

BRITISH EMBASSY,

WASHINGTON, D.C.,

April 25th, 1940.

No. 369.

My Lord,

With reference to San José telegram No. 5 of the 16th March, I have the honour to transmit herewith copies of farewell messages exchanged by Dr. Rafael A. Calderón Guardia, President-Elect of Costa Rica, with President Roosevelt and Mr. Cordell Hull, on the conclusion of his visit to the United States.

2. Dr. Calderón's visit was announced as having no other object than to promote goodwill between Costa Rica and the United States, and I have seen nothing in the press to suggest that anything more concrete, if sought, was achieved. Little public notice has, indeed, been taken of the visit.

3. Dr. Calderon and his party landed at New York on the 24th March and was met by the Chief of Protocol and the Costa Rican Minister. Leaving next day for Washington, he and his wife were entertained at dinner by the President and Mrs. Roosevelt and stayed the night at the White House. The following day, they visited the Capitol and were welcomed by the Vice-President, the Speaker and others. Mr. and Mrs. Hull gave a luncheon in their honour and they afterwards left to visit Chicago and other large cities, returning to sail from New York on April 13th.

4. In the course of interviews in Washington and a speech in New York, Dr. Calderón is reported as saying that Costa Rica was willing and ready to take all measures necessary for joint defence of the Panamá

The Right Honourable

CB:JPS:ACEM:NT

Canal/

The Viscount Halifax, K. G.,

etc., etc., etc.

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END

Canal in accordance with agreements approved by Costa Rica in connexion with "continental solidarity".

5. Dr. Calderón further declared that he was not seeking a loan and gave his opinion that Costa Rica would not use the loan of \$500,000 made to her recently by the Export-Import Bank. He also expressed anxiety about a fall in coffee prices which, he said, "could mean for countries of modest possibilities a crisis of fatal consequence to our peaceful habits and our perennial harmony".

6. I am sending copies of this despatch to His Majesty's Representatives at Panamá and San José.

I have the honour to be,
with the highest respect,

My Lord,
Your Lordship's most obedient
humble servant,

(3GB) LOTHIAN