

IT HAS NO CASE

Hay Replies to the Note of Colombia.

AMERICA NOT UNFRIENDLY

Panama Recognized When Independence Was Certain.

NO OTHER POLICY TO ASSUME

Proposition to Refer the Matter to The Hague Court Has No Legal Standing—Charges of General Reyes Are Bold.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 18.—President Roosevelt transmitted to the Senate today additional correspondence touching the relations of the United States with Colombia and Panama, covering the period from December 23, 1903, to January 6 last. A statement of grievances on the part of Colombia was presented to the State Department by General Reyes on December 23. General Reyes says the course of the United States had worked deep injury to Colombia, and he cited the treaty of 1886 as showing that the independence and sovereignty of Colombia was to be maintained intact by the two governments. General Reyes said, with reference to the Hay-Herran treaty, that the same course that was followed in Bogota was pursued in Washington. If the treaty, he said, had been rejected in Washington, the disapproval would have involved no grievance for Colombia and that the Colombian Congress in its disapproval of the treaty simply exercised a vested right. This action, he maintained, did not disqualify the Colombian government from the qualification of another treaty. In speaking of the action of the Colombian Congress in its efforts to amend the treaty, General Reyes says: "I firmly believe that it would have approved the amendments that would probably have been acceptable to the United States had not the American Minister to Bogota repeatedly declared, in the most positive manner, that his Government would reject any amendments that might be offered. Independence of Panama. As to the independence of the Republic of Panama, General Reyes says it is a matter of public knowledge that the mother country commands sufficient forces to subdue a revolution. General Reyes continues: "Before the coup d'etat, which proclaimed the independence of the isthmus, took place at Panama, there were in this very city agents of the authors of that coup in conference with high personages clothed with official character, as is attested by reputable American newspapers. I have received information to the effect that a bank in New York opened a considerable credit in their favor with a knowledge of the general use for which it was intended, even though unaware that it was to be applied in part to the bribery of a large part of the garrison at Panama. General Reyes says that Panama has become independent because the Government of the United States desired it; because with its incomparably superior forces, the United States prevented the landing of Colombian troops; because even before the separatist movement was known in Bogota the United States had its war vessels at the entrance of Colombian ports preventing the departure of Colombian battalions; because, without regard to the precedent established by statesmen who have dealt with this matter, the United States has not respected our rights in that strip of land which Colombia considers as a divine bequest for the innocent use of the American family of states and, finally, because the Government of the United States, invoking and putting into practice the right of might, has taken from us by bloodless conquest, but by conquest nevertheless, the most important part of the national territory."

Secretary Hay answered this note under date of January 5. He says the Government has carefully considered the grave complaints made and assures General Reyes of our most friendly sentiments for the government and people of Colombia. The question submitted, he says, can be considered only in the light of accomplished facts, of which one is that the Republic of Panama has become a member of the family of nations. "The Department has read with surprise," Mr. Hay comments, "your repetition of gross imputations upon the conduct and motives of this Government, which are said to have appeared in reputable American newspapers. Mr. Hay reviews in detail, first, the necessity of a waterway connecting the two oceans, and, secondly, all the legislative and diplomatic procedure which has taken place to secure that end. Secretary Hay says the United States had faithfully borne during the long period since the treaty of 1846 was completed the full burden of its responsibilities. "Meanwhile," he continues, "the great designs of the treaty of 1846 remained unfulfilled, and in the end it became apparent, as heretofore has been shown, that it could not be fulfilled only by the construction of a canal by the Government of the United States. By reason of the action of the government at Bogota in repudiating the Hay-Herran convention and of the views and intentions disclosed in connection with that repudiation, the Government was confronted, when the revolution at Panama took place, with the alternative of either abandoning the chief benefit which it expected and which it was entitled to derive from the treaty of 1846, or of resorting to measures the necessity of which it could contemplate only with regret. Situation Confronting America. "By the declaration of independence of the Republic of Panama a new situation was created. On one hand stood the government of Colombia invoking in the name of the treaty of 1846 the aid of this Government in its efforts to suppress the

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revolution; on the other hand stood the Republic of Panama, that had come into being in order that the great design of that treaty might not be forever frustrated, but might be fulfilled. The isthmus was threatened with desolation by another civil war. Now were the rights and interests of the United States alone at stake. The interests of the whole civilized world were involved. The Republic of Panama stood for these interests. The Colombian government opposed them. Compelled to choose between these two alternatives, the Government of the United States, in no wise responsible for the situation that had arisen, did not hesitate. It recognized the independence of the Republic of Panama, and upon its judgment and action in the emergency the powers of the world have set the seal of their approval. Under all the circumstances, says the Secretary, the Department is unable to regard the complaints of Panama against this Government as having any valid foundation. Secretary Hay says: "The Government of the United States would gladly wish its good offices with the Republic of Panama with a view to bringing about some arrangement on a fair and equitable basis. For the acceptance of your proposal to a resort to The Hague tribunal, this Government perceives no occasion. Indeed, the questions presented in your statement of grievances are of a political nature, such as nations even at the most advanced stage as to international arbitration have not proposed to deal with by that process." Reyes Submits Another Note. Under date of January 6, General Reyes submits another note to Secretary Hay, in which he says he has transmitted Secretary Hay's answer to his statement of grievances to his government by cable. The Secretary's note is construed, he says, as an intimation that the Colombian forces will be attacked by the United States on their entering the territory of Panama to subdue the rebellion, and for that reason it would hold the Government of the United States for all damages to it by the loss of that national territory. A repetition is made of the position of the Colombian government under the treaty of 1846, and it is requested that the first note of General Reyes be made public. Replying to this on January 8, Secretary Hay says he finds almost all the propositions brought forward in the second note have been considered and fully answered in his note of the 5th of January. He says, however: "I will not for a moment accept the imputation of unfriendly motives or sentiments on the part of this country toward Colombia, and even if Colombia should persist in assuming a hostile attitude toward us, it will only be after the most careful deliberation, and with extreme reluctance, that this Government would shape its course in accordance with the deplorable conditions thus created." Under date of January 11, General Reyes

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addressed Secretary Hay, stating that he finds his arguments had not been refuted by the otherwise forcible papers which he had received. He then discusses at some length his proposition to refer the matter to The Hague and concludes with a regret on the failure of his mission to the United States. Secretary Hay answers this note under date of January 12 with the statement that there is no reason to reconsider the attitude of the United States heretofore set forth. Northern Railroad into Guatemala City. Building 90 miles over heavy mountain grades in three years. This enterprise will bring the interior of Guatemala within four days' journey from New Orleans, and will complete the Inter-oceanic Railway for a distance of 270 miles. It will also transfer the entire commerce of Guatemala from the Pacific to the Atlantic. Americans Guard Santo Domingo. NEW YORK, Jan. 18.—The government troops, which have captured this city, says a Puerto Plata, Santo Domingo dispatch to the Herald, were commanded by General Limardo. There were 600 men engaged on the government side. The commanders of the United States cruiser Detroit and the British cruiser Pallas agreed to the surrender on condition that the troops lay down their arms and disband. General Deschamps, General Despardol, General Ercas and General Meyreles, who took refuge in the United States Consulate, will embark on the first steamer leaving this port. A strong guard has been landed by the American and British commanders to preserve order. Severe Blow to Jimenez. WASHINGTON, Jan. 18.—The Navy Department has received the following details of the surrender of Puerto Plata to the Government troops from Commander Dillingham of the United States Steamship Detroit, just captured this city, Jan. 17: "After fight beyond conditions established by us outside city limits, Jimenez forces, occupying Puerto Plata, surrendered unconditionally to Morales' forces. Perfect order prevails. Business of port will begin tomorrow at 8 A. M. No casualties among non-combatants; no destruction of property. Surrender and arrangements of terms conducted with order in presence of Captain Robertson and me. Consider this severe blow to Jimenez. Have small force at Consulate." TAFT CANNOT LINGER. San Francisco Club Will Have to Cancel Banquet in His Honor. SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 18.—Major-General MacArthur received a cablegram from Honolulu today from Governor Taft, the new Secretary of War, stating that he could not attend the Union League Club banquet to be given in his honor, nor review the troops at the Presidio. He will arrive here on January 23 and says he under orders to leave for Washington the same day. Cruiser Tacoma Turned Over. SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 18.—The United States cruiser Tacoma was taken from the Union Iron Works to Mare Island today and formally turned over to the Government. The cruiser is practically ready for sea service, and is expected to sail soon to join the fleet of Admiral Glass at Panama. Reservoir Bursts—Many Homeless. BLOEMFONTEIN, Orange River Colony, Jan. 18.—About 30 persons were drowned and three hotels and 176 houses destroyed as the result of a bursting reservoir here yesterday. Hundreds of persons have been rendered homeless and destitute by the disaster.

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