

June 8th, 1922.

Hon. Jose Tous Soto,  
Ponce, P. R.

My dear friend:-

Very little has happened here since my last letter to you. On the other hand, things have been moving down in the little Island.

On Monday last, I sent you a cablegram to Ponce, as follows:

"Towner says, strictly confidential, Travieso in agreement with President cabled Mestre to stop Proceedings against Reily before Grand Jury until receipt letter from Travieso, in which he will convey President's promise to recall Governor."

The meaning of this was that Travieso, with the advice of Towner, saw the President Monday and told him the exact situation up to the date he sailed from Porto Rico, explaining that he had gone over the papers of the Grand Jury and had reached the conclusion that there was probably cause to prosecute the Governor under two charges and that he had so advised the Governor. He explained to the President the attitude of the Attorney General and his misunderstanding with Arrillaga, and he made it evident to the President, after the latter told him of his intention of recalling Governor Reily, that a message from him to Mestre would stop the whole thing and Mestre would not proceed any further. Travieso promised to send a cable to Mestre telling him not to proceed any further until he could receive a letter from him, and it was agreed that he would write such a letter and bring it to the President to read before mailing, in which he would tell Mestre that he should drop the prosecution against the Governor so as to give the President a chance of calling Reily and fixing matters up here. Of course, it was not said plainly that the Governor would be recalled, but that is what was meant, as Towner explained to me.

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At the time of this conversation with Towner, I told him that I was certain that Mestre would not undertake anything on this subject without full consultation and ultimate approval of Barcelo and the Junta Central, as he had never ceased to be under the control of both in his entire dealings with the Governor. The two cables received this morning from Geigel telling me that Mestre had brought mandamus proceedings transferring Arrillaga to Mayquez, paying no heed to the Governor's Executive Order confirming Arrillaga's appointment to San Juan, shows that I was right. The further decision of Judge Foote denying the mandamus and Mestre's appeal by certiorari, still confirms my opinion. This morning in a talk with Judge Towner, he said that he expected that Travieso's cable and letter would have due effect, and I repeated my doubts.

On going through the code, I found that it lacked certain phrases which may be necessary to use in the very near future, and I have inserted them in my copy and I am now enclosing you a list of those phrases, so that you will embody them in your copy. I am sending a duplicate to my son in order that he may proceed to include in his and Geigel's copies.

There is nothing new to report at this writing, but I will add something tomorrow, as then I hope to be able to give you some news.

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June 9th, 1922.

I had expected there would be some news to report today, but nothing has happened of any importance for me to write you about.

In talking with Judge Towner this morning and commenting upon the cabled news from Geigel, he said that evidently Mestre had taken that action on account of some foolish act of the Governor, but I still believe that Mestre and Barcelo are working together and they have no intention of letting up on the Governor. I hope to receive your news the next boat, which will explain what has really happened.

Howard Hull of the "Progress" is in town and to see the Secretary of War tomorrow and he had a talk with Judge Towner this morning.

Without anything further at the present,

Sincerely yours,