assembled the order of Mr. J. H. Leverich, our special agent in Guatemala, in which order I was instructed that, in accordance with an understanding with the American minister, I was to receive on board the San Blas the arms and ammunition seized on the steamship Colima in the preceding month, they being delivered to me in proper condition by an official of the Guatemalan Government, but that the spirit of this agreement being in no way carried out, and certain arms and ammunition being delivered to me in a manner that I could not consider other than condescending, I made formal protest to our company’s special agent at Guatemala.

Col. Toriello then explained that at the date of seizure war with Salvador was by his Government deemed inevitable, and an “excess of zeal” prompted him to an act that, on mature consideration, his Government refused to indorse.

Col. Toriello further stated that by reason of the fact that a subordinate officer (who here shall be nameless) disobeyed a positive order, the arms and ammunition were not delivered befitting the occasion.

Appealing to those present, I then proposed three cheers for our national flag, which were promptly responded to, the colonel and his aid-de-camp joining heartily, after which a uniformed officer of my command hoisted the flag of Guatemala at the fore, to which a similar salute was paid.

The hospitality of the Pacific Mail Steamship Company were then partaken of by all, and Col. Toriello left the ship at 7 o’clock p.m., expressing the warmest regard for our countrymen at home and abroad.

In conclusion, I wish to say that during this occasion an American ensign, 40 feet in length, was flying from the main track in addition to the national colors daily worn at the after flagstaff by all ships of the Pacific Mail Steamship Company’s fleet.

I have, etc.,

FRANK H. JOHNSTON,
Captain Pacific Mail Steamship Company,
Commanding Steamship City of New York.

Mr. Kimberly to Mr. Blaine.

No. 246.]

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES
IN CENTRAL AMERICA,
Guatemala, February 4, 1891. (Received February 20).

SIR: Referring to my No. 243, of January 31, I have the honor to report that to-day Señor Prado, acting minister of foreign relations, in Señor Don F. Angulano’s absence, called at this legation, and, calling my attention to the instructions to Capt. Johnston, of Pacific Mail steamship City of New York, sent to him from me, asked that the word “expiation” be stricken out and the word “explanation” substituted.

After a polite discussion I refused to comply with his request, stating that the word “expiation” conveyed the precise meaning and literal sense intended by me, and that it could not be changed without authority from my Government.

I have, etc.,

SAMUEL KIMBERLY,
Chargé d’Affaires ad interim.
FOREIGN RELATIONS.

Mr. Blaine to Mr. Pacheco.

No. 27.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, February 13, 1891.

SIR: I am constrained to instruct you to express to the Governments of Guatemala and Honduras the concern which the Government of the United States can not but feel because of the disquieting reports which reach it in regard to the prospects of continued peace and good-will among the republics of Central America, and especially in regard to the relations of Guatemala and Honduras, on one hand, with Salvador on the other.

The conclusion of an honorable peace between Guatemala and Salvador, after the unfortunate hostilities of last year, gave gratifying promise of an era of stability and good-will in Central America, wherein the several States could pursue the paths of domestic well-being and cultivate relations of common benefit among themselves, besides fulfilling the orderly obligations of good neighborhood to the countries around them with which their commerce and friendly interchanges are carried on.

Guatemala, Honduras, and Salvador have been among the foremost of the states of the American continent to recognize the duties of good neighborhood and the higher obligations of peace, by joining in the signature of the treaty of arbitration, which was the first and most conspicuous result of the International Conference held in this capital. By that step, and pending the formal ratification of the compact, the measure of Guatemala's moral responsibility to her neighbors is established.

It is not conceivable that, in the light of that great reform in the relations of the countries of America among themselves, any of the signatory Central American States can in truth contemplate an act or course of action tending to annul the principle which they have so lately accepted and defended before the world.

The Government of the United States is credibly informed that the Government of Guatemala is moving military forces to the Salvadorian frontier; and circumstantial reports are current that Guatemala and Honduras are in accord, if not actually in secret alliance, as to their united course with respect to Salvador. These statements have gained publicity in the press, and have attracted attention to the extent of being deemed worthy of correction, through the same channel, by the publication of the following telegrams addressed by the Presidents of Guatemala and Salvador to the consul-general of those Republics in New York:

GUATEMALA, February 9, 1891.

BAIZ, New York:

The rumors about the revolution in Honduras and Central America are untrue. All Central America is at peace and busily engaged in gathering the coffee crop, which will be the largest Guatemala has yet produced.

BARRILAS.

HONDURAS, February 9, 1891.

BAIZ, New York:

Complete peace reigns in Central America. Reports to the contrary are false. Honduras is all right.

BOGRAN.

It is therefore proper to expect that even more definite assurances will be tendered to you by the Governments of those countries when it
is learned that the reports in question have caused deep anxiety to the Government of the United States.

The import... friendship of the United States toward the Republics of Central America has been too often and too evidently shown in the past to render renewed assurance necessary. On several occasions the good offices of this Government have been exerted to compose actual differences between the Central American States, and notably so in the recent unhappy conflict of Guatemala and Salvador.

Not only are the good offices of the United States equally ready toward averting possible causes of difference, but it is deemed the friendly duty of this Government to do all that it can to prevent strife among its neighbors. The interests of humanity and peace are paramount, and scarcely less so are the interests of undisturbed interchanges between Central America and the United States.

A condition of hostilities at our doors checks the peaceful operations of commerce in its natural channels, closes avenues of international communication, and tends to spread disorder in other States of the Central American group, besides, entailing upon the neighboring communities responsibilities in direct proportion to the magnitude of the general interests affected.

You will seek from the Governments of Guatemala and Honduras frank and positive assurances of their peaceful intent toward their Central American neighbors, coupling your request with expression of the confidence felt by the Government of the United States that nothing in the conduct of those Governments will tend to derange the good relations which happily exist in Central America.

You will further say that this Government trusts, in the light of the moral obligations created by the accords of the International American Conference, that nothing will occur to precipitate disorder in Central America or which may constrain the United States to friendly action for the preservation of peace or to the adoption of positive steps to protect the vast interests of this Government and its citizens in that region.

I am, etc.,

JAMES G. BLAINE.

Mr. Blaine to Mr. Pacheco.

No. 32.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, February 20, 1891.

Sir: Mr. Kimberly's dispatch numbered 239, of the 26th ultimo, makes the suggestion that upon your arrival at your post you may find the time propitious for some positive arrangement among the Central American Governments by which the safety and uninterrupted transmission of telegraphic correspondence may be secured in time of disturbance in that quarter. This suggestion has my cordial approval.

On several recent occasions this Government has had good ground to complain of the insecurity of its official correspondence by telegraph with your legation.

In the early part of 1885, during Gen. Barrios's movement, the difficulties in the way of communication were very great, and inexplicable delays and even suppressions occurred, greatly to the detriment of the interests of this Government. An attempt to cut the coastwise cable,
an American enterprise, appeared to be so imminent as to call for urgent
remonstrance and precautionary measures toward the protection of the
property of citizens of the United States then threatened. Again, in
July and August of last year the legation at Guatemala City was almost
cut off from communication with this Government during the hostilities
between Guatemala and Salvador, although the disturbances and alleged
interruption only existed on the common frontier of those States.

Efforts to ascertain the cause of such interruptions and to suggest a
remedy have been comparatively fruitless, little having resulted beyond
mutual recriminations on the part of the States within whose territories
the interruptions occurred, each throwing responsibility upon the other.
This outcome was, naturally, quite contrary to the policy and wish of
the United States, which, seeking only the effective means of interpos-
ing its good offices and showing its friendship to both contestants alike,
could not purpose to cast further causes of contention and ill will among
them.

It appears to be unquestioned that the coastwise cables touching at
Central American points are entitled to protection from interference.
The land lines connecting with those cables are under the responsible
control of the government in each of the States. While it may not be
possible to prevent their injury during actual war, their willful interrup-
tion should be guarded against, and their use, when in working order,
should be opened to the diplomatic and consular officers of the United
States for official communications with their Government, or with each
other, without hinderance or censorship of any kind.

You will endeavor to come to a friendly understanding in this regard
with the governments of the several Central American States, none of
which, it is supposed, will question the justice or necessity of settling in
advance the important question of inviolability of official diplomatic
correspondence which is involved.

I am, etc.,

JAMES G. BLAINE.

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Mr. Kimberly to Mr. Blaine.

No. 253.] LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES
Guatemala, February 23, 1891. (Received March 13.)

SIR: Respectfully referring to my No. 239, of January 26, I have the
honor to inclose herewith a letter addressed to me by Consul Peterson,
at Tegucigalpa, Honduras, bearing upon the subject mentioned in my
above-named number.

I have, etc.,

SAMUEL KIMBERLY.
Chargé d'Affaires ad int.

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Mr. Peterson to Mr. Kimberly.

[Inclosure in No. 253.]

CONSULATE OF THE UNITED STATES,
Tegucigalpa, February 12, 1891.

SIR: I desire to call your attention to a matter of much importance to the business
interests of American citizens in this Republic, and one which has caused a good deal
of annoyance and delay in the transaction of business with the United States.
It is the bad condition of the cable service, and the trouble appears to be in Salvador.

On numerous occasions cable messages have been delayed in transmission both ways, and the repetition of a word, in order to render the message intelligible, has been frequently not only delayed but sometimes impossible to secure. For example, I am informed by Capt. H. M. Payne, who is doing business in this Republic, that he sent a cable to New Orleans on January 7 which reached its destination January 20, and then it went forward after he had made inquiry through the telegraph office in this city. He was informed by the office in Salvador that the message had been delayed. A delay of thirteen days seems to be rather a long time.

Another case: Henry Wüchner, of this city, has been waiting for days for the repetition of a word.

I am informed by Capt. Frank Imboden that he has had similar experiences.

These things are not only annoying, but the parties interested suffer loss to their business and to their reputations.

The cable line is not the property of Salvador, and, whether in peace or war, messages between business men of the United States and of the Central American Republics should be promptly and correctly transmitted.

As I said above, the fault appears to be in Salvador, though it may be elsewhere.

I do not write this in the nature of a formal complaint, but simply wish to call your attention to the facts as they exist.

If you can do anything—and it is believed you can—to secure the inviolability of international cable communication, you will render a service to the business interests of American citizens as well as others residing and transacting business in Honduras.

You will do me a favor to keep me informed as to developments.

Further, I wish to report the arrival at this capital of special ambassadors from Nicaragua and from Salvador.

The particular business in hand seems to be negotiations concerning the union of the Central American Republics.

I am, etc.,

J. Peterson,
Consul.

Mr. Blaine to Mr. Pacheco.

No. 35.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, February 28, 1891.

SIR: Mr. Kimberly's dispatch No. 238, of the 24th ultimo, has been received. He therein reports the steps taken by him in execution of the Department's instruction No. 7, of December 22, 1890, in relation to the arms taken from the Pacific Mail steamer Colima in the port of San José in July of last year and subsequently put on board the steamer San Blas of the same line.

It seems that in an interview with the Guatemalan minister for foreign affairs held on January 24, 1891, the matter was discussed at some length. The minister admitted that his Government was at fault in regard to the unceremonious manner in which the arms were put on board the San Blas, but alleged that the blame lay not with the Guatemalan authorities, but with Mr. Mizner, who, he asserted, had failed to make with Col. Toriello, the military commandant of San José, the arrangements for the ceremonial return of the arms, which the minister understood was to be effected. Assuring Mr. Kimberly of his sincere desire that these formalities should take place, the minister asked him to suggest what action should be taken under the circumstances.

Mr. Kimberly requested “that the formalities already mentioned and agreed upon should be forthcoming immediately,” and fixed Monday, the 26th of January, for a conference at the legation between him and Col. Toriello regarding the time and manner in which the formalities should take place.
This conference with Col. Toriello, so arranged for the 24th, is not reported in Mr. Kimberly’s dispatch, which is dated January 22, but it would seem to have been held before that dispatch was mailed, and the conclusions reached would seem to have been embodied in a letter dated January 28, addressed by Mr. Kimberly to Capt. Johnston, commanding the Pacific Mail steamship City of New York, of which a copy is annexed to Mr. Kimberly’s dispatch.

It reads as follows:

GUATEMALA, January 28, 1891.

Capt. FRANK H. JOHNSTON,
Commanding Pacific Mail Steamship City of New York,
San José de Guatemala:

SIR: I take pleasure in informing you that on to-morrow, Thursday, the 29th day of January, in the afternoon, Col. Toriello, the commandant of the port of San José, will, in full-dress uniform, including his sword, proceed to visit your ship, and, seeking you, will then and there make such explanations and offer such apology as may in your judgment be satisfactory to you and most meet to the honor of our flag. This action is taken as the result of an interview I had with the minister of foreign affairs of this Republic, and in expiation of the manner in which the arms and ammunition were removed by this commandant from the Pacific Mail steamship Colima last July, and the very uncourteous and unceremonious way in which they were returned to the steamer San Blas during the period you were in command.

You will extend to the commandant during these formalities such courtesy as the occasion calls for.

I have the honor to be your obedient servant,

SAMUEL KIMBERLY,
United States Chargé d’Affaires ad interim.

The statements of this letter suggest that Mr. Kimberly may not have entirely apprehended the scope and purport of my instruction No. 7, of December 22, 1890. The grounds for complaint therein were the wrongful seizure of the arms and the threats against and indignity shown to an American ship, while the uncourteous character of the only act done by the Guatemalan Government in disavowal was an incident only. Keeping these separately in view, I concluded my instruction thus:

Without going into details or further considering at this time the extent of the wrong committed, this Government considers that it is clearly entitled to some satisfactory apology or reparation from the Government of Guatemala for the indignity thus offered to an American ship. It would prefer, however, that some suggestion to that end should come from the latter Government itself.

While thus presenting to the Guatemalan Government the desire and expectation of the Government of the United States that satisfactory apology or reparation for the whole wrongdoing would be made, I courteously refrained from formulating a demand, but left it to that Government to tender adequate redress of its own volition. If so tendered, its sufficiency would remain to be determined in a spirit of frankness and friendship.

Mr. Kimberly, however, concentrating his attention, not on the wrongful seizure of the arms—on which our just complaint rests—but on the comparatively trivial incident of the discourtesy in returning them which was shown to the United States Government by a subordinate officer of the Guatemalan Government, responded to the minister’s request that he intimate the expected measure of reparation in the case by suggesting the fulfillment at this late day of the formalities which, it was understood, should have attended the replacement of the arms on one of the company’s steamers; and this notwithstanding that the arms had long passed out of Guatemalan control, and neither the vessel from which they were seized nor that upon which they were placed was in a
Guatemalan port. A belated ceremony was arranged to take place upon another vessel of the Pacific Mail Company, apparently for no other reason than that it was commanded by the same individual who was formerly master of the San Blas at the time the Colima's arms were put on board. Furthermore, the formality is, in terms, an apology of the local military commandant to the captain of the City of New York, and this captain is made by Mr. Kimberly the sole judge of the sufficiency of such apology.

In this Mr. Kimberly has perpetuated Mr. Mizner's error of regarding the Colima arms seizure as a question between the Guatemalan Government and a common carrier doing business in Guatemalan waters under a contract with that Government.

The apology and reparation, so far as they go, are effected solely with the steamship company. The expectation that this Government will receive from that of Guatemala some satisfactory apology or reparation for the indignity offered to an American ship by the seizure of the arms is as yet unrealized.

So far as concerns the minor incident of Col. Toriello's discourteous action in the return of the arms, his apology, thus indirectly tendered by him in person, may be accepted as amply disposing of that branch of the matter, because sanctioned by the Government of Guatemala, which has made its acquiescence therein known to the acting diplomatic agent of the United States. It may therefore disappear from consideration.

It is learned, through a personal letter from Mr. Kimberly, that the original of my instruction of December 22 has, unfortunately, been lost or stolen. A duplicate thereof is herewith enclosed for your necessary information and to complete your files.

In the assumption that Mr. Kimberly may have duly executed his instructions by reading my No. 7 to the minister for foreign affairs and leaving with him a copy of it, should he have so desired, the response of the Guatemalan Government is awaited in order that the status of the main question pending between the two Governments may be intelligently defined. If the instruction has not been so read and left in copy, you will remedy the omission.

It is not reasonable to suppose, as Mr. Kimberly seems to have done, that Col. Toriello's expression of regret and apology to Capt. Johnston, of the merchant steamer City of New York, can or itself constitute, so far as the Government of the United States is concerned, an "expiation of the manner in which the arms and ammunition were removed by this commandant from the Pacific Mail steamer Colima last July."

You will duly report such steps as you may take to remove any misapprehension which you may find to have grown out of Mr. Kimberly's singular action in this matter.

I am, etc.,

JAMES G. BLAINE.

Mr. Blaine to Mr. Pacheco.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, March 2, 1891.

Sir: Mr. Kimberly's dispatches numbered 243 and 246, and dated, respectively, January 31 and February 4, 1891, have been received. The former communicates Capt. F. H. Johnston's report of the ceremonial visit of Col. Toriello to his steamer, the City of New York, on
the 29th of January and the explanation and apology made by him in regard to his connection with the seizure and return of the Colima's cargo of arms and munitions. In the latter, Mr. Kimberly reports his refusal to comply with the request of the acting minister of foreign relations that the word "expiation" be changed to "explanation" in Mr. Kimberly's letter of January 28 to Capt. Johnston instructing him as to the intended visit of Col. Toriello to the City of New York.

Capt. Johnston and Col. Toriello appear to have taken a rational view of the embarrassing parts they were called upon to play. With his frank and honorable expressions of regret and apology, Col. Toriello's personal connection with the Colima arms incident drops out of sight, and with it any implication of accountability on the part of the Guatemalan Government for the omission to observe due courtesy in the return of the arms to the steamship company.

My instruction No. 35, of the 28th ultimo, will have already suggested to you the Department's views upon the singular use of the word "expiation" in Mr. Kimberly's letter to the captain.

It implies a completeness of satisfaction and reparation for all the wrongs involved in the Colima incident quite at variance with the facts, and which Col. Toriello was not competent to offer, nor did Capt. Johnston in fact assume to accept, in settlement of the distinct questions between the Governments of the United States and Guatemala growing out of the seizure of the arms and the treatment of an American ship. It is gratifying to see that the Guatemalan Government takes the same view and limits the apology and disclaimer of Col. Toriello to an "explanation" of his part in the incident.

No necessity is seen for retaining Mr. Kimberly's letter to the captain upon record as between the two Governments. If, however, it can not conveniently be expunged, it might be amended in consonance with the facts.

I am, etc.,

JAMES G. BLAINE.

Mr. Pacheco to Mr. Blaine.

No. 10.]

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES
IN CENTRAL AMERICA,
Guatemala, March 11, 1891. (Received March 27.)

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your instructions No. 27, of February 13, and in reply would state that I had a long interview with Mr. Anguiano, minister of foreign affairs, and, in accordance with your instructions, I read to him your communication in regard to rumors of war between Guatemala and Salvador. I am happy to inform you that the secretary gave me positive assurances that his Government is sincere in their desire and efforts for the maintenance of peace.

I likewise had an interview with the President regarding the subject, who reiterated most emphatically the assurances given me by the secretary for foreign affairs, Mr. Anguiano, who made a personal request that I should express his thanks for the interest the United States Government has manifested in the internal affairs of Central America, and takes pleasure in explaining in a confidential manner the condition of affairs of his Government, thus evincing his friendliness.
He requests me also to say to you that the rumors published and spread by the American press regarding war in Central America are inexact, at least in regard to Guatemala; that this Republic is now at peace with its neighbors, and he believes that no motives exist at present to change said condition of affairs.

A new law concerning the reorganization of the army and the purchase of arms were points which were satisfactorily explained between the Governments of Guatemala and Salvador. Guatemala ordered the purchase of arms, but without any hostile intentions, and only because the new organization of the army required it, coupled with the necessity of replacing part of the armament.

The secretary said to me that he did not believe that the peace of Central America is threatened. Should it so happen through some unfortunate condition which would injure Guatemala's interests he would willingly give any assurance that in any case, whether in its exercise of its rights or complying with its duties (rights and duties which belong to it as a sovereign and independent nation), Guatemala will ever keep within the bounds of the law of nations. He deemed it hardly necessary to make this last explanation were it not that rumors have been spread regarding some aggression of Guatemala against Salvador.

I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of the President's message to the Congress of Guatemala that convened on Sunday, the 1st day of March.

I have, etc.,

R. PACHECO.

[Inclusion 1 in No. 10.—Translation.]

Extract from the message of President Barillas.

Guatemala has cultivated and continues to cultivate frank, cordial, and intimate relations with the friendly nations of both continents.

In a deplorable moment the fraternal ties that bind us to the neighboring Republic of Salvador were interrupted to some extent, but peace having been happily restored our communications with that Republic, and with the others of Central America, have been continuous and sincere as befits peoples who in their origin and aims are in all things identified.

The conferences of the Pan-American Congress, in which Guatemala was represented, having come to an end, its conclusions have been received. The secretaries of the respective departments will give you an account thereof separately, that you may consider them and come to such decision in regard thereto as you may deem most adapted to the interests of the country.

In referring to our relations with the great Republic of the north, I can do no less than deplore the unfortunate results which followed the capture of Gen. J. Martin Barrundia on board an American merchant steamer, the details of which occurrence you will learn by a report of the department of foreign relations.

[Inclusion 2 in No. 10.—Translation from El Guatemalteco, February 7, 1891.]

Peace in Central America.

Alarming rumors have been in circulation for some days past with respect to an approaching rupture between Guatemala and Salvador, and these rumors have spread even to Europe, where they do us much harm by destroying our credit, discouraging immigration, and casting discredit upon our institutions.

Efforts have been made by the enemies of the peace of Central America to arouse distrust between the governments of the two countries. Reports unfavorable to
them have been propagated in both countries, in order to excite public opinion and disturb the progress of our country in the interest of distorted and unpatriotic schemes.

In Guatemala the originsators of these rumors base them on the military movement which for a few days past has been noticed throughout the Republic.

If this movement be a cause of alarm, it ought to be explained, and that is the object of this editorial.

In conformity with the new military organization which has been decreed in Guatemala, and which has already begun to take effect, all Guatemalans between 21 and 41 years are to be enrolled for service, and the organized corps are required to receive the indispensable instruction (drill) so far as may be compatible with the agricultural needs of the country.

In view of this, steps have been taken since the 20th of last month (January, 1891) to effect the general enrollment throughout the country and to organize the proper corps in order that their instruction in the drill may be forthwith begun.

Hence the military activity now noticed in this Republic; hence the organization of several battalions in the departments, and the departure from the city of certain officers who are to drill the new troops; and hence, also, the dispatch of certain batteries, under escort, intended for target practice, which must be daily performed by the troops in training.

This has been and is all. It is seen, therefore, that there is no real ground to think that any warlike purpose exists, and that only bad faith can have misrepresented the steps now in progress, in time of peace, for the noble object of improving our militia, as far as possible, in accordance with the demands of the social needs and progress of our time.

As for the relations of the Guatemalan and Salvadorian Governments, those at present maintained could not be better. Both of them are earnest in conserving the peace of the peoples whose destinies are confided to their care, and it is their firm purpose to maintain peace at any cost, because they are convinced that it is the greatest good they can confer on those whom they govern.

We have inspected the official and private correspondence of the two Governments, and find therein proof of our assertions.

In a telegram dated the 5th instant, President Ezeta gives assurances to Gen. Barillas that his highest aim is the maintenance of peace, and that from the line of conduct so mapped out nothing and nobody can swerve him. Gen. Barillas entertains, in his turn, the same sentiments and, with loyalty and frankness, has expressed them to Gen. Ezeta.

Under later date, the latter has addressed the former, communicating to him the rumors on foot in London, which we have alluded to, and asking his consent to their official denial in the name of the two Governments. The President of Guatemala has thereupon expressed his concurrence in contradicting a report so injurious to both countries and to the good name and well-being of Central America.

We can therefore give assurance that good harmony prevails in the relations of the two countries, and that the official circles of both of them are controlled by the steadfast purpose to preserve it, in order to avoid for the future any misunderstanding which might more or less disturb the public tranquility.

Not in vain was signed, a few months ago, a treaty of peace in which past dissensions and painful resentments were consigned to oblivion, thus confirming upon solid bases the order and repose of the two Republics, and establishing the civilized and fraternal resort of arbitration for the adjustment of any disputes which may unfortunately arise between them.

It behooves us, therefore, to proclaim this aloud, in order that public confidence may be restored, for it has this time as on many other occasions been deluded by false rumors and evil-minded comments.

Mr. Blaine to Mr. Pacheco.

No. 44.] DEPARTMENT OF STATE, Washington, March 16, 1891.

SIR: The Department's instruction No. 197, of October 21, 1890, communicated to Mr. Mizner copies of two dispatches from the United States vice-consul at Tegucigalpa in relation to the interruptions alleged to affect mercantile correspondence by telegraph between Honduras and the United States even after the close of the late conflict in Central
America, and Mr. Mizner was directed to make earnest representations against the prolongation of a state of things so injurious to friendly commercial relations. No further complaint on that score reaching us, it was hoped that the cause had disappeared.

I now transmit copy of a dispatch (No. 27, of the 12th ultimo) from Mr. Peterson, consul at Tegucigalpa, from which it appears that the delays and obstructions to telegraphic communication by way of the Salvador land lines and the cable touching at La Libertad still continue. The letter of the same date, therein referred to, addressed to your legation by Mr. Peterson, has been in turn transmitted to the Department by Mr. Kimberly with his dispatch No. 253, of February 23. The instances of delay so reported suggest the need of some very positive corrective.

The kindly attitude of this Government in favor of all that may aid speedy and certain communication between this country and its nearest neighbors, to their common benefit, warrants the expression of warm solicitude that the necessary freedom of intercourse be not injuriously hampered by such causeless and vexatious neglect as appears to be frequent with respect to telegraphic management in Salvador. The fact that the lines in that country are under the control of its Government, and the earnest stand taken by the Salvadorian authorities last summer in favor of untrammeled correspondence, justifies the hope that the Government of Salvador will speedily devise and apply a remedy in furtherance of Central American interests no less than of those of the United States.

I am, etc.,

JAMES G. BLAINE.

[Inclosure in No. 44.]

Mr. Peterson to Mr. Wharton.

No. 27.]

CONSULATE OF THE UNITED STATES,
Tegucigalpa, February 12, 1891.

Sir: I inclose a copy of a letter, * which I have forwarded to Mr. Kimberly at Guatemala, concerning the bad state of the cable communication between this Republic and the United States.

This trouble has existed for some time, and the fault, as stated in the inclosed letter, seems to be with Salvador.

It seems that the authorities there permit messages to go through when they see fit, and the state of affairs is very detrimental to the business interests of American citizens in Honduras and the commercial relations between the United States and this Republic, especially as all business of that kind must go through the Salvador office.

If relief can be had in the shape of the entire inviolability of business communication by cable between this Republic and the United States, it will redound not only to the personal benefit of American citizens here, but to the extension of commercial relations with the United States.

I am, etc.,

JAMES J. PETERSON.

Mr. Pacheco to Mr. Blaine.

No. 28.]

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES
IN CENTRAL AMERICA,
Guatemala, June 9, 1891. (Received June 25.)

Sir: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your instructions numbered 32, of February 20, and 44, of March 16, 1891, relative to a

* For this inclosure see inclosure in No. 253, of February 23, 1891, from Mr. Kimberly.

H, Ex, 1, pt. 1—5
system of cable communication between Washington and this legation, and to report that I have addressed a letter to the minister of foreign affairs of Salvador requesting a thorough investigation of the matter with a view to prevent a recurrence of the interference with cable communication in the hope that the Government of Salvador will speedily apply a remedy in furtherance of Central American interests no less than of those of the United States.

I have, etc.,

R. PACHECO.

Mr. Pacheco to Mr. Blaine.

No. 42.] LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES IN GUATEMALA AND HONDURAS.*

Guatemala, July 23, 1891. (Received August 8.)

SIR: Referring to your instructions No. 35, of February 28 last, and, in accordance with directions therein contained, I have the honor to report that I formulated a demand on this Government, as per inclosure No. 1, the translated answer to which is embodied in inclosure No. 2, dated July 15.

The secretary for foreign affairs has from the beginning in all of our interviews maintained that the ceremonial apology was not to the Pacific Mail Company, and would not have been made had his Government not been led to believe by the chargé d’affaires that it would be accepted as complete reparation on the part of his Government.

Notwithstanding the many interviews with Minister De Leon, the case stands as per inclosure, and I have preferred to await further instructions in this matter.

I have, etc.,

R. PACHECO.

[Inclosure 1 in No. 42.]

Mr. Pacheco to Señor De Leon.

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES IN GUATEMALA AND HONDURAS,

Guatemala, June 28, 1891.

Mr. MINISTER: I have the honor very respectfully to call the attention of your excellency’s Government to the matter of the arms seized and taken by the Guatemalan authorities from the Pacific Mail Steamship Company’s steamer Colima at San José de Guatemala, July 18, 1890, and subsequently put on board the steamship San Bias, of the same line.

It seems that in an interview with the Guatemalan minister for foreign affairs, held on January 24, 1891, the matter was discussed at some length.

The minister admitted that his Government was at fault in regard to the way in which the arms were put on board of the vessel, and expressed his willingness that reparation should be made.

On the 29th day of January, Col. Toriello offered and made an apology to the captain of the Pacific Mail steamship City of New York for the unceremonious manner in which the arms were returned to the steamer San Bias.

The apology and reparation, so far as they go, affected solely the steamship company.

—The act of March 3, 1891, making appropriations for the diplomatic and consular service for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1892, provided for an envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary to Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Salvador, and one to Guatemala and Honduras.
It is not reasonable to suppose that Col. Toriello’s expressions of regret and apology to Capt. Johnston, of the merchant steamer City of New York, can of itself constitute, so far as the Government of the United State is concerned, an expiation for the manner in which the arms were taken by the said colonel from the Pacific Mail steamer Colima.

The expectation that my Government would receive from that of Guatemala some satisfactory apology or reparation is as yet unrealized.

The ground for complaint of my Government was the wrongful seizure of the arms and the threats and indignity shown to an American ship, while the ceremonious character of the only act done by the Guatemalan Government in diavol was an incident only.

While thus presenting to the Government of Guatemala the desire and expectation of the Government of the United States that satisfactory apology or reparation for the whole wrongdoing would be made, I courteously refrain from formulating a demand, but leave it to your excellency’s Government to tender adequate redress of its own volition.

If so tendered, its sufficiency would remain to be determined in a spirit of frankness and friendship.

Availing myself, etc.,

R. Pacheco.

[Enclosure 2 in No. 42.—Translation.]

Señor De Leon to Mr. Pacheco.

NATIONAL PALACE,
Guatemala, July 15, 1891.

Most Excellent Sir: I had the honor to receive the estimable communication of your excellency dated June 18 ultimo, in which you are pleased to inform me that, by instruction from the Department at Washington, you call the attention of my Government to the incident that took place on July 18 of last year respecting the arms carried by the Colima, also what occurred with reference to the manner in which the return of said arms was made.

Your excellency is pleased to observe that the ceremony which on that account took place between the commandant at the port, Col. Toriello, and Capt. Johnston, of the City of New York, was simply an apology or satisfaction on the part of the commandant to the said Capt. Johnston, and the reparation, so far as it went, referred only to the Pacific Mail Company by reason of certain formalities having been omitted in the act of delivering the arms on board the steamer San Blas.

Your excellency will allow me to say, that the ceremony agreed upon at the conferences held on the 26th and 27th of January of this year between the Hon. Mr. Kimberly, then chargé d’affaires, Señor Anguiano, at that time minister of foreign relations, and Mr. Leverich, could not refer only to the steamship company, because the Government of Guatemala, very far from having any reasons for making apologies to the company, had, on the contrary, grounds to feel surprised at that proceeding, not very impartial at the time, and during the emergency of the Republic with the neighboring one of Salvador, on account of the violation of article 17 of their respective contract. The aim, then, at which the purposes of the Guatemalan Government were directed, was that of giving satisfaction to the Government of your excellency, thereby adding one more proof of the desire which it cherishes that the relations between both countries shall be maintained unalterable.

In conformity, then, with what was settled upon at those conferences, the commandant at the port of San José, as per agreement with the Hon. Mr. Kimberly, presented himself on the 31st of January, 1891, dressed in full uniform, to Capt. Johnston, of the City of New York, and made his apology. The ceremony was performed with the formalities requisite in such a case, and the flags of Guatemala and the United States were saluted by all present.

This ceremony, then, can not be taken as an apology to the steamship company, since it was invested with the high dignity in all its character, and, as at the conferences held to that effect with the honorable representative of the United States, it was the basis in point for which apologies should be given, not only for the omission of formalities, but also for what happened on the 18th of July, 1890, and with the understanding that, such a ceremony once celebrated, the incident would remain settled to the satisfaction of both Republics.

Only in this view, Mr. Minister, can the fact be understood of Señor Anguiano having given his acquiescence to the celebration of such a ceremony, when it is only
appropriate to apologize to a government with which mine endeavors, and has always endeavored, to cultivate the friendly and cordial relations that bind both.

I believe it to the purpose, on this occasion, Mr. Minister, to remind you that even the newspapers of the United States have judged generally from the same point of view the subject which occasions this note.

I cherish the hope, Mr. Minister, that with these explanations given your honorable legation will be satisfied, and that the matter in question may be considered terminated.

I am, etc.,

EMILIO DE LEÓN,
Minister Foreign Relations of Guatemala.

Mr. Wharton to Mr. Pacheco.

[Telegram.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, August 10, 1891.

Mr. Wharton advises Mr. Pacheco that the Department is in receipt of two telegrams from the minister of foreign affairs of Salvador, dated the 8th and 9th instant, respectively, the first complaining of the refusal of the City of Panama to surrender Lisandro Letona, said to be charged with common crimes, the second informing the Department that sentence of confiscation had been pronounced against the steamer because of its leaving port without the permission of the captain of the port and pending trial. Mr. Pacheco is informed that the confiscation of the steamer appears to the Department, from the meager facts reported to it, to be unwarranted, and is instructed to protest by telegraph immediately against any arbitrary action. He is also informed that the United States consul at San Salvador has telegraphed the Department that the Salvadorian authorities proposed to seize the steamer when it arrived at Acajutla.

Mr. Pacheco to Mr. Blaine.

[Telegram.]

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES
IN GUATEMALA AND HONDURAS,
Guatemala, August 10, 1891.

Mr. Pacheco informs the Department that the steamer City of Panama, being refused clearance papers at La Union on account of refusing to give up political refugees on board, left that place without clearance papers, and, upon reaching Libertad, was detained and declared confiscated.

Mr. Wharton to Mr. Pacheco.

[Telegram.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, August 13, 1891.

Mr. Wharton acknowledges Mr. Pacheco’s telegram of the 10th instant and calls his attention to Department’s telegram of the same date. He is
instructed to protest against any arbitrary actions by the authorities of Salvador toward the steamship City of Panama, even if vessel has been seized, which would not affect instructions previously sent him. A full report of the facts is asked for.

Mr. Wharton to Mr. Pacheco.

No. 13.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, August 13, 1891.

SIR: I inclose copies of communications in reference to the demands of Salvador on the Pacific Mail steamer City of Panama, named below.

I am, etc.,

WILLIAM F. WHARTON,
Acting Secretary.

[Inclosure 3 in No. 13.—Telegram.]

Mr. Love to Mr. Blaine.

SAN SALVADOR, August 9.

Special police force ordered to take possession of ship City of Panama, at Acapulco, to-morrow. I go there at once, at request.

LOVE, Consl.

[Inclosure 4 in No. 13.]

Mr. Houston to Mr. Adey.

PACIFIC MAIL STEAMSHIP COMPANY'S EXECUTIVE OFFICES,
MILLS BUILDING, 35 WALL STREET,
New York, August 10, 1891.

DEAR SIR: Referring to our dispatch of this morning, I beg to advise the Department of the fact that we have received the following cablegram to-day from Capt. John M. Dow, general agent of this company on the Isthmus of Panama and in general charge of our Central American business:

"To PACIFIC STEAMSHIP COMPANY, New York:

"The following dispatch has been received here (Panama), 4 p.m., from Capt. F. P. White, of the City of Panama, dated La Libertad, Salvador: 'Authorities refuse to clear ship here, saying ship confiscated by order of Government. Gen. Letona, passenger, Corinto, Nicaragua, to San José, Guatemala. Commandant at La Union, Salvador, with armed force, demanded surrender, saying political criminal; refused to dispatch ship unless request complied with; request refused. After twenty-seven hours in port sailed without clearance. Agents here advise going to San José direct, there to land passengers, apprehending serious difficulties from Ezeta at Acapulco, with armed force determined to arrest five political refugees on board. I await advice.'

"We have telegraphed Trigueros (our agent at La Libertad) as follows: 'Please communicate the following to Capt. White, City of Panama, referring to your dispatch of August 9: Proceed to San José de Guatemala direct. Keep your passengers on board until you communicate with United States minister.'

"DOW.'

We desire to communicate this information to the Department of State, as we fear the authorities of Salvador may take some action detrimental to our property interests in the ports of that country in consequence of the refusal of Capt. White to give up these political refugees.

Hoping that the Department will take prompt action, I remain, etc.,

J. B. HOUSTON,
Vice-President.

*For inclosures 1 and 2 see correspondence with legation of Salvador at Washington.
FOREIGN RELATIONS.

Mr. Pacheco to Mr. Blaine.

[Telegram.]

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES
IN GUATEMALA AND HONDURAS,
Guatemala, August 24, 1891.

Mr. Pacheco states that after Capt. White was served notice of confiscation, on the morning of the 10th instant, he weighed anchor and arrived the same evening safely at San José de Guatemala, where all passengers have been landed and cargo is being discharged; that the Guatemalan authorities will give stayed clearance papers; and that protest will at once be telegraphed to Salvador, as per Department's cable instructions.

Mr. Pacheco to Mr. Blaine.

[Extract.]

No. 53.]

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES
IN GUATEMALA AND HONDURAS,
Guatemala, August 18, 1891. (Received September 3.)

SIR: In accordance with telegraphic instructions of the 10th and 13th instants, I immediately addressed a telegram to the minister of foreign affairs of Salvador, a copy of which I transmit herewith.

I have, etc.,

R. PACHECO.

[Inclosure in No. 53.—Telegram.]

Mr. Pacheco to Señor Galindo.

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES
IN GUATEMALA AND HONDURAS,
Guatemala, August 12, 1891.

I am informed of your excellency's telegram of the 9th instant to the Department of State at Washington, notifying my Government that sentence of confiscation has been pronounced on the Pacific Mail steamship City of Panama for the reason that she left La Union without permission from captain of the port.

Capt. F. P. White reports having laid at anchor at La Union for over twenty-four hours. Also that the commandant, with armed force, visited the ship and made formal demand for one Gen. Letona, a passenger, on the ground that he is a political criminal, and, further, that he would not clear or dispatch the steamer unless the said Letona was put in his charge. Now I must say, from the above information, Mr. Minister, that the procedure of your excellency's Government in pronouncing sentence of confiscation of steamer City of Panama appears to be unwarranted, and must, in the name of my Government, enter my earnest protest against any such arbitrary action.

R. PACHECO.

Mr. Pacheco to Mr. Blaine.

No. 54.]

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES
IN GUATEMALA AND HONDURAS,
Guatemala, August 19, 1891. (Received September 3.)

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith the report of Capt. F. P. White, of the Pacific Mail steamship City of Panama, giving full account of what transpired during the recent occurrences at La Union and La Libertad, in Salvador.
The wires connecting the two Republics have been down for over 10 days, and I have not been able to obtain any response to my telegram of the 12th instant.

The Pacific Mail Company’s manager for Central America, who makes his headquarters at this capital, is likewise unable to get further particulars from his agents in San Salvador.

I will promptly report any information that comes to us.

I have, etc.,

R. PACHECO.

[Inclosure in No. 51.]

Capt. White to Capt. Dow.

STEAMSHIP CITY OF PANAMA, V OY. 55.
La Libertad, Salvador, August 8, 1891.

Sir: Herewith I beg to advise you as follows: We received on board at Corinto as passengers for San José the following-named persons: Gen. L. Letona, Don M. Rivas, Dr. Don R. Ayala, Gen. L. Hernandez, and Mr. P. J. Brannon.

At 5:30 p. m. the 6th instant I arrived at La Union, and the ship was visited by the usual officials, who, after receiving the customary documents, demanded to see the list of passengers on board who were in transit and destined for San José. This request was complied with, and the officials went on shore.

At 10:30 p. m. the ship was visited by the commandant and four officials, who stated that we had on board five political refugees from Salvador, mentioning the above-named persons, and said that he had orders from the Salvador Government not to allow these people to land, and requested me to prevent them doing so.

I assured the commandant that I would do everything in my power to comply with his request, and he went on shore apparently satisfied.

At 2 p. m. the 7th instant the ship was again visited by the commandant and four officials. He then stated that he could not dispatch the ship before 5:30 p. m., as he was awaiting instructions from Salvador. At 5 p. m. the same day he again visited the ship, accompanied by six officials and a launch containing one officer and 12 men, all heavily armed, and said he had an order from the Salvador Government to arrest Gen. Letona as a political criminal, and made formal demand of me that I surrender him into his custody. This I positively refused to do, saying that Gen. Letona was a passenger who had embarked from Corinto for San José, and that I knew nothing of his being a political offender. After making the demand again, and which I again refused to comply with, he went on shore with the officials who accompanied him, but left the launch, containing 13 men, on guard close by the ship.

Before leaving he positively stated that he would not dispatch the ship unless I gave Gen. Letona into his charge.

At 5:15 p. m., having been in the port of La Union over twenty-four hours, and the work of loading and unloading the cargo being completed, I blew three whistles to signify that I wished to be dispatched, and at 8:10 p. m., no attention having been paid to my signal, I left for La Libertad without my dispatch.

At 8:25 a. m. on the 8th instant I anchored off La Libertad and was at once visited by the commandant, who stated that, as I had not been properly dispatched from La Union, he could not receive the ship until he had communicated with the Government. At 12 noon, same day, the ship was again visited by the commandant, accompanied by the company’s agent, who brought the following communication from the minister of war:

[Telegram dated San Salvador, August 8 1891.]

"To the COMMANDER of the PORT:

"By an official letter you will notify Messrs. Blanco & Trigueros, agents of the Pacific Mail Steamship Company in this port, that the captain of the port will not receive the steamship City of Panama’s cargo nor passengers, and will only receive her mail; this due to the contract existing between the Supreme Government and the company referred to and as a special favor granted her. The above-mentioned steamer will remain uncommunicated with regarding the embarking or disembarking of passengers or cargo.

"Yours,

"V. AMYA."
To this communication I sent the following reply in explanation why I had left La Union without my dispatch:

"Steamship City of Panama, Voy. 55,
"La Libertad, August 8, 1891.

"To Messrs. Blanco & Trigueros,
"Agents Pacific Mail Steamship Company:

"Sirs: Please communicate the following to the commandant in reply to his communication of to-day:

"I arrived at La Union on the 7th instant, at 5:20 p.m., and during my lay there the ship was visited by the commandant, accompanied by six officials and the launch containing one officer and twelve men, who demanded the surrender of Gen. Letona, a passenger from Corinto to San José, saying he was a political criminal, and that the Salvador Government had ordered his arrest. This I positively refused to do. The commandant then left the ship, saying he would not dispatch me unless I gave General Letona into his charge. At 5:45 p.m. I blew three whistles to signify that I wished to be dispatched, and at 8:10 p.m., having been in the port of La Union twenty-six hours and fifty minutes, I left for La Libertad without my clearance.

"I am, etc.,

"Fred. P. White,
"Commander."

At 1:30 p.m. I received the herewith attached copy of a letter from the company's agent, which explains itself, and the work of discharging the cargo commenced at once.

At 4:30 p.m. the launches stopped work for the day, and the following day, August the 9th, at 6 a.m., the work was again resumed, and at 10 a.m. the cargo was all discharged and one launch load of cargo for Oco's received. At 10:30 a.m. the 9th instant the ship was visited by the company's agent and his clerk, who brought the following communication from the commandant:

"La Libertad, August 9, 1891.

"Messrs. Blanco & Trigueros,
"Agents Pacific Mail Steamship Company:

"Sirs: I have the honor to inform you that, by sentence dictated yesterday by the captain of the port of La Union, the steamship City of Panama has been confiscated on account of having left La Union without the necessary license which is prescribed in article 253 of the laws of navigation and marine. I communicate this to you by order of the minister of this branch of the marine department, so that you may notify Capt. White.

"Yours, etc.,

"Carbello,
"Commander."

To this communication, and by request of the agents, I sent the following reply:

"Steamship City of Panama, Voy. 55,
"La Libertad, August 9, 1891.

"To Messrs. Blanco & Trigueros,
"Agents Pacific Mail Steamship Company:

"Sirs: Herewith I beg to inform you that the communication from the commandant of this port has been received and contents duly noted.

"I am, etc.,

"F. P. White,
"Commander."

I also wrote the agents, saying I would like to be dispatched as soon as possible, the cargo being all discharged, and to send me word as soon as convenient whether the authorities would dispatch me or not. At 12 noon the agent came on board, again bringing the herewith attached copy of a letter which explains itself, being a letter to the authorities asking for my dispatch and their reply; I was also informed by our agents that Gen. Ezeta had left Santa Ana, where he had been stationed, for Acajutla, and that he would probably make a determined attempt to arrest Gen. Letona and four other political refugees with an armed force.

I thereupon decided to communicate the situation to yourself and await instructions from Panama, for I have every reason to believe that the safety of the ship and passengers would be involved in my going into the port of Acajutla with the before-mentioned persons on board, and judging from the situation at the present time.
Herewith I hand you a copy of the cable message sent this day at 2 p.m.:

"Typac, Panama:

"Authorities refuse clear ship here, saying ship confiscated; orders Government, Gen. Letona, passenger Corinto to San José; commandant La Union, armed force, demanded surrender, saying political criminal; refused dispatch unless request complied with; request refused. After twenty-seven hours in port, sailed without dispatch. Agents here advise going San José direct, land passengers, apprehending serious difficulty; Ezeta at Acajutla, armed force, determined to arrest five political refugees aboard. I await advice.

"White."

As I was handing this message to the agent the commandant sent his representative on board to inform me verbally that the minister of war had given orders for the commandant to come on board and take charge of the ship, and that I was to place myself under his orders.

I politely informed the representative of the commandant that I recognized no one's authority regarding the direction of the City of Panama, and if his remaining on board was to be evidence of the surrender of my command to him, he would oblige me by going on shore at once, which he did.

At 12 midnight I was again visited by the representative of the commandant, who brought me the herewith attached copy of a letter and telegram from the United States consular agent which explains itself, and to which I replied as follows:

"La Libertad, Salvador, August 9, 1890.

"To E. Courtade, United States Consular Agent:

"Sir: Your letter, containing a telegram, has just come to hand at 12 o'clock, midnight, and contents noted. I particularly request that any cable messages or telegrams that may come addressed to me will be delivered promptly.

Yours, respectfully,

"Fred. P. White,
"Captain."

At 8 o'clock a.m. the 10th instant the ship was again visited by our agent, accompanied by his clerk, who brought your cable, a copy of which and translation is herewith attached to this letter, having been restrained from doing so by the authorities on shore at 6 p.m. the day previous, at which time it was received by themselves.

After receiving this cable I made preparations for going to San José direct, and before doing so I sent the following letter to Mr. E. Courtade, the United States consular agent, which read as follows:

"La Libertad, August 10, 1891.

"To E. Courtade, United States Consular Agent:

"Sir: I am in receipt of my orders from our general agent at Panama, and you will kindly inform Mr. J. J. Love, in San Salvador, that any further communication from him will be received through the American minister at Guatemala.

"I am yours, respectfully,

"Fred. P. White,
"Commander."

At 8:25 a.m. I left La Libertad for San José direct, in accordance with your instructions.

I arrived at San José de Guatemala at 5:30 p.m. the 10th instant, and was at once received by the authorities.

Yours, respectfully,

F. P. White,
Commander.

[Enclosure A.]

Copy of letter from agents received at 1:30 p.m.

La Libertad, August 8, 1891.

Mr. F. P. White,
Commander of the Steamship City of Panama:

Dear Sir: We have the pleasure to inform you that we have just been notified that the Government has allowed the work of embarking and disembarking passengers and freight with the City of Panama, and that we therefore have ordered all our lighters to proceed to the work, so that it may be done in the shortest time possible.

We are, etc.,

Blanco & Trigueros.
FOREIGN RELATIONS.

[Inclosure B.—Translation.]

Blanco & Trigueros to the commandant of La Libertad.

LA LIBERTAD, August, 1891.

To the Commandant of this Port:

As the North American steamer City of Panama, Capt. White, from Panama, is prepared to continue her voyage to Acapulco, we request you to grant the permit required by law.

BLANCO & TRIGUEROS.

[Inclosure C.—Translation.]

The commandant of La Libertad to Blanco & Trigueros.

LA LIBERTAD, August 9, 1891.

As the steamer City of Panama has been confiscated, it is hereby declared that there is no ground for the foregoing application.

CARBALLO.

[Inclosure D.]

Consular Agent Courtaude to Capt. White.

CONSULAR AGENCY OF THE UNITED STATES,
La Libertad, Salvador, August 9, 1891.

To Capt. F. P. White,
Commanding Steamship City of Panama, off La Libertad:

DEAR SIR: I have just received a telegram from the United States consul at San Salvador, which reads as follows:

"SAN SALVADOR, 10:25 p. m.

"Please deliver at once the following to captain of the ship City of Panama:

"Captain of the Pacific Mail Ship City of Panama, at La Libertad:

"Permit no one to come aboard or leave your ship, and remain there until further orders from me or the Department.

"J. W. LOVE,
"Consul."

I beg to transmit the same, and inclose the original telegram for your guidance.

Yours, truly,

E. COURTAUDE,
Consular Agent.

[Inclosure E.]

Copy of cable from Panama.

TRIGUEROS, Libertad:

Please communicate to Capt. White, steamship City of Panama: "Referring to your dispatch August 9, proceed to San José direct. Keep your passengers on board until you communicate with the minister of the United States."

DOW.

Mr. Wharton to Mr. Pacheco.

No. 21.]    DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, August 22, 1891.

SIR: Your No. 42, of the 22d ultimo, has been received. You therein communicate a copy of correspondence between your legation and the Guatemalan foreign office in further relation to the affair of the seizure
of the arms carried on board the Pacific Mail steamship Colima at the port of San José in July of last year.

Your execution of the Department's instruction No. 35 of February 28 last does not appear to have been as explicit as may have been desirable. The purport of that instruction was to remove the comparatively unimportant ceremonial incident connected with the return of the arms from the field of discussion by accepting Col. Toriello's performance on board the City of New York and his statements to Capt. Johnston as sufficient to do away with the charge of discourtesy on his part in the restoration of the property seized. As to the main questions, the improper interference with a vessel under our flag and the injury to property rights growing out of the act of the Guatemalan Government in making the original seizure, it was pointed out that no reparation whatever, although clearly due and reasonably expected, had been tendered by Guatemala to the Government of the United States.

It would seem from Mr. De Leon's note to you of July 15 that he regarded your presentation of the matter on the 18th of last June as expressing dissatisfaction with Col. Toriello's apology, because tendered to the steamship company rather than to this Government, and his reply is confined to alleging that the ceremonial performance of Col. Toriello was, under the agreement between Mr. Kimberly and Señor Anguiano, a sufficient reparation to the Government of the United States for the discourteous feature of the incident.

A careful perusal of your note to the minister of June 15, 1891, constrains me to admit that, in placing this limited construction upon your demand, Mr. De Leon found good warrant in your own language. You do not seem to have clearly conveyed to him Mr. Blaine's conclusion that—

So far as concerns the minor incident of Col. Toriello's discourteous action in the return of the arms, his apology, thus indirectly tendered by him in person, may be accepted as amply disposing of that branch of the matter, because sanctioned by the Government of Guatemala, which has made its acquiescence therein known to the acting diplomatic agent of the United States. It may therefore disappear from consideration.

So far as concerns the original indignity and injury involved in the act of the Guatemalan Government in detaining the Colima and in seizing the arms which it diverted to its own use, the course of Mr. Kimberly does not appear to have left the question in as satisfactory a posture as this Government would desire, or as is desirable in the relations of the two Governments. The misconception on the part of Guatemala does not rest alone on Mr. Kimberly's oral statements to Señor Anguiano in the interview of January 24, 1891. Mr. Kimberly's letter to Capt. Johnston, dated January 28, has become a part of the diplomatic record, and he therein distinctly stated that the ceremonial to be performed by Col. Toriello was to be taken "in expiation of the manner in which the arms and ammunition were removed by this commandant from the Pacific Mail steamer Colima last July."

Nothing in Mr. Kimberly's instructions gave him authority to make so sweeping a declaration. The Guatemalan foreign office seems to have appreciated the situation at the time, for on the 4th of February, after Col. Toriello's apology had been made as agreed upon, Señor Prado, acting minister of foreign relations in Señor Anguiano's absence, called upon Mr. Kimberly and asked that the word "expiation" in the letter to Capt. Johnston be stricken out and the word "explanation" substituted. This Mr. Kimberly refused to do, stating that the word
"expiation" conveyed the precise meaning and literal sense intended by him, and that it could not be changed without authority from his Government. (See Mr. Kimberly's No. 246, of February 4, 1891.)

You will take early and appropriate occasion to inform the Government of Guatemala that this Government regards the secondary and comparatively trivial incident of the uncenemonious return of the arms as disposed of by Col. Toriello's apology, consenting if need be to the substitution of the word "explanation" for "expiation," in order that the record may be cleared of an unfortunate ambiguity. You will at the same time inform the minister of foreign relations that the question of indemnity for the wrongful act committed in the seizure of the arms and for any injury resulting therefrom (which it was hoped would have been met by a friendly and spontaneous tender of reparation by the Government of Guatemala to that of the United States) is reserved for future consideration.

I am, etc.,

WILLIAM F. WHARTON,
Acting Secretary.

Mr. Pacheco to Mr. Blaine.

No. 55.

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES
IN GUATEMALA AND HONDURAS,
Guatemala, August 26, 1891. (Received September 11.)

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith translation of communications received from the minister of foreign relations of Salvador, bearing date respectively August 9 and 14, also copy of my response to the same.

These communications from the minister reached me through the hands of Col. Victor M. Sandoval, who was special bearer of dispatches from that Government.

The wires between this Republic and Salvador have been interrupted for nearly three weeks, and am daily awaiting to hear of the late occurrences relating to the City of Panama (as they are pleased to call it), and will keep you advised of any new development.

I have, etc.,

R. PACHECO.

[Inclosure 1 in No. 55.—Translation.]

Señor Galiudio to Mr. Pacheco.

NATIONAL PALACE,
San Salvador, August 9, 1891.

Mr. MINISTER: This morning at 9 o'clock I wrote to your excellency with reference to the incident which occurred with the steamship City of Panama, of the merchant navy of the United States of America.

It is now 4 in the afternoon. The captain of the steamer mentioned, anchored in the waters of La Libertad, has refused to receive on board the second in command of the captaincy of that port, who went by order of the minister of marine to navigate in the steamer till further orders to prove her occupation (or her having been taken possession of) in the name of the Republic by virtue of the sentence of confiscation pronounced (fulminated) by the captain of the port of La Union.

This sentence was notified to the agent of the Pacific Mail in this port, and up to this moment I have received no advice of any appeal having been interposed.
According to the latest telegrams, the City of Panama is now on the point of leaving for Acapulco.

My Government, convinced of its right, has commanded the governor of the department of Sonsonate to go to Acapulco accompanied by a body of police and there take from the City of Panama the offender Lisandro Letona, avoiding as much as possible the use of arms.

If, as is to be expected, the capture takes place, the Salvadorian Government will have had another occasion to prove before the world that if it is firm in the maintenance of its rights it is civilized (enough) to respect the lives, dignity, and rights of offenders coming under the jurisdiction of its judges and the protection of its laws.

I am, etc.,

FRANCISCO E. GALINDO.

[Inclosure 2 in No. 55.—Translation.]

Señor Galindo to Mr. Pacheco.

Mr. MINISTER: Herewith you will find a copy of No. 186, vol. 31, of the Diario Oficial of this Republic, wherein all the late occurrences relating to the City of Panama are narrated.

I have only to add that the United States consul in this capital has instigated a careful inquiry into all that has happened in the port of La Libertad, and that yesterday he had the amiability to declare to me that he is much satisfied with the measured and prudent conduct of my Government in the incident occasioned by the captain of the aforementioned steamer, and that he recognized (acknowledged) that all the acts of the Salvadorian authorities were based on the laws in force.

In the afternoon I received a cablegram from the Department of State in Washington indicating that your excellency had orders to protest energetically against all arbitrary proceedings against the City of Panama on the part of the Salvadorian Government.

Your excellency’s silence authorizes me to think that he has found nothing in the conduct of my Government that could serve as a basis for the protest.

I am much pleased at this, for it is the desire (purpose) of the Salvadorian Government to take advantage of all circumstances (opportunities), even adverse ones, of proving its friendly disposition toward the Government and the United States of America.

I am, etc.,

FRANCISCO E. GALINDO.

[Inclosure 3 in No. 55.]

Mr. Pacheco to Señor Galindo.

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES
IN GUATEMALA AND HONDURAS,
Guatemala, August 22, 1891.

Mr. MINISTER: Through the kindess of Lieut. Col. Don Victor Manuel Sandoval, now a guest at the legation, I had the honor of receiving your excellency’s communications, dated, respectively, 9th and 14th, and copy of letter addressed to the American consul on the 8th instant.

I have carefully noted contents, and in answer permit me to state that it appears from Capt. F. P. White’s report that the Pacific Mail steamship City of Panama arrived on time at the port of La Union on the evening of the 6th instant, and on the morning of the 7th commenced the work of loading and unloading cargo without interruption. At 5 p.m. of the same day the commandant of the port, accompanied by six officials, and a launch containing an officer and 12 men, all heavily armed, visited the ship and informed the captain that he had an order of the Salvadorian Government for the arrest of Gen. Letona, who had been declared a political criminal.

He then made formal demand for his surrender and custody. The captain’s answer was to the effect that he did not recognize the order to be legal, and therefore refused to comply with this demand of the commandant; that Gen. Letona was a passenger on his ship who embarked at Corinto, Nicaragua, for San José de Guatemala; and that he (the captain) did not know anything concerning political offenders,
The commandant then stated, in a very clear and determined manner, that he would not dispatch the vessel, whereupon at 8:10 P. M., after being in port over twenty-four hours, the steamer left without her regular clearance. On her arrival at La Libertad, on the 8th instant, the captain was notified through an official from shore that by sentence dictated at La Union the captain of the port had declared the steamship City of Panama confiscated for having left without the necessary license, and also that he was designated by his Government to take command of the ship.

This officer was politely requested to return his vessels. Having delayed over twenty-four hours, the steamer then left for San José de Guatamalas.

Precisely reviewing the facts in this case, Mr. Minister, as per report of Capt. White and his officers, it is now proper for me to say that in acting as he did the captain strictly remained within the requirements under the terms of our contract between your excellency's Government and the Pacific Mail Company. The demand of the commandant at La Union for the surrender of Gen. Letona was made on telegraphic order merely, no warrant of arrest or legal power to take the accused into custody having been exhibited or presented to the captain.

With regard to the departure of the City of Panama without regular clearance, I beg to draw your excellency's attention to the fact that the steamer remained in each port the regular limit of time according to her contract, and that the captain could not further postpone the departure of his vessel without being wanting in his duty towards his employers. In view of the captain's refusal to surrender the person named, the commandant had it in his power to protest in the manner best suited to the country's dignity and his own, under the assurance that any illegal proceeding on the part of the company's officers would meet with due attention and reparation; but he had no legal right to refuse to clear the ship, thereby placing the captain in the extreme necessity of departing without the regular formalities.

For several several comparatively recent instances of the arrest of alleged offenders on American vessels in Spanish American ports. In these cases the consular or diplomatic officer has invariably been applied to for his consent, and proof has been furnished in authentic legal form of the crime alleged. Where there has been ground for the suspicion that the application bore a political complexion, ample proof has been adduced that the offenses charged were ordinary in their character. This fact has been made the basis of the request for the consent of the foreign representatives to the arrest, and I am not informed of any case in which the arrest has been made where the representative of the United States withheld his consent or the demand wore a political aspect. Ample evidence can be shown that in respect to political offenders a very considerable and important exception has in practice been made in Spanish American countries to the general rule as to the exercise of jurisdiction over foreign vessels.

The same exception is also found to exist in the case of asylum in foreign legations. It is a general principle that an ambassador or other public minister is not permitted to grant an asylum to offenders in the country in which his legation is established. But an exception to the rule has been made in respect to political offenders and nowhere has it more generally prevailed than in these countries of Spanish America. It is proper to say that the Government of the United States has never encouraged an extension of this exception, for the reason that it is likely to lead to abuse. But at the same time it has on grounds of humanity frequently found itself obliged to maintain it. That it has done so with regret is due not more to its indisposition to exercise exceptional privileges than to the deplorable fact of the recurrent disorders which have so often caused those in power suddenly to seek a place of refuge from the pursuit of others who have been able to drive them from their positions. It is to this unfortunate and unsettled political condition that the extension of asylum to political offenders is attributable, and it is believed that the considerations of self-interest arising from a sense of insecurity have not infrequently permitted the exercise of the privilege to pass without strenuous objection. Under these circumstances especially, no nation could acquiesce in the sudden disregard or heed a demand for the peremptory abandonment of a privilege sanctioned by so general usage. The causes that have operated to foster the maintenance of an asylum for political offenders in legations have contributed perhaps even more powerfully to secure a place of refuge for them on foreign vessels. The principal means of communication between the countries of Spanish America is by water, and it has been a matter of common interest to permit such communication to be unobstructed by political events. These considerations peculiarly apply to the vessels of the Pacific Mail Steamship Company, which for many years have been the principal vehicles of transportation, especially for passengers between several of these countries. Flying between San Francisco and Panama as terminal points, they call at various Central American ports, halting as long as may be necessary to unship and ship cargo, and lying at anchor for that purpose some distance from the shore. While it is true that, being in the ports of the country, the mere circumstance that they are not fastened to a wharf or brought close inshore does not exempt them from the local jurisdiction.
tion, yet it is proper to be taken into account, as an explanation of the fact in these countries, that considerations of convenience and interest have ever been most actual and important. It is not doubted that in the many years during which the vessels of the Pacific Mail Steamship Company have plied between San Francisco and Panama they have carried scores and hundreds of persons who have been concerned in political broils and insurrectionary movements in the countries at whose ports they call, yet I am informed of but a single instance in which the peace of the vessel has been disturbed by the seizure of a person on board for any political cause. So far as I am able to ascertain, it is the common opinion that such a right of seizure is not asserted or supposed to exist. This is the common opinion, of which Chief Justice Marshall spoke as evidence of that common usage which determines the law.

No better evidence of that opinion could be adduced than the instance which has been disclosed of political fugitives who have gone on board of these vessels, knowing that they would call at points in which their lives might be sacrificed if they went on shore.

I will now, with your kind permission, Mr. Minister, allude to the unfortunate performance of confiscation of the steamship City of Panama. I can not but feel and express my regrets at the course taken by the authorities at La Union, and can find no warrant, or excuse even, for the arbitrary proceeding of the commandant of that port. The foregoing exposition of the generally accepted views with regard to the right of asylum, which are also those recognized by my Government, will, I doubt not, induce your excellency’s Government to reconsider by a terminant disapproval of the proceedings of the captain of the port at La Union, restoring the mutual relations of sincere friendship and good will that for a moment might have been disturbed by this untoward occurrence.

I am sure your excellency’s Government must be aware that it is the sincere desire and wish of the American people to adjust all differences, should any arise between it and the sister republics, in a most liberal and friendly spirit. Likewise, it may not be superfluous to indicate that my Government is not prepared to sacrifice any of the recognized principles of international law and justice, of which the right of asylum for political offenders on board of merchant vessels flying the American flag is a most important one.

I am, etc.,

R. PACHECO.

Mr. Wharton to Mr. Pacheco.

[Telegram.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

Washington, August 28, 1891.

Mr. Wharton informs Mr. Pacheco that the President desires assurance that the steamship City of Panama will not be detained when she makes her return trip, and expects from the Government of Salvador time for full inquiry, and that the sovereignty of Salvador will at the same time be shown due respect. Mr. Pacheco is instructed to enter decided protest if there is a purpose on the part of Salvador to make a vexatious and wrongful seizure of the steamship, and to report his action.

Mr. Pacheco to Mr. Blaine.

[Extract.]

No. 58.] LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES IN GUATEMALA AND HONDURAS,

Guatemala, August 31, 1891. (Received September 17.)

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your telegram of August 28, and to report that I immediately sent a dispatch, a copy of which I transmit herewith,

I have, etc.,

R. PACHECO.
FOREIGN RELATIONS.

[Inclosure in No. 58.—Telegram.]

Mr. Pacheco to Señor Galindo.

LEGAION OF THE UNITED STATES
IN GUATEMALA AND HONDURAS,
Guatemala, August 30, 1891.

I have the honor of communicating to your excellency that steamship City of Panama will make regular trip to your ports, and my Government desires assurance that the steamer will not be detained over usual limit as per contract, and expects that time will be had for full inquiry into this affair, giving at same time assurance that due respect shall be shown to the sovereignty of your excellency’s Government.

R. PACHECO.

Mr. Pacheco to Mr. Blaine.

[Telegram.]

LEGAION OF THE UNITED STATES
IN GUATEMALA AND HONDURAS,
Guatemala, September 3, 1891.

Mr. Pacheco telegraphs that he is informed by the minister of foreign affairs of Salvador that the steamship City of Panama will not be detained longer than usual as per contract, and that, should it result that unlawful detention was ordered, his Government would indemnify it; that he is also informed by the minister that the confiscation proceedings will continue to a termination and the United States Government be informed of the decision when reached.

Mr. Wharton to Mr. Pacheco.

[Telegram.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, September 4, 1891.

Mr. Wharton inquires as to the length of time for which, under the contract, the Salvadorian Government claims it can detain the City of Panama and asks the meaning of the offer of indemnity for unlawful detention if the vessel is not to be detained longer than the contract permits.

Mr. Pacheco to Mr. Blaine.

[Telegram.]

LEGAION OF THE UNITED STATES
IN GUATEMALA AND HONDURAS,
Guatemala, September 9, 1891.

Mr. Pacheco states that the allusion of Salvadorian minister was evidently in general terms that the Salvadorian Government would indemnify any vessel that might be unjustly and exceptionally detained in Salvadorian ports,
Mr. Wharton to Mr. Pacheco.

[Telegram.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, September 11, 1891.

Mr. Wharton asks to be informed by telegraph of the penalty imposed by the law of Salvador on a vessel leaving a port without clearance papers.

Mr. Wharton to Mr. Pacheco.

[Telegram.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, September 14, 1891.

Mr. Wharton telegraphs that he is awaiting specific answer to his telegram of the 11th and first part of his telegram of the 4th, and that Mr. Pacheco's telegram of the 9th is unsatisfactory.

Mr. Pacheco to Mr. Blaine.

[Telegram.]

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES
IN GUATEMALA AND HONDURAS,
Guatemala, September 15, 1891.

Mr. Pacheco telegraphs text of articles 253 and 257 of the navigation and marine law of Salvador, which fixes penalty on vessels leaving port without clearance papers as follows:

Art. 253. No vessel ought to set sail without the license of the commandant of the port under penalty of confiscation.
Art. 257. Every infraction of the articles contained in this paragraph shall be punishable by fine not exceeding $200, at discretion of the commandant of the port.

Mr. Pacheco to Mr. Blaine.

[Telegram.]

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES
IN GUATEMALA AND HONDURAS,
Guatemala, September 17, 1891. (Received September 19.)

Mr. Pacheco states that under the law of Salvador a vessel leaving port without clearance papers is subject to confiscation; that the Salvadorian minister for foreign affairs had been asked by telegraph how long the City of Panama can be detained under the contract, but no answer has been received; and that this may be due to the continual interruption of the wires.

II. Ex. 1, pt. 1—6
FOREIGN RELATIONS.

Mr. Pacheco to Mr. Blaine.

No. 73.] LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES IN GUATEMALA AND HONDURAS, Guatemala, September 29, 1891. (Received October 17.)

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your instruction No. 21, of August 22, and to report that I have addressed a communication to the minister of foreign relations on the subject of the Colima arms, strictly in accordance with your instructions. I have, etc.,

R. PACHECO.

Mr. Wharton to Mr. Pacheco.


SIR: Rumors are again being given publicity in the press of increased unfriendliness between Guatemala and Salvador, and also between Honduras and Nicaragua, with reported preparations on the part of some of these powers looking towards contemplated hostilities. It is possible these rumors have no substantial foundation; but it is deemed advisable, in view of them, to recall to your attention the instruction of the Department, No. 27, of February 13 last, and to direct you to keep yourself fully informed as to the political situation, and, in case the facts call for such action on your part, to again impress the views and wishes of the United States upon the governments to which you are accredited.

The report of the manner in which you executed the instructions of the Department above cited, as contained in your No. 10, of March 11 last, is fully approved, and the assurances given by the President and minister of foreign affairs of Guatemala were highly gratifying to this Government. It is noted, however, that in these assurances no recognition is made of the moral obligation which attaches to Guatemala to observe the principle of arbitration in international disputes, as set forth in the pending treaty of arbitration, in which that Government has so heartily joined. Should circumstances make it necessary for you to again bring the subject to the attention of the minister of foreign affairs, it would be well for you to secure from him an explicit recognition of that principle.

It does not appear that you have as yet brought the subject of instruction No. 27 to the attention of the Government of Honduras. If you find that the situation of affairs in that Republic calls for action on your part, you will lose no time in laying before that Government the views of the United States as set forth in that instruction, and if the danger of the disturbance of international peace seems at all imminent, you will go in person to the capital and communicate the remonstrance of this Government. And, in any event, it is desired that at some convenient and early opportunity you will make known to the minister of foreign affairs of Honduras the views of this Government as set forth in that instruction.

The President is deeply impressed with the duty which is incumbent upon the United States to use its good offices to preserve peace among the republics of Central America, and he expects you to be vigilant and
prompt in the execution of the instructions of the Department, and
to keep it advised of any indication of hostile intentions on the part of
any of those governments.

I am, etc.,

WILLIAM F. WHARTON,
Acting Secretary.

CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE LEGATION OF SALVADOR
AT WASHINGTON.

Señor Guirola to Mr. Blaine.

[Translation.]

LEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF SALVADOR,
Washington, February 3, 1891. (Received February 4.)

SIR: The subject that I am about to state is to my mind of such
grave importance that I can do no less than beg you to give it your dis-
ingarished attention. It concerns the precious possession of peace by
nations which the United States regards as brothers, since they likewise
are Americans.

Have the kindness, in the first place, Mr. Minister, to accept my
apologies, and to believe that in penning these lines I am inspired by
those same sentiments only, hoping that you will receive them with the
same kindness with which you have hitherto deigned to honor my com-

munications.

The Tribune, of New York, of the 29th ultimo, publishes and com-
ments upon a letter which you will see in the clipping which I take the
liberty of inclosing to you, and which Capt. Dick Falkenberg addresses
to the President of Honduras, through a supposed agent of that coun-
try, there called Aguilera, but whom I believe to be the same Aguilar
to whom I shall subsequently refer, who is engaged in that city—as
gathered from the same letter—in making enlistments with a view of
disturbing the peace between Guatemala and Honduras with Salvador.
Other newspapers of the same origin declare that Gen. Reina Bar-
ríos and certain Messrs. Melgarejo and Aguilera (this must be the same
Aguilera) are buying and embarking munitions of war on the part of
Guatemala, attributing to said country the design of again making
war upon Salvador. On the other hand, the ex-minister of this coun-
try to Central America, Mr. Mizner, in talking with a reporter in San
Francisco, Cal., said that the treaty of peace which had been signed
since the last war, to which Salvador was provoked by the Govern-
ment of Guatemala and its ally, the Government of Honduras, is noth-
ing but a truce, etc., which is all the more strange because that official
exercited his offices in behalf of that peace in the name of the United
States.

It is clear that that is not the authorized opinion of either of the
Governments of the three Central American countries alluded to, nor
of their agents clothed with official capacity, and still less when it is
observed that no other statement, so far as I know, has caused even a
suspicion that the peace between them was not adjusted with the firm
and honorable purpose of making it lasting; but it is very obvious that
malecontents, who exist under every political rule, good or bad, may be
interested in interrupting that harmony at the cost of a new and bloody
struggle, in which, undoubtedly, the other two neighboring and sister
republics, Costa Rica and Nicaragua, will be involved; all of which
States, by reason of ignoble passions and wicked ambitions, would be
again further arrested in the path of progress, with the failure likewise
of the colossal enterprise of the Interoceanic Canal across the latter
State, in which the Government of the United States took the initia-
tive.

The interest with which the Government of this country regards
whatever has reference to the common good of all the governments of
America, of which the proofs that might be adduced are not few, es-
pecially under the administration of which your excellency so worthily
forms an important part, leads me to hope that the mischievous inten-
tion with which that letter was written will not pass unperceived, of
whose opinions it is proper here to state that I speak hypothetically,
inasmuch as no authenticity is given. The letter, well considered, is a
disguised call for recruits, as for that purpose its author offers himself,
a punishable act which the wise laws of this country condemn, and
which ought to alarm its commerce, which has interests linked with
that of Salvador, whose tranquillity it is desirable, for this reason,
should not be disturbed.

With this understanding, your excellency fully appreciating the in-
tensity of my just fears and examining the reasons for their origin with
your excellent and acknowledged judgment, any overthrow of the order
established under favor of the peace and tranquillity which the other
States of Central America enjoy would conduce to the injury and dete-
rioration of the works so happily initiated by the Department of State
since under your charge, tending to fraternize more every day the Amer-
ican republics, procuring the greatest possible extension of the com-
merce conducted between them; but apart from the consideration of
economy, the other being more noble and generous, ought assuredly to
particularly interest you; and in which sense and with such motives
the Government of the United States has interposed its powerful influ-
ence in their case. And how often have we seen quiet reéstablished
between contending sister states on hearing the disinterested exhorta-
tions of the North American Government towards reconciliation. These
dissensions, as you well know, have been and might continue to be an
obstacle to the republics of Central America in fully entering upon the
career of prosperity to which they are destined by their advantageous
geographical position; and it would be as grievous as unjustifiable to
come again to another disastrous struggle, which Salvador, being chal-
enged, could do no less than accept to its sorrow, no doubt, were said
provocation from Guatemala or directed by it to its ally, the Republic
of Honduras. But the affair so far seems only a matter of supposition,
both what the press has said about the purchases of arms, munitions,
etc., that Guatemala is making and the letter which I have mentioned;
but, admitting the possibility of the accusation made being unhappily
confirmed, and without claiming that the author of the said letter should
be brought to trial, I nevertheless indulge the hope that you will find
means to put a stop to the prosecution of so criminal a purpose and,
if you think proper, to give seasonable orders of a preventive character
only.

I ought not to conclude this communication without observing to
you that, fearing to disturb the rest which has duly prevailed in all the
departments of your Government on occasion of the sad death of the
Hon. Mr. Windom, I desired to delay it until to-day, and in doing so I
take pleasure in renewing to your excellency the assurances of the
high esteem and respect with which I have the honor to subscribe
myself, etc.,

B. MOLINA GUIROLA.
Gen. Luis Bogran is now President of the plucky little Central American Republic of Honduras. Honduras was once a province of Guatemala, but secured its independence in 1823. Since 1859 it has been an ally of Guatemala. The inhabitants are chiefly of Aztec descent, belonging to the tribes of Ticuques and Poyas. Out of a population of 400,000 about 7,000 only are whites.

Honduras is so situated that whenever there is a war between Guatemala on one side and Salvador on the other it is drawn into the fight, and is invariably an ally of the former. Both Guatemala and Salvador are now busily preparing for the hostilities which it is expected will be resumed within six weeks, and consequently Honduras is forced to make ready to take a hand in the trouble, as many of the battles between the hostile forces will be fought on her ground.

To do this it is necessary to secure arms, ammunition, and other munitions of war, and therefore Col. M. L. Aguilar, of the regular army, was sent to this city. The colonel has established his headquarters in the Equitable Building, and is busy making contracts and forwarding merchandise to Tegucigalpa, the capital of Honduras, where President Bogran is now recruiting and remodelling his army.

That Col. Aguilar does not intend in any way to violate international law is taken for granted at present, but it must now become a question to be decided only by the proper authorities as to whether or not he has done so.

The following letter was mailed yesterday by Capt. Richard Falkenberg, who has for many years been known as a scout and Indian fighter, both in the Riel rebellion in Canada and in our own far West:

"President Gen. DON LUIS BOGRAN, Honduras.

"SIR: Regarding the difficulties in the near future between your ally, Guatemala, and the hostile State of Salvador, allow me to offer my services to your Government as an officer.

"The necessity of establishing a corps of scouts in time of war has been proved. A corps composed of selected American scouts will no doubt be a most important help and acquisition to your regular army and a peremptory enemy to the hostile State.

"I am open to your conditions and hope to receive a favorable reply in the immediate future.

"Please state in your answer if you want me to recruit a small corps of superior American scouts, and how many.

"CAPT. DICK FALKENBORG."

This letter was indorsed in Spanish as follows by Col. Aguilar:

"On the request of the interested party I must say that I know personally Capt. Falkenberg, and that I trust him entirely in regard to his capacity to render the services he proposes."

Col. Aguilar, by indorsing the application of Capt. Falkenberg, is liable to place himself in a position of which the hostile Government of Salvador will take advantage, possibly to secure his arrest, on the ground that it is a crime against the State. At least it is expected that agents of this Government will be instructed to keep a close watch on the movements of Col. Aguilar to prevent him recruiting any men in this country through any agent or in other ways.

The colonel refuses to talk to reporters.

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Mr. Blaine to Señor Guirola.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, February 9, 1891.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your note of the 3d instant, in which you inclose an extract from the New York Tribune of the 29th ultimo, suggesting, at least, that one or more persons in New York may be engaged in an attempt to disturb the peace in portions of Central America.

It is proper to suggest to you that due complaint should be made under oath in such a case by some one having knowledge or belief of the acts alleged, in order to set on foot the necessary proceedings.
I have apprised the Attorney-General and the Secretary of the Treasury of the contents of your note, and have invoked the issuance of such instructions to their officers as appear to be called for in the premises, and have particularly asked that the consul of Salvador at New York or other person concerned may be assisted in respect of preparing the desired affidavit.

Accept, etc.,

JAMES G. BLAINE.

Señor Guirola to Mr. Blaine.

[Translation.]

LEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF SALVADOR,
Washington, February 10, 1891. (Received February 11.)

Most Excellent Sir: I have to thank your excellency for the kind reply which you were pleased to make on the 9th instant to my communication of the 3d.

I now have to inform your excellency that my fears with regard to a disturbance of the peace in Central America have been confirmed. I am credibly informed that the Government of Guatemala is massing its forces near our frontier, and is recruiting a large force of men in addition, and, as this can not be on account of any domestic affairs, I must presume that, as has been the case on previous occasions, Salvador is to be invaded by Guatemala without any declaration of war, notwithstanding the fact that such a declaration is required by the law of nations. This act seems all the more arbitrary when it is considered that there are no justifiable reasons for it, since there has not yet been time to submit to ratification the treaty of peace whose bases were drawn up by the resident diplomatic corps and gladly accepted by both the contending parties in the late war. The Salvadorians placed confidence in that document, which had already been virtually ratified, and had returned to their customary occupations, laying aside their arms in strict accord with what had been agreed upon and again taking up the implements of labor, which ennobles mankind and enhances the greatness of nations.

There is so much room, Mr. Minister, for entering upon a statement of the many considerations for which material is furnished by the course pursued by a Government that is so far from seeking to maintain peace and harmony with its neighbors, as would be most natural according to the principles of modern civilization, that I will not dwell on that point, but will leave it to your excellency’s perspicacity to judge of the supposed ease to which I refer. And feeling certain, as I do, of the conciliatory policy of your Government, I must feel equally certain that it would regret to see a state of things which would drench with human blood those very fields that are still reeking with that which was shed in July and August last, at which the world was horrified, and for which the people of Salvador had given no cause.

In view of these facts, and considering that what is done in behalf of nations or of mankind never comes too late and is never superfluous, which opinion I do not suppose to be entertained, but which I recognize as being entertained, by your enlightened Government, and by your excellency in particular, I cherish the hope that your authoritative word will be more efficient than force would be in bringing about a satisfactory and harmonious condition of things, instead of that which now prevails.
Before concluding, I must state, Mr. Minister, how much I regret to occupy your time; I am induced to do so, however, by the sentiments to which I have given expression, and I avail, etc.,

B. MOLINA GUIROLA.

Mr. Blaine to Soñor Guirola.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, February 18, 1891.

SIR: I have had the honor to receive your note of the 10th instant, in which you recur to the subject of an anticipated disturbance of the peace of Central America, and inform me upon credible intelligence possessed by you that the Government of Guatemala is moving forces to the Salvadorian frontier, whence it is inferred that the intention exists to invade Salvador without previous declaration of hostilities. To the end of preventing a renewal of the unhappy conflict which took place between Salvador and Guatemala last summer, you invoke such good offices as the Government of the United States may find it discreet and proper to employ.

The Government of the United States would indeed view with deep concern and anxiety any recurrence of the dissensions to which the Central American States have of late years been subject, and, in fulfillment of its high mission of impartial friendship towards all of those neighboring Republics, it is still ready, as it has always been, to do what it may toward averting a condition of affairs as disastrous to the internal well-being of Central America as it is embarrassing and destructive to the interchanges of the Central American States with neighboring communities.

The President of the United States thinks that Salvador and Guatemala are not only bound to keep peace with each other by the terms of the conventions which concluded their recent hostilities, but that they are, each of them, morally bound, as signatories of the treaty of arbitration, which was so auspicious a result of the conference of Washington, to do no act and to commit no aggression which will violate the solemn compact into which they have entered, or fall short of the high principles they have announced and defended before the civilized world. To abandon the advanced position so assumed would not only be a step for which no justification exists, but would arouse legitimate concern when it is remembered that the interests of the five Central American States are intimately bound together, and that disturbance between any two of them is a menace to the peace of all. Relations of peace and good will among them are essential to their common welfare, and the avoidance of troubles which must react injuriously on the interests of other countries maintaining intimate association with Central America is an obligation of orderly neighborhood weighing equally upon them all.

I can not believe that any Central American State resting under these manifold obligations will do an act tending to disrupt the ties of amity and good will which should bind them to one another, and I am sure that the frank expression of the keen and impartial solicitude with which the Government of the United States receives the disquieting reports from Central America will draw from the several Republics adequate assurances of their peaceful intentions. I accept your note as a positive pledge in this regard on the part of the Government of Salvador.

Accept, etc.,

JAMES G. BLAINE.
FOREIGN RELATIONS.

Mr. Blaine to Señor Guirola.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, February 27, 1891.

SIR: I have the honor to say, in further reply to your note of the 3d instant, relative to a presumed scheme to disturb the peace in parts of Central America, that the collector of customs at New York has been instructed "to take all proper measures to prevent the violation of the neutrality laws at that port."

Accept, etc.,

JAMES G. BLAINE.

Mr. Blaine to Señor Guirola.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, April 23, 1891.

SIR: I have the honor to apprise you, in connection with the Department's note of the 9th of February last, of the receipt of a letter from the Secretary of the Treasury, of the 21st instant, in relation to the threatened violation of the neutrality laws of the United States. The statement is made by Mr. Foster, after due investigation by an officer of his Department, that up to the present time no preparations have been made at New York to disturb the peace in Central America, and there is no likelihood of any such preparations.

Accept, etc.,

JAMES G. BLAINE.

Señor Galindo to Mr. Blaine.

[Telegram.]

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
San Salvador, August 8, 1891. (Received August 8.)

Mr. White, captain of the United States merchant steamer City of Panama, of the Pacific Mail Steamship Company, anchored in the Union, in the territorial waters of Salvador, has to-day refused to surrender Lisandro Letona, who is on board, and who is guilty of common crimes, and for whose surrender application has been made to him by the judge having jurisdiction in the case. This action on the part of the captain is an infringement of international law.

Your obedient servant,

FRANCISCO E. GALINDO.

Señor Galindo to Mr. Blaine.

[Telegram.]

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
San Salvador. (Received August 9, 1891.)

City of Panama has sailed from the territory of the Union without permission from captain of port, and, pending a trial, sentence was yesterday pronounced by the court of first instance declaring her confiscated.

Your obedient servant,

GALINDO,
Minister of Foreign Relations.
Mr. Wharton to Señor Galindo.

[Telegram.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, August 13, 1891.

MINISTER FOR FOREIGN RELATIONS,
Salvador.

Your telegrams regarding steamship City of Panama have been received. United States minister at Guatemala has been instructed to make instant and explicit protest against any arbitrary action towards mail steamship under friendly flag.

WILLIAM F. WHARTON,
Acting Secretary.