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AN
NORTH AMERICAN DEPARTMENT

AN 4354

1948

Registry Number } **AN4354/436/8**

FROM Mr. Fowler,
Tegucigalpa.

No. 83 Confidential

Dated 30th Nov 1948

Received in Registry 8th Dec 1948

Last Paper.

AN4351

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Action completed.)

Resl.

(Index.)

21/3

Next Paper.

AN4363

Proposed conference of Central American Presidents.
Refers to San Salvador despatch 107
(AN4322/436/8)

Reports that the invitations were issued by a Salvadorean journalist named Napoleon Viera Altamirano, presumably at the instigation of President Castro. President Arevalo is suspected of being concerned. As President Carias did not reply, this was followed by several aggressive letters. Gives translation of statement made by to the press to put an end to it.

Cipied Washington, Guatemala, San Salvador, Managua, San José, Panama.

(Minutes.)

This has been overtaken by events in the form of the "invasion of Costa Rica".

See AN 4322, 4298, 4312, 4351.

with pp. L.A. F.O. R. 1/1

1/12

See also AN. 4391 below containing San Salvador tel. No 1 42. The scheme (this is the second time it has been raised) now seems thoroughly dead.

14/12

Hansen 13/12

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By K.M.

British Legation,
Tegucigalpa, Honduras,

30th November, 1948.

CONFIDENTIAL.

No. 83.

4354

Sir,

With reference to San Salvador despatch No. 107 dated 20th November, 1948, regarding the question of whether President Castañeda Castro had issued invitations to a conference of the Presidents of the five Central American Republics, I have the honour to report that Dr. Silverio Lafinez, the ex-Minister for Foreign Affairs who retired recently, informs me that the invitation was not extended by the Presidents of any of the Central American Republics but by a Salvadoran journalist named Napoleon Viera Altamirano, owner of the "Diario de Hoy", of San Salvador, presumably at the instigation of President Castañeda Castro with the view to the latter, who is anxious to remain in power, becoming a Governor of State (Gobernador de Estado) in the proposed Union of Central American Republics. President Arévalo is also suspected of being connected with the matter.

2. The invitation, I understand, was in circular form addressed to the Presidents of the five Central American Republics, and, as President Carías did not reply, it was followed by several aggressive letters from Señor Viera Altamirano. This annoyed President Carías, and, in order to put an end to it, he decided to make a statement for publication in the press. This was done through the Associated Press representative on 22nd November and was published in "El Día" on the 24th. It reads in translation as follows:-

"The Government which I preside is at present engaged in guaranteeing the peaceful transmission of the Mandate and in the preparations for this solemn event, which will take place on the first of January, 1949. In forty days time I shall hand over the Presidency to the citizen chosen by the nation to rule its destiny during the next constitutional period.

I, therefore, believe that the present Government neither can nor should make, in these circumstances, any decisions which affect the future of the country, with the exception of those which relate to the maintenance of peace and the normal development of events. I also believe that it falls to the Honduran people to decide whether or not they want their Government to participate in meetings for the purpose of discussing affairs of so much importance to the existence of the Republic; and the Honduran people have not been consulted in the matter nor have they as yet made manifest their views in any way.

"If ...

H.M. Principal Secretary of State
for Foreign Affairs,
&c., &c., &c.,
Foreign Office,
London, S.W.1.

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(2)

"If the new Government believe it to be opportune, they will be able to make a decision when the moment arrives, in conformity with the Central American sentiment which animates all Honduraneans. I regret that I am not in a position to give a satisfactory reply in harmony with the aspirations of sincere and disinterested Centralamericanism which aspires to the union of our brother countries on the basis of equity, understanding and tolerance; but the reasons above mentioned prevent me from doing so."

3. Nothing further has been heard of this matter, and as far as the President-elect is concerned I am convinced that he is no more interested in the Union of Central American Countries than President Carías.

4. I am sending a copy of this despatch to His Majesty's Missions in Washington, Guatemala, San Salvador, Managua, San José (Costa Rica) and Panama .

I have the honour to be,
with the highest respect,
Sir,
Your most obedient,
humble Servant,

Ruef. V. ...