

PARTIE 4/PART 4
ÉLÉVATION DES LÉGATIONS AU RANG D'AMBASSADES
RAISING OF LEGATIONS TO EMBASSIES

111.

DEA/5930-40

*Le ministre en Union soviétique au secrétaire d'État
aux Affaires extérieures*

Minister in Soviet Union to Secretary of State for External Affairs

DESPATCH 85

Kuibyshev, July 8, 1943

SECRET

Sir,

Pravda of June 17th, 1943, published a statement to the effect that the Governments of the Soviet Union and Mexico had agreed to raise their respective diplomatic representations to the rank of Embassies. The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. have appointed Mr. K.A. Oumansky to the position of Soviet Ambassador to Mexico and the Mexican Government have nominated Mr. Luis Quintanilla as their Ambassador to the Soviet Union.

2. This step is a triumph for Mr. Quintanilla, who soon after his arrival here last March commenced to work for his elevation from the position of Mexican Minister to that of Ambassador. He first of all persuaded the Soviet authorities to send to Mexico a more important representative than the Soviet Consul General at New York with the result that Mr. Oumansky was nominated to the post at Mexico City. The departure of Mr. Oumansky at the end of May was attended by a terrible tragedy in that his young daughter, of whom he was very fond, was shot shortly before the plane was due to leave.

3. Mr. Quintanilla is now awaiting the receipt of his credentials as Ambassador. His Greek colleague has already received his credentials and is waiting until Mr. Kalinin⁵³ will be able to receive him. When these two representatives formally assume the position of Ambassador there will be fourteen diplomatic representatives to the Soviet Union holding that rank out of twenty foreign missions including the semi-diplomatic mission of the French Committee of National Resistance [Liberation]. The remaining legations are those of Australia, Bulgaria, Canada, Cuba and Sweden. The position of the Cuban Legation is a peculiar one in that the Cuban Ambassador at Washington came to Moscow in May, presented his credentials as Minister, then returned to Washington, leaving the mission here in charge of a Chargé d'Affaires.

4. With Canada the only American country represented in Washington by a legation and with the dwindling number of legations in the Soviet Union, you may be giving consideration to the possibility of raising our representation in either Washington or Moscow or both to the rank of embassy. I have no strong

⁵³Président du Praesidium du Soviet suprême de l'Union soviétique.

⁵³Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Soviet Union.