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FOR CUBA LIBRE

President's Message in the Cause of Humanity.

ARMED INTERVENTION ASKED

Spain's Armistice Decree Reported Without Recommendation—Recognition of Cuban Independence Declared to Be Unwarranted and Inexpedient.

President McKinley Monday sent the following message to the congress of the United States:

Obedient to that precept of the constitution which commands the president to give from time to time the congress information of the state of the Union and to recommend to its consideration such measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient, it becomes my duty now to address your body with regard to the grave condition that has arisen in the relations of the United States and Spain, by reason of the warfare that for more than three years has raged in the neighboring island of Cuba.

The Cuban Revolution.

The present revolution is but the successor of other similar insurrections which have occurred in Cuba against the dominion of Spain, extending over a period of nearly half a century, each of which, during its progress, has subjected the United States to great effort and expense.

Spain's Vain Promises.

The assassination of the prime minister, Canovas, led to a change of government in Spain. The former administration, which pledged subjugation without concession, gave place to that of a more liberal party, committed long in advance to a policy of reform.

The Relief Movement.

While these negotiations were in progress the increasing destitution of the unfortunate reconcentrados and the alarming mortality among them claimed earnest attention.

A Previous Effort to Restore Peace.

In April, 1896, the evils from which our country suffered through the Cuban war became so enormous that my predecessor made an effort to bring about peace through the mediation of the United States.

Sufferings of Reconcentrados.

As the scarcity of food increased with the devastation of the depopulated areas of production, destitution and want became misery and starvation. Month by month the death rate increased in alarming ratio, and by March, 1898, according to conservative estimates from official Spanish sources, the mortality among the reconcentrados from starvation and the diseases thereto incident exceeded 50 per centum of the total number.

Progress of the War.

Meanwhile the military situation in the island has undergone a decided change. The extraordinary activity that characterized the second year of the war, when the insurgents invaded even the hitherto unharmed fields of Pinar del Rio and parts of Havana, had relaxed into a dogged struggle in the central and eastern provinces.

Recognition Not Warranted.

In my annual message of December last I said:

A Precedent Cited.

Turning to the question of recognizing at this time the independence of the present insurgent government in Cuba, we must not forget that the United States has not in any way extended our influence or effective offices in the territory of hostilities.

The Maine Incident.

It has thus been made known to the world that the uniform policy and practice of the United States has been to abstain from interference in disputes which merely relate to the internal government of other nations.

Spain's Cause Hopeless.

The war in Cuba is of such a nature that, short of subjugation or extermination, a final military victory for the other side seems impracticable.

Recognition Not Warranted.

In addition to the test imposed by public law as the condition of the recognition of the independence of a neutral state, to wit, that the revolted state shall constitute in fact a body politic, having a government in substance as well as in name, possessed of the elements of statehood, co-operating with the Spanish authorities so as to afford full relief.

Recognition Inexpedient.

Under the circumstances of the case, it is my duty to recommend that the United States abstain from any recognition of the independence of Cuba.

Possible Alternative.

There remain the alternative forms of intervention to end the war, such as an armistice, or the mediation of a friendly power, or the mediation of a friendly power.

Intervention the Only Hope.

The long trial has proved that the object for which Spain has waged war cannot be attained. The fire of insurrection may flame or may smolder with varying seasons, but it has not been and it is plain that it cannot be extinguished by present methods.

The Maine Incident.

These elements of danger and disorder already pointed out have been strikingly illustrated by a recent incident which has deeply and justly moved the American people.

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AN ARMISTICE.

The Queen Regent Issues Another Decree.

Washington, April 11.—President McKinley received a cablegram from Minister Woodford, at Madrid last night, announcing that the Spanish government had granted an armistice for Cuba.

The Situation Complicated.

The exact terms of the armistice are felt to be the most essential feature of Spain's concessions. At the outset, it was supposed to be an unconditional grant of armistice.

Armistice a Spanish Trick.

Washington, April 11.—Senator Quesada, the diplomatic representative of the Cuban insurgents in this city, when asked today what he thought of the Spanish armistice, said:

LEAVING FOR HOME.

American Jeered by Spaniards as the Party Left Havana. Key West, April 11.—"Tell the Olivette to get under way at once, Captain Cowles, signal the Bache that the United States fleet is ready to clear out of Havana, and please follow the Bache out."

General Lee, being on board the Fern, made that target for redoubled hisses, catcalls and whistles from the crowds on shore.

Colored Troops Start South.

Helena, Mont., April 12.—The Twenty-fifth United States Infantry, which has been stationed in Montana for the last 10 years, left today for its new post at Chickamauga.

Spain's Last Subterfuge.

Yesterday and since the preparation of the foregoing message, official information was received by me that the latest decree of the queen regent of Spain directs General Blanco, in order to prepare and execute a peace, to proclaim a suspension of hostilities, the duration and details of which have not yet been communicated to me.

Spain's Last Subterfuge.

Executive Mansion, Washington, April 11, 1898.

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