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SANTIAGO, CHILE

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Secretary of State.
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OCT 29 1913

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The Honorable

The Secretary of State,

Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to report that, in compliance with the Department's instructions dated July 8th, supplemented by instruction No. 160 of July 25th, last, on the subject of the President's proposals looking toward a treaty providing for investigation of disputes in all cases, I immediately upon their receipt addressed a note to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, of which I enclose copy, setting forth the President's proposals textually, accompanied by a copy of the memorandum prepared by the Secretary of State. This note I handed to the Minister personally and explained fully the scope and spirit of the proposals.

The Minister explained that they had already been communicated to him through the Chilean Minister in Washington, and

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he read to me the instructions he had sent to him on the subject, in which the Chilean Government limited itself to a guarded expression of approval of the President's initiative and instructed the Minister to keep it informed of developments. The Minister was fearful lest a frank acceptance of the principle might prejudice Chilean interests in the long-standing dispute with Peru. I pointed out to him that this was a matter entirely between Chile and the United States; that however unwilling Chile might be to submit the Tacna-Arica question to arbitration or investigation of any sort, there was no connection whatever between the two matters, and no advantage could be taken by Peru of Chile's willingness to enter into this arrangement with us; that, on the contrary, this would afford Chile an opportunity to demonstrate her confidence in and good will towards us and her peaceful purposes. I spoke of the unlikelihood of war ever occurring between our two countries, but referred to the difficulties in connection with the Alsop claim to emphasize the advantage of having machinery already provided, in case of necessity, which would tend automatically to absorb any friction which might arise, etc., etc. The Minister promised to consult with the President and his Colleagues, and discuss the matter with me at a later date.

Subsequently we had several interviews and, finally, he agreed to accept the principle and to address me the note of acceptance, of which I have the satisfaction of forwarding copy and translation.

Confidential. The Minister stated that he would prefer not to enter upon the discussion of the details of the arrangement until a settlement had been reached with Peru,

which

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which he hoped to be able to bring about in the near future, and intimated that he might ask the moral support and assistance of our Government, as well as that of Brazil and the Argentine, in a final effort to come to a peaceful and definite conclusion of this old dispute. In reply I told him I would communicate his desires to the Secretary of State and, bearing in mind the Department's confidential instructions of March 17th, last, I expressed in a general way our friendly interest in a mutually satisfactory settlement of the Chilean-Peruvian difficulty.

Until this Tacna-Arica matter is out of the way there is little probability that the Chilean Government, and certainly much less that the Chilean Congress, will be willing to enter into any general arbitration arrangement.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

P Fackler

File No. 712.

Enclosures:

Copy of note to Foreign Office;
Copy of note from Foreign Office;
Translation of note from Foreign Office.