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The Terms of Peace. Spain Slow Answering

SHE IS PLAYING FOR DELAY

The People of Spain are Very Anxious for Peace, but the Military Party are Against it.

The conditions upon which we will cease to wage war with Spain, as given out by the president, are as follows:

The president does not now put forward any claim for pecuniary indemnity, but requires relinquishment of all claim of sovereignty over or title to the island of Cuba, as well as evacuation by Spain of the island; also cession to the United States and immediate evacuation of the island of Porto Rico and other islands under Spanish sovereignty in the West Indies and like cession of an island in the Ladrone. The United States will occupy and hold the city, bay and harbor of Manila, pending the conclusion of a treaty of peace, which shall determine the control, disposition and government of the Philippines. If these terms are accepted in their entirety by Spain, commissioners will be named by the United States to meet commissioners on the part of Spain for the purpose of concluding a treaty of peace on the basis above indicated.

Spain, in customary dilatory manner, is trying to evade making a direct answer to our proposal, and to prolong the negotiations. It is said to be not at all improbable that the preliminaries leading up to the signature of the treaty may consume fully three months, so that it may be well along toward the legal assembling of congress before the president will be prepared to submit a peace treaty to the senate. It is expected that the Spanish pledge to accept the broad conditions laid down by the United States will take the form of a written agreement, something in the nature of a protocol. Under the president's note, however, Spain is bound, should she accept, to at once evacuate both Cuba and Porto Rico. Military operations will continue until Spain shall agree to our terms.

General Linares' Report to Spain. Hardships of the Spanish Army

Official cablegram, July 12, 1898.—To the Minister of War, from the General-in-Chief of the Division of Santiago de Cuba: Although confined to my bed by great weakness, and in much pain, the situation of the long-suffering troops here occupies my mind to such an extent that I deem it my duty to address your excellency, that the state of affairs may be explained.

The enemy's lines are very near the town. On account of the nature of the ground, our lines are in full view from them. Troops weak, sick in considerable proportion, not sent to hospitals owing to the necessity for keeping them in the intrenchments; horses and mules without the usual allowance of forage. In the midst of the wet season, with 24 hours' daily fall of rain in the trenches, which are simply ditches dug in the ground, without any permanent shelter for the men. The men have nothing but rice to eat, and no means of changing or drying their clothing. Considerable losses, field officers and company officers killed, wounded, sick, and troops deprived of necessary orders in critical movements.

Under these circumstances it is impossible to fight our way out, because in attempting to do so our forces would be lacking one-third of the men, who could not leave, and we would be weakened besides by casualties caused by the enemy, resulting in a veritable disaster without saving our diminished battalions. In order to get out, protected by the Holguin division, it will be necessary for them to come and break the enemy's lines in one place, so that my forces may break in another, and act in conjunction. For this operation the Holguin division will require eight days, and will have to bring a large amount of rations, which it is impossible to transport. The solution of the question is ominously imposed on us; our surrender is inevitable, and we can only succeed in prolonging the agony.

The sacrifice is useless, and the enemy understands this. They see our lines, and theirs being well established close up, they tire out our men without exposing themselves. Yesterday they cannonaded us on land, with such an elevation that we were unable to see their batteries, and from the sea by the squadron, which had perfect range and bombarded the town in sections with mathematical precision.

The complete exodus of the inhabitants, insular as well as peninsular, includes the occupants of the public offices, with few exceptions. There only remains the clergy, and they today started to leave the town, with the archbishop at their head. The defenders here cannot now begin a campaign full of enthusiasm and energy. They came three years ago, struggling against the climate, privations and fatigues, and now they are placed in these sad circumstances, where they have no food, no physical force and no means of recuperating. They are defending the property of those who have abandoned it, and of those that are now being fed by the American forces.

The honor of arms has its limits, and I appeal to the opinion of the whole nation as to whether these long-suffering troops have not kept it safely many times since May 18, when they were subjected to the first cannonade. If it is necessary that the sacrifice be endured for reasons of which I am ignorant, or that some one else shall assume the responsibility of the unfortunate termination of which I have mentioned in a number of telegrams, I faithfully offer myself on the altar of my country, for one, and for the other I will retain the command for the purpose of signing the surrender, for my modest reputation is of little value as compared with my country's interests.

LINARES.