

June 1st, 1922.

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

My dear friend:-

Since my letter last Friday, I have been kept busy receiving and translating both your and my son's cipher cablegrams, informing me of the situation from day to day, and I must say that from an Associated Press dispatch published in this morning's paper from Porto Rico, I saw that everything you told me was confirmed. As I have been consulting with Judge Towner every day, he advised me yesterday to see the Secretary of War and let him know of the last three cablegrams which I have received. I tried to see the Secretary but his engagements did not allow him to give me any time and as he was to go before the Senate Committee this morning and would not go to his office, I decided to write him a letter, and I did so, as you will notice by the enclosed copy.

This morning I sent my son a cablegram in cipher, reading as follows:

"Under advice Towner I placed in the hands of the Secretary of War yesterday both yours and Tous Soto's last messages. In cable to Cordova Davila copy shown me by Towner Barcelo confirmed the disagreement between Attorney General and Prosecuting Attorney, adding that people protest action Prosecuting Attorney."

This morning when the Associated Press dispatch confirmed everything that I knew by your cables, I called up the Secretary to Mr. Weeks and asked him to call the Secretary's attention to the said cable, but he told me he doubted very much that the Secretary had read the paper and I should send over the clipping, which I did.

Nothing is known of what has been done by the President, and I have tried to find out through different sources and have failed. Of course, now that this charge has been brought against Reily, things will have to drag until something positive is known, but I am sure that the campaign here against him and the Administration by the Democrats will be given a new impetus.

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Travieso came to town today. I have not seen him, but Senator New told me that Travieso had been in to see him this morning, introducing a Mr. North, and he asked me if I knew this man North, who claimed to have been in Porto Rico. It is the first time I ever heard of this man. New told me that Travieso said that Reilly's was a lost case, that his friends had tried to help and prop him up, but that he was hopeless. In fact, Senator New told me that Travieso spoke to him in the same vein as I had spoken before. I saw Judge Towner after this talk with the Senator and told him that Travieso had seen New. Before I close this letter I shall be able to tell you more about this matter.

June 2nd, 1922.

The papers this morning brought a Porto Rico dispatch, giving at length the exonerating report made by Arrillaga and of which I wrote you that the Governor had sent copy to Judge Towner. In view of this and of yesterday's report of Mestre's doings, I sent a cable to my son telling him about this and asking him to tell the Governor that I was here at his service, if he saw fit to use me. The reason for doing this is because it is important that the Governor should see who are his true friends in Porto Rico, and in keeping with what I have told the President, the Secretary of War and Judge Towner, and in fact, everybody, that is, that we Republicans will back and uphold him as long as he is the representative of the Administration in Porto Rico. This attitude of ours has nothing to do with my mission here, which was to enlighten the Administration of the true conditions of the affairs in Porto Rico, and I am sure that if the authorities had hastened in taking a decisive step from the start, this new scandal would have been avoided.

I must say that Mestre's attitude has killed him as Attorney General. In a talk with Judge Towner we have taken up this matter again and Major Wells is being considered seriously to succeed Mestre. Another man who will go is Auditor Kessinger and Towner consulted me as to the advisability of reappointing Judge Bonner. I told him that if he wanted a man in whom he could have entire confidence for that position, Bonner was the man, but that he must remember that Bonner is a Democrat and that he has grown very old and feeble of late.

Travieso saw Judge Towner yesterday, together with Mr. North, who is a partner of M. Agueso and Company of New York. Travieso told Towner that he had examined the papers of the Grand Jury and was certain that they could get the Governor on the charges of the expenditures made in both the trips through the Island and to the States. It seems that there is a check

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signed by Reily in favor of the Insular Government antedated for the return of a certain amount of money; the Grand Jury investigated the checks in the hands of the Bank and found that that check given by Reily, the Governor, was wrongly dated so as to deceive the real date, as there were eight or ten other checks paid by the bank, whose numbers were higher than the one given to the Insular Government. Travieso told Towner that he was going to see the Secretary of War and would tell him the exact condition of affairs. It seems that Reily has been expecting that Travieso would defend him and put him straight before the authorities up here, and now Travieso is acting just like the man he has always been.

After I left Towner I met Travieso and Pasquera was present. Travieso told me that the Governor had shown him what was supposed to be a report from Arrillaga exonerating him entirely, but that the document was unsigned. The Governor told him that Arrillaga had written out the report. That when he saw Arrillaga that same day he told him that he had seen his report in the hands of Reily, and Arrillaga told him that Reily had been after him for him to sign the said report, which had been written by Reily himself, or by someone friendly to Reily, but that he had refused to sign it and even told Travieso that he would not sign the said report. This is the report, a copy of which Reily sent Judge Towner, and which has been published by the Associated Press here today. Travieso still believes that Arrillaga did not put his signature to it. During all this conversation with Travieso, I made up my mind that he would not get anything from me, and I kept tugging at Pasquera's elbow every time I noticed that he was saying something which he should not. I am to see more of Travieso and will get everything that I can from him.

Something I found out is that Travieso told Towner regarding the sale of the San Juan bonds which would take place here in Washington on the 15th instant. It seems that one of the conditions of the bonds is to the effect that they can be called for payment at any time and this makes them fatal, for nobody will care to buy bonds under such conditions. Travieso expects to have this condition modified after the bids are opened and rejected. In the meantime, the poor taxpayers of San Juan will have to pay for the mistake and for the expenses of Travieso, Ginorio and the Secretary, who are expected here on the 15th.

Inasmuch as my leave of absence from my Department did not state any definite time, I had Judge Towner write my chief and I am now enclosing copy of said letter, which tells the story. Of course, I don't know how much longer I shall have to stay here. It will all depend on the turn of events in the Reily matter before the Grand Jury.

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On account of the cablegram which I sent my son today, I have written Reily a letter, copy of which is enclosed herewith for your perusal. I don't believe that I could have done less after you cabled me that you and other friends were going to defend Reily on his new charges.

There has been a vacancy in the Post Office at Barceloneta, which is of the Fourth Class and our friend Ramos has recommended the name of Gaspar Ferran for the position and I have likewise endorsed this name to the Department, and now have to ask you to write Reily and ask him to recommend this fellow for the appointment.

There is nothing more to write, but if anything should happen that merits it, I will let you know by cable.

Believe me to remain,

Sincerely yours,

Encls.