

TRANSIT OF U.S. TROOPS

Exchange of notes at Panama July 18 and 20, 1912

Entered into force July 20, 1912

Superseded by procedure set forth in records of the negotiations of the treaty of Mar. 2, 1936¹

Department of State files

The American Minister to the Secretary for Foreign Relations

F.O. No. 221

PANAMA, July 18, 1912

EXCELLENCY:

The Department of State is advised that it is the intention of the War Department to initiate at an early date the practical instruction of the mobile troops forming part of the Panama garrison in their duties in connection with the defense of the Canal Zone. For the proper performance of these duties it will be necessary that the troops become familiar with the possible landing places for a hostile force within reasonable distance of the Canal, the routes of advance from the Canal Zone to such landing places, and that terrain beyond the limits of the Canal Zone which would probably be involved in operations incident to repelling successfully an attack upon the coast defense works or the vulnerable parts of the Canal system.

This will involve the passage of troops and reconnoitering parties across territory belonging to the Republic of Panama, and while this Government regards this work as a necessary incident to the protection of the Canal as contemplated and provided in the treaty, and therefore as within the rights given by treaty stipulations, yet it desires to avail itself of this opportunity of calling to the attention of the Republic of Panama the aforementioned facts in order to avoid any possible misapprehension on the part of the Government of Panama as to the reason for this free passage of topographical parties and troops of the Panama garrisons across such parts of the territory of the Republic as it may be necessary for them to use for instructional purposes.

The Government of the United States feels that it need not assure the Government of Panama that the presence of these parties and troops on Panamanian territory has no other significance or purpose than that mentioned above and that, having completed that work, they will at once retire from Panamanian territory and return to the Canal Zone.

¹ TS 945, *post*, p. 742.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to Your Excellency the assurances of my highest consideration.

H. PERCIVAL DODGE

His Excellency
Señor DON EDUARDO CHIARI,
Secretary for Foreign Relations,
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The Secretary for Foreign Relations to the American Minister

[TRANSLATION]

No. 2394

PANAMA, July 20, 1912

MR. MINISTER:

Having noted the contents of Your Excellency's esteemed communication No. 221, of the 18th instant, I have the honor to inform you that the Government of the Republic, being as it is, greatly interested in giving the Government of the United States all facilities in all that relates to the construction, conservation, service and protection of the Canal, in accordance with the stipulation of the Bunau Varilla-Hay Treaty, has no objection to the transit through national territory of the troops and reconnaissance parties referred to in that communication.

It only desires, in order to prevent difficulties with the authorities of the districts through which such troops and reconnaissance parties are to pass, that it may be advised in advance of their departure in order to issue the necessary orders.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to Your Excellency the assurances of my highest consideration.

EDUARDO CHIARI

His Excellency
H. PERCIVAL DODGE,
Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary
of the United States,
City.