

May 9th, 1922.

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

My dear friend:-

In my last letter I told you that on the next day I would see the Secretary of War on his own calling, and I did so Saturday morning. He had already received the papers sent to him by the Attorney General covering the investigation made in the Reilly matter. He told me that he was in a very delicate position, as he did not believe that he could afford to counsel the Attorney General not to prosecute the Governor, and at the same time, he did not want to have him prosecuted or indicted. He said that the safest thing for him to do would be to cable Mestre to wait eight or ten days, when he would be able to give him a definite answer. Mr. Weeks told me that he would probably call me up on Tuesday if he could arrange for me to see the President with him, and so he did this morning.

I saw the President just for a few minutes today, it being Cabinet day. I went in with Weeks and the President asked me many questions concerning the different matters pertaining to Reilly. I went over the whole situation and from the questions which he and the Secretary asked me, I could see plainly that they were very much worried about the situation. The President repeated what Weeks had told me before of the sending down a couple of weeks ago of a confidential friend to find out the truth of the situation. He expects him back some time this week and if this emissary should confirm all the stories which have reached the administration, then the President will have to take a decisive step, most probably this very week. It was even discussed by both the President and the Secretary in my presence as to the advisability, in case such a step was taken, of not calling Reilly without letting him know plainly that it would be to stay, as it would not do to have him come up simply for a conference and then have him go back to wind up things.

Under such an impression, after I left the conference, I sent you a ciphered cablegram, which reads as follows:

Hon. Jose Tous Soto

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"Visited President, accompanied Weeks. Both worried with situation. On arrival emissary, if he confirms report, all probabilities are that he (Reilly) will be removed this very week."

I am seeing Fowner every day and he is well aware of the situation.

By a letter which I received from my son this morning, I see that our appointments are still up in the air and I cannot make out what keeps the Governor from making them when he promised me the day of my sailing that he would have them all made.

There is nothing new to add at this writing, and hope that by next mail I will be able to give you more definite news, although by the morning papers I see that the President is planning to leave on Friday for a few days' vacation.

Doctor Dexter, our old Commissioner of Education, asked me to luncheon yesterday, and requested that I put in a good word for him with the President for his appointment as Minister to Guatemala. I could not refuse and today I am writing the President, telling him what I know about Dr. Dexter. I don't believe that my recommendation will do much, but the Doctor has very good endorsements, which will "do the trick" if the President should see fit to appoint him.

Believe me to remain,

Sincerely yours,