

[PIÈCE JOINTE/ENCLOSURE]

*Mémoire du ministre-conseiller, la légation aux États-Unis**Memorandum by Minister-Counsellor, Legation in United States*

July 16, 1942

CONVERSATION WITH MR. SUMNER WELLES: JULY 15, 1942

The Minister asked Mr. Welles whether he would like to say a word about the Latin American situation. Mr. Welles made a few general remarks and then proceeded to discuss the Canadian position in Latin America. He said that he realized that certain people in Ottawa were somewhat disturbed when Canada was not invited last January to the Inter-American Conference at Rio. He explained this — as indeed he has explained it before — as being due to the reluctance of certain of the Latin American States to agree to an invitation being sent to Canada. This reluctance, he said, was due to the fact that Canada had never shown any great interest previously in Latin America, apart from questions of trade.³

Mr. Welles felt therefore that if we could develop our political relationship with Latin American countries through the establishment of Legations, it would have a very useful effect, as indicating Canada's interest in Latin American countries and her desire to improve her relations with them. Mr. Welles said that the United States would most heartily welcome such a development. He felt that if we opened a Legation in Mexico and one in Peru that is all that could be legitimately expected at the present time. He thought that one Minister might be accredited to both Chile and Peru.

Mr. Pearson asked Mr. Welles if the delay in the sending of a Minister to Ottawa by Chile was due to her disappointment at sharing a Canadian Minister with the Argentine, where indeed he has spent most of his time. Mr. Welles thought that this was not the case, — that the Chilean delay was due to political difficulties there. He thought that neither Peru nor Chile would feel slighted if one Minister were accredited to both countries.

The political difficulties in Chile mentioned above arose, according to Mr. Welles, out of the struggle going on in that country on the question of maintaining neutrality or joining other Latin American States in breaking relations with the Axis. He said that there had recently been indications that the latter course might before long be adopted by Chile.

Mr. Welles also discussed generally the relations between the United States and "Fighting France," and "Vichy France," but said nothing of significance. He felt that the "Fighting French" movement was on a better foundation than it had been, but he was emphatic that many French elements most anxious to resist the Axis were almost equally determined not to accept de Gaulle's political leadership. He felt that de Gaulle's record as a political leader justified these

³La note suivante était écrite sur ce mémorandum: ³The following note was written on the memorandum:

I thought the reason was that Welles did not want any part of Br[itish] Empire. K[ING]