

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

jm

FROM: SOUTH AMERICAN MINISTER
ON BOARD U.S.S. CLEVELAND.

TO: AMLEGATION PANAMA

DATE: FEBRUARY 28, 1925 - 9 a.m.

NO NUMBER.

Please repeat to Department quote February 27, 10 p.m. Department's February 26, 3 p.m. Have investigated Marsh's connection with Indian uprising and am informed by the Indians that Marsh has attempted to restrain them and that their being on war path is due to grave injustices done them by Panaman. Indians have agreed to suspend hostilities if not attacked by Panamans. Panama has been informed of this but has sent instructions to troops here begin subquotation to seize all vessels and boats pertaining to the Indians and prevent all kinds of traffic with and between them end subquotation.

R
800 - San Blas

Panaman Government has advised me it will insist on Marsh's trial and punishment if found guilty. Marsh now aboard ship at my request with the understanding he may return to Indians if he so desires. If allow him to return to the United States and ~~be~~ suspend operations against Indians the incident would be closed. I suggest that the Department through the Legation endeavor to bring this about.

COPY

67

Feb. 26th 1925

To the American Consul
Colon, Rep of Panama

Honorable Sir:-

We Indians appeal to you to help us. the Panamanian Officials have treated us like animals. we cannot stand it any longer.

They have robbed us of our liberty, our women and children they have abused.

When we men would defend our women, we have been beaten, imprisoned, fined, and treated with worse things unless we obeyed them.

For peace sake we have submitted to them it has got to be unbearable. they have started this fight, drilling us for several weeks to go and fight our own people further up the coast where the Panama officials are not allowed to enter.

We have found letters commanding their officials to shoot us all at the drunken carnival.

You may have heard of the Indian outbreak but we are only defending ourselves and families do you blame us?

They have shot the Indians whom they had in prison, and throw their bodies in the sea, said to be about 15 men, at Pervenir, San Blas Point.

One of them was Jim Perry the father of the white (Albino) girl who stayed at the Washington Hotel last May, or June.

Mr. Marsh the explorer who took them brought them home last month, Jan. 22.,

Jim Perry spoke of the wonders of U.S. and the Panam Police forbid him to tell of any thing American.

"American no good they must not speak English either"

Soon after Mr. Marsh and party left for the interior, Jim was imprisoned for five days in Margana.

And before Mr. Marsh could get down to defend him, he was sent to another prison in San Blas Point where Governor Mejica lives and rules.

The American flag is over every San Blas Island and we all appeal to you to help us we will never be subject to the Panama Gov't again.

Do help us, as soon as you can.

Yours in truth,

All Indians per Miss A. Coogo
Missionary

Over

I sent a word of conditions by Chief Charles Robinson to Dr. South, American Legation Panama per. Dr. Hearn

(COPY)

70
sm

March 26 of February of 1925.

Mr. American Counsel Dispenser sir I dont know your name
Crisotbal
Colon

My dear friend:

I gave you a few line to let you know what my people are doing. I will give you as the history of my people. We want our flag too. I know very well, all the national had his flag Now we are doing just the same as you. So let you know that, When my people want fight, they never eat, nor drink. Now the day comes to us we are fighting with panamenian pleasseman.

On 24 of February the mandinga people are fought with porvenir island. After fight that the Porvenir pleasseman kills my people. Fifteen (15) indians are dead in Porvenir. Then they are gone in the same night Then my people said why they are gone out They afraid to die too. In the same night they went to Porvenir to fight and they are not one in there all gone afraid. Only they want kill my people. So I want you to tell every body like that what happened in San Blas.

I think God will help us to save our liberty, so we want you us to fight. Because we are not begining the fight. They are finding the fight. They want kill all the San Blas Indian.

Thats all I can say to you. By and by I write to you again only God will me

Your friend Samuel Morris

You know your good we are very poor. Now my people are very sorry. You know very well They never talk good so we want you put in Newspapers for to knows every body. Now we all have your flag. The people are very glad to see your flag so they want you to protect them. When we saw your flag we all clapping our hands. I never seen like that. Everybody, boys, girls, women, man and children salute your flag. Don't forget to tell to everybody the Panamanian pleasseman are fighting with poor indian.

Oh Counsel please help us we want some whinchester. So I will waite your letter. We want your answer. I think you can because you are the man of the world. If God talk to your heart you can. You know indian is very poor no have nothing for to fight Please help us.

Your respectfully friend

Samuel Morris

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

52
SM

FROM: SOUTH AMERICAN MINISTER
ON BOARD U.S.S. CLEVELAND.

TO: AMLEGATION PANAMA

DATE: March 1, 1925 - 5 p.m.

RECEIVED: March 1, 1925.

NO NUMBER.

Joint meeting this afternoon at which were present local Indian chiefs, Judge de la Ossa of Supreme Court and his secretary Senor Ortis, Captain Wells, Burgher, Markham and myself. Judge de la Ossa took testimony of Indians regarding their own complains and Marsh connection with revolt. De la Ossa returning tonight to Panama. I offered to take him aboard CLEVELAND to Agaidi for more comprehensive investigation but he stated present evidence sufficient for his purposes.

800-Sen Ossa

Confidential. Sincerely hope for instructions from Department regarding Marsh in order to avoid unnecessary complications on arrival Cristobal where Panaman authorities will probably endeavor to take him into custody. Desire to know Panaman's Attorney's Ossa's return.

All quiet here. Compile message to Department from contents this message.

South.

55

gm

TELEGRAM SENT

TO: SECSTATE WASHINGTON
FROM: AMLEGATION PANAMA
DATE: MARCH 2, 1925 - 9 p.m.
NUMBER: 29

Confidential. I returned to Panama this afternoon by air leaving U.S.S. CLEVELAND at Carti to persuade the Panaman Government to settle troubles with Indians amicably promising no retaliation for the recent uprising and better treatment of Indians in the future.

From thorough investigation made on the spot I am convinced charges made by Indians against Panaman authorities are true and the Indians have been shamefully treated.

P A R A P H R A S E

I believe the rebellion was bound to occur and warranted; but Marsh not responsible except that his personal feeling too evident. Should he be given into Panaman custody, doubtful if justice would prevail owing to strong public sentiment against him.

Panaman Government considering asking United States for assistance in putting down the rebellion. I do not believe this should be given at this time. Although Indians' cause is just, I am of the opinion that operations against them, especially if started

R 800 - San Pan

TELEGRAM SENT

- 2 -

by Panama, will be very expensive and likely to fail.

I expect to leave for Carti tomorrow with
Dr. Alfaro or other Government official for continued
meetings with Indian chiefs.

SOUTH.

TELEGRAM SENT

95

TO: SECSTATE WASHINGTON
FROM: AMLEGATION PANAMA
DATE: MARCH 4, 1925 - 4 p.m.
NUMBER: 31

R S

After six hour conference between Minister for Foreign Affairs, Minister of Justice and thirteen Indian chiefs representing Northern San Blas region an agreement was drawn up and signed along the following lines:- the Indians submit to the laws and authority of Panama and agree not to commit further hostile acts: they promise to return all arms and other property captured from the Police or taken from private individuals: the Government of Panama will allow them to keep their shotguns and will return those which have been taken from the Indians by the Police: the Government of Panama will maintain such officials in the Indian's territory as may be necessary to represent Panama authority and maintain order but will in general leave it to the Indians to maintain order among themselves: the Government of Panama will not impose schools upon the Indians: the Government of Panama will respect the right of the Indians to follow their own manners and customs and assures to them the same rights which are enjoyed by other Panaman citizens.

2860-San Blas

I signed

96

TELEGRAM SENT

- 2 -

I signed the agreement as a witness only. Subsequently an official inquiry was made into the activities of Marsh at which it was decided that there was not sufficient evidence against him to ask for his extradition. The Minister for Foreign Affairs will recommend to the President that on Marsh's arrival at the Canal Zone the Zone authorities be asked to deport him as an undesirable. This seems to be the best possible solution. Meeting ended in a friendly spirit and I hope relations between Indians and Panaman Government will be much improved in future. Am proceeding on U.S.S. CLEVELAND with Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister of Justice to Aligandi tomorrow to endeavor to procure acceptance of the above agreement by Indians there.

South.