

allow Mr. St-Laurent to talk in a relaxed and informal way with the President. Possibly the ceremonial aspects of the joint visit could be reduced to a minimum; since the Mexican President is a Head of State it is likely that honours will have to be paid to him over and above those to the Prime Minister. With the undoubted good faith and good intentions of the United States, the ceremonial arrangements could possibly develop in a way that could be misunderstood here and this should be avoided.

5. One way to help minimize the ceremonial aspect, and I shall be grateful if you will explore this, would be to separate the respective arrivals and departures by one day. So far as mere timing is concerned the Prime Minister does not really care whether he arrives Sunday or Monday. But, if he were to arrive Sunday and the Mexican President made his ceremonial arrival twenty-four hours later, the Prime Minister might in the interim have an excellent opportunity to talk with Mr. Eisenhower. (If Mr. Eisenhower preferred to do this outside Washington, e.g. Gettysburg, it would please Mr. St-Laurent very much.) Then the inevitable joint ceremonies could proceed Monday and if necessary Tuesday, and the Prime Minister could depart, leaving the field clear for the Mexican President who would presumably stay another twenty-four hours.

6. The Prime Minister, if he had his choice, would prefer to leave to the Mexican President alone the privilege of addressing Congress. He realizes, however, that it may well be impossible to decline the suggestion of a "double bill" at a joint session of Senate and House. He leaves this in your hands.

7. Private talks between Mr. Dulles and myself would be useful, and I agree that we should try to make some preparations for these in advance.

L.B. PEARSON

3.

DEA/50329-40

*L'ambassadeur aux États-Unis
au secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures
Ambassador in United States
to Secretary of State for External Affairs*

TELEGRAM 207

Washington, February 3, 1956

CONFIDENTIAL

Reference: Your telegram X-179 of Jan 31.

PROPOSED VISIT TO WASHINGTON OF PRIME MINISTER
AND PRESIDENT OF MEXICO

This afternoon I conveyed to the Secretary of State, the Prime Minister's acceptance of the President's invitation.

2. On a personal basis I was able at the same time to convey, without discourtesy I trust, some impression of our lack of enthusiasm for a proposal which would appear to equate the relations between the United States and Canada and the United States and Mexico. In explanation I said that Canadians were naturally somewhat jealous of the especially intimate association existing between our two countries — this without intending any reflection whatever upon the Mexicans. Dulles said that he quite understood.

3. When I went on to suggest the possibility of separating the respective arrivals and departures, Dulles seemed to think that something might be done particularly regarding