

LEAGUE IS VIEWED WITH SUSPICION BY LATIN STATES

Salvador Asks for Statement on Monroe Doctrine; Lodge Reservations Are Seen as Menace.

By David Lawrence
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Washington, Feb. 12.—Central and South American countries have become suspicious of the insistence by certain members of the United States senate of a reservation to the peace treaty which would give this country alone the right to interpret the Monroe doctrine.

The note addressed to the department of state by the government of Salvador, asking the United States to define at this time its interpretation of the Monroe doctrine, means, I am assured by one of the ministers who is in touch with the views of other governments, that Central and South American republics will not enter the League of Nations if they must sign away to the United States the sole right of determining what the Monroe doctrine means without any understanding in advance of what it does include.

FEAR OF AMERICA

The situation is a direct outgrowth of the senate debate and reports indicate that the prospect of bringing the Pan-American countries into the League of Nations hinges directly on the purposes and motives of the United States as revealed by the discussion in the American senate.

To the original statement by President Monroe of our national policy of preventing European countries from acquiring territory or colonizing in this hemisphere, the republics south of us have no objection. But they have watched the Monroe doctrine interpreted variously by Republican and Democratic Administrations in such fashion as to evoke suspicion on the part of their peoples that the Monroe doctrine means to the United States not only a bulwark against European interference, but also the privilege of doing as we please south of the Rio Grande.

GIANTS TO ACQUIRE AID

South America hasn't forgotten Elihu Root's refusal to make the Monroe doctrine a common principle of international understanding in this hemisphere, nor has President Roosevelt's remark about the use of "international police power" been dismissed from the sensitive minds of Latin American statesmen.

They are gratified that the United States keeps Europe out of this hemisphere, but worried over the repeated interference by the United States in what they consider as their own affairs.

The question asked by Salvador was prompted by the fear that with the United States out of the league, Europe would be left to determine what constituted "an impeding interference" of such regional understandings as the Monroe doctrine, as the covenant now reads.

LODGE AROUSES DOUBT

There is no objection to the statement that the United States alone shall be permitted to enforce the Monroe doctrine, but there is a decided aversion to leaving blank just what the future interpretation of the doctrine shall be. The moment that Central or South American countries sign the conditions of the covenant of the league, they would of course accept the principle that the Monroe doctrine is not affected, but if a reservation is added saying, as Senator Lodge and the foreign relations committee has framed it, that the Monroe doctrine, as interpreted by the United States alone, is outside of the jurisdiction of the league.

the southern republic would refuse to put their signatures on the contract.

WILSON LESS HARM

They say it would be a plain admission on their part that the United States alone can interpret the Monroe doctrine as it pleases. It will be noted that President Wilson, impressed no doubt by the arguments of Latin American diplomats at the Paris peace conference, used less harsh language when he referred to the doctrine as a "regional understanding."

That would seem to imply that there must be two parties at least to an understanding and that the disputes would be worked out purely by pan-American countries without interference by European members of the league. This is a logical consequence of the Wilson policy toward Latin America, revealed from time to time in the last seven years.

On one occasion, Mr. Wilson announced the readiness of the government to pledge itself to guarantee the territorial integrity and political independence of the republics south of the Rio Grande. This pledge was accompanied by a reciprocal pledge to enter into a mutual promise to respect each others' boundaries, but failed owing to the outbreak of the European war, which upset all diplomacy in this hemisphere.

Mr. Roosevelt's policies were not intended to hurt the feelings of Latin American peoples, but his annual message to congress in 1904 is still regarded by statesmen south of us as likely to be in the mind of his intimate friend and party colleague, Senator Lodge of Massachusetts.

RIGHT TO INTERFERE

"Chronic wrong doing, or an impotence which results in a general loosening of the ties of civilized society may, in America, as elsewhere, ultimately require intervention by some civilized nation, and in the Western hemisphere the adherence of the United States to the Monroe doctrine may force the United States, however reluctantly, in flagrant cases of such wrongdoing or impotence, to the exercise of an international police power."

"It is a mere truism to say that every nation, whether in America or anywhere else, which desires to maintain its freedom, its independence, must ultimately realize that the right of such independence cannot be separated from the responsibility of making good use of it."

The trouble is that while the foregoing philosophy will be approved as applying to backward countries like Haiti and Santo Domingo, it is resented by proud and developed nations like Chile, Argentina and Brazil, and even smaller countries whose civilization and culture has reached a development as advanced as our own.

South America would prefer that the American republic should enter into a regional understanding about affairs on this hemisphere and that the Monroe doctrine shall be understood as applying merely to European interference and non-colonizing as originally phrased by President Monroe.

RESULTS OF LONG DEBATE

They never will agree to a blanket reservation giving the United States alone the right to interpret the doctrine.

They are much more likely to insert reservations of their own reserving the right to be consulted and to dissent from any interpretation of the Monroe doctrine by the United States or any other power which threatens their territorial dignity, political independence or sovereign rights.

Thus are the effects of protracted debate in the senate disclosed.

Europe is disappointed over America's delay.

Central and South America is suspicious. Some declaration by the senate and executive branch of the government on the true direction of our foreign policy will be necessary before the trust reposed in us during the recent war will be restored.

College Boy Bandit Picks Lock on Cell But Is Recaptured

Los Angeles, Cal., Feb. 12.—Within 10 hours after he was arrested Elmore E. Reynolds, 22 years old college youth, held as the "monkey burglar," worked the lock on his cell door and nearly escaped from the city jail, it became known today.

Reynolds was caught by a jail guard as he was working on a second door. "I wanted to visit my bride in Berkeley," he explained.

He was transferred to a solid steel cell and searched for tools immediately after his attempt.

Kaiser Orders Son Not to Surrender

Berlin, Feb. 12.—(U. P.)—The former Kaiser has forbidden his son, the former crown prince, to surrender himself to the allies, and has requested the Dutch government to prevent such procedure, the Kreuz Zeitung said today.



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