

Mexico¹ a day or two ago, the Canadian authorities recently requested him to transmit, on behalf of the Directors of the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair, Toronto, an invitation to the Government of Mexico to send a military team to participate in the Fair from November 15th to 23rd, 1938. The British authorities are enquiring whether the Canadian authorities will be prepared to withdraw this request, as the sending of the invitation in question might prove embarrassing.

Mr. Mason is anxious to have an early reply on this point

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*Mémorandum*²*Memorandum*²

November 1, 1938

CANADIAN VIEWS AS CONVEYED TO BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION

We appreciate the position as described by you and would not wish to cause an embarrassing situation for your Government. On the other hand, the following facts must be borne in mind. The Mexican team are already in New York as a consequence of invitation to attend the National Horse Show, New York, and unofficial approaches have been made direct to them to come to Toronto. Furthermore, it is well known that it is also customary to transmit invitation through us. If transmission is not made at this stage, the omission would likely create a diplomatic incident. It does not seem advisable to allow this to arise under the circumstances. It would be almost impossible to justify a refusal to transmit an invitation of this nature, particularly at this stage. We believe therefore that transmission should be made.

We could now request the Mexican Consular Officer at Montreal to make the transmission, but we had thought it would be preferable to have transmission made by the British Consular Officer in Mexico City, and we wrote to him.

We should be glad if the British authorities would consider the facts already mentioned and in view of the circumstances consider whether they would be prepared to instruct the British Consul-General to transmit the invitation as requested by us.

¹ Le Mexique rappela son ministre, de Londres, le 14 mai 1938 en protestation contre l'attitude de la Grande-Bretagne à l'égard de l'expropriation des compagnies de pétrole étrangères, et plus particulièrement à la suite de la note d'un ton acerbe que lui avait remise le gouvernement de Grande-Bretagne. Londres rappela son ministre le même jour. Les deux légations furent fermées et des agents consulaires s'occupèrent des immeubles. Par la suite, le ministre du Danemark fut chargé de la protection des intérêts de la Grande-Bretagne au Mexique.

Mexico recalled her Minister in London on May 14th, 1938 in response to the British attitude over the Mexican expropriation of foreign oil companies, and especially over a sharp note from the British to the Mexican government. On the same day Britain recalled her Minister in Mexico City. Both embassies were closed down, with consular officers placed in charge of the property. The Danish Minister in Mexico took over British interests.

² De/by L. Beaudry.