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*Note de la Direction de l'Amérique et l'Extrême-Orient  
pour le sous-secrétaire d'État par intérim aux Affaires extérieures*

*Memorandum from American and Far Eastern Division  
to Acting Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs*

[Ottawa], November 9, 1948

#### RECOGNITION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF NICARAGUA

The question of whether or not Canada should now recognize the present Government of Nicaragua has again arisen in connection with the granting of an Exequatur to Mr. Lucien Viau as Honorary Consul of Nicaragua in Montreal. Mr. Viau was granted provisional recognition in March 1947, but no action was taken with regard to issuing him with an Exequatur since by doing so we would have been considered as having granted recognition to the present Government of Nicaragua which, as you will recall, came into power after the elected President was overthrown by a military coup in May of that year.

You will also recall that for some time the United States, the United Kingdom and Latin American nations, with one or two exceptions, withheld recognition of this government and that we ourselves avoided taking any action which might be construed as recognition of the régime. Mr. St. Laurent approved the recommendation made in a memorandum dated May 4, 1948, that we should not recognize the government for the time being but that if "conditions become more stable or if it becomes in our interest to accord recognition we could then do so."

Since that date we have received no information which would indicate that the present government has been unable to exercise effective authority for the seventeen months it has been in power. There have been one or two minor revolts but these were put down without difficulty. Furthermore, this government has been recognized by the United States, the United Kingdom, Spain, France, Italy, Holland, the Holy See, Belgium, Denmark, Poland, Sweden, China, Israel, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Colombia, Peru, Ecuador, Honduras, Argentina, Mexico, Salvador, Panama, Brazil and Haiti. The only countries which recognized the previous government and which have not recognized the present government are Cuba, Guatemala and Venezuela.

It is felt that while we have little sympathy for this government on political grounds, it would be difficult to continue withholding recognition when the principal nations of the Hemisphere have already entered into official relations with it. Moreover, we have already granted a diplomatic visa to the wife of the Minister of War. Accordingly, it is now proposed that we extend informal recognition to the present Government of Nicaragua.

The issuance of the Exequatur to the Honorary Consul in Montreal, which has now been pending for a year and a half, would provide us with a convenient opportunity of extending informal recognition, and we would prefer that recognition be granted in this way rather than by a formal communication from the Minister to the