

SOUTH AND CENTRAL AMERICA.

[January 23.]

CONFIDENTIAL.

SECTION 2.

[A 428/57/51]

No. 1.

Sir J. Tilley to the Marquess Curzon of Kedleston.—(Received January 23, 1923.)

(No. 372. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Petropolis, December 22, 1922.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that in the course of my interview yesterday the conversation turned on the Brazilian proposal for a preliminary conference with the Argentine and Chile about disarmament. His Excellency seemed to me to be in a state of nervous excitement when speaking on the subject. He ridiculed the idea that the limitation of Brazilian armaments should be left to the vote of a general conference of South American States, seeing the poor state of preparation in which Brazil now finds herself. He ridiculed also the extravagant language of the Argentine press. I confined myself to general expressions of sympathy. I did also refer to the approaching visit of Señor Edwards, who will be at Rio for a few hours on his way to Santiago. I thought, perhaps, his Excellency might consider Señor Edwards a possible unofficial mediator, but he expressed so little enthusiasm about Señor Edwards that I dropped the subject.

2. The general attitude of the press has been in support of the Government, but Dr. Pacheco is much criticised elsewhere for the want of skill displayed and for not finding out how his proposal would be received in Buenos Aires before he made it public. I still think, however, that the attitude of the Argentine press was ridiculous.

3. Dr. Pacheco said that negotiations were not at an end, but he did not see how the Santiago Conference could now take place. I gather that the United States come in for some of his displeasure.

4. In the course of the conversation his Excellency showed me the telegram from Bahia, which forms the subject of my telegram No. 164 of yesterday's date, and a paraphrase of which by the Brazilian Government is enclosed herewith.* His Excellency said that it showed that the German Government by clandestine sales were trying to evade the clear provisions of the Treaty of Versailles, and it was also evidence of the bad faith of the Argentine Government, who, while talking about disarmament, were busily doing the other thing.

5. I have sent a copy of this despatch to His Majesty's Minister at Buenos Aires.

I have, &c.

JOHN TILLEY.

* Not printed.

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W.L. Mackenzie King Papers

Memoranda & Notes

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