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14-16

STATE DEPT MESSAGE FOR INFORMATION OF THE DEPT OF ARMY

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PER PARAS 51i and 60a (4), AR 380-5

From: Secretary of State signed Marshall (AIRGRAM)

To: AMEMBASSY Guatemala City Guatemala; AMEMBASSY San Salvador El Salvador; AMEMBASSY Tegucigalpa Honduras; AMEMBASSY Managua Nicaragua; AMEMBASSY San Jose Costa Rica; AMEMBASSY Panama; AMEMBASSY Bogota Colombia; AMEMBASSY Quito Ecuador; AMEMBASSY Lima Peru; AMEMBASSY Santiago Chile; AMEMBASSY Buenos Aires Argentina; AMEMBASSY Montevideo Uruguay; AMEMBASSY Rio de Janeiro Brazil; AMEMBASSY Caracas Venezuela

DTG: 1/ 8:35 A.M. 1 July 1948

Special Telecommunications Mission of Mr. Raymond L Harrell.

Mr. Raymond L. Harrell, Telecommunications Attache, Habana, designated special United States representative to treat with several Telecommunication matters of special importance in relation to Central and South American countries (except Mexico). Each American Mission hereby informed vital concern United States these matters and is requested render Harrell all possible assistance. Harrell to conduct mission with consent and advice officer in charge each mission visited. He is authorized use for purposes consultation and without expense to Department, services United States citizens available at site and qualified in field his endeavor.

Recasting radio frequency list by Provisional Frequency Board now sitting in Geneva is most important project resulting Atlantic City Telecommunication Conferences. Wakefield, Chairman United States Delegation, strongly urges Latin American countries send representatives PFB for their own sake and to counterbalance Soviet bloc. Two or three Latin American Republics only now represented in spite previous efforts

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(4 Jul 48)

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Page 2

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through American Missions urge countries send representatives. Soviet bloc now marshals ten votes out of twenty-eight. Frequently other countries vote with USSR in self interest. Since frequency list revision vital United States Telecommunication interest, essential United States obtain all hemisphere support possible. No person designated by member International Telecommunications Union to serve on Administrative Council or International Frequency Registration Board, may exercise functions until instrument of ratification or accession convention has been deposited ITU. On Administrative Council are Colombia, Brazil and Argentina. On IFRB are Cuba and Argentina. Imperative in United States view these countries ratify convention prior January 1, 1949. United States opposed proxy voting Atlantic City Conferences; stressed desirability representatives physical attendance. Financial or other difficulties may prevent smaller Latin American countries sending personal representatives Geneva. Only alternative may be proxies. In that event, Harrell to suggest appointment some non-United States American Republic hold proxy. As last alternative United States may consider accepting proxy.

United States preparing for Fourth Inter-American Telecommunication Conference. Consideration being given possibility substantial modification Telecommunication Convention signed Rio de Janeiro, September 1945. Authentic text this convention reached United States only weeks ago Department temporarily withholding Senate action toward ratification. United States most anxious know feeling in other countries concerning revision or ratification this

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page 3

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Convention at this late date. Answer this question will have immediate and important influence Conference preparation.

Important portion Rio Convention concerns organization Inter-American Telecommunication Office (OIT) which would supplant Inter-American Radio Office (OIR). Would be most helpful in Conference preparatory work if immediate reaction Latin American countries concerning continuance or modification this office be obtained. Few Latin American countries contribute OIR, therefore, possibly not interested its continuation. Some OIT functions might be performed by special Pan-American Office. Many OIT functions proposed Rio duplicate in fact many performed by ITU Secretariat.

L.M. Ericsson Company, Sweden, is reported extremely active Latin American countries outbidding American Telecommunication Companies this field. Ericsson equipment substantially different from United States equipment. Raises serious replacement problem should Ericsson equipment become unavailable, or Company come under domination USSR, important determine extent and nature Ericsson operation.

Harrell expected depart Habana June 29 for Caracas His itinerary to be forwarded later. He will contact Officer in Charge immediately upon arrival for purpose discussion subjects in detail with such staff members as may seem desirable. Would be very helpful if, prior his arrival, a list of foreign officials he should contact were compiled and available discussion on arrival. Such officials would normally include appropriate foreign office

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page 4

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officials, those responsible for all radio services. both civilian and military, as well as those charged with allocation of frequencies and control of Telecommunications. It is requested, however, that all discussions with foreign authorities in this regard, await arrival of Harrell.

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(4 Jul 48)

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14

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