

No. 7

Letter, Chilean  
Minister in  
London to  
Marquess of  
Salisbury  
dated 23rd  
November 1898

No. 7

LETTER, THE CHILEAN MINISTER IN LONDON TO THE MARQUESS OF SALISBURY

MY LORD, -

LEGATION OF CHILE  
LONDON, November 23, 1898.

In June 1896, the Governments of Chile and the Argentine Republic, conforming to the stipulations contained in the Agreement signed by them on the 17th of April of the same year, requested Her Britannic Majesty's Government to deign to accept the office of Arbitrator in order to determine the doubts or questions arising in the course of the demarcation of the boundary between the two Republics, whenever the Governments might not be able to settle them directly.

Her Majesty the Queen deigned to accede, with marked benevolence, to the application in which both Governments entrusted to Her traditional spirit of justice the final solution of the difficulties which might eventually arise.

Although the efforts of the Governments interested have had for result the determination of a considerable extent of the frontier line, the differences or disagreements contemplated subsist in regard to another important part thereof.

In this situation, both Governments have considered that the case, - foreseen in Article 2 of the Agreement of April 17, 1896, - of requesting Her Majesty's Government to act as Arbitrator, has arrived; and, to this effect, I have now the honour of proffering this request on behalf of Chile and in fulfilment of orders I have received, enclosing a copy of the Minutes drawn up by the Experts and the respective Governments wherein the divergences which have arisen have been placed on record.

Allow me respectfully to call the attention of Your Excellency to the desire expressed by both Governments in the final part of the Record of 22nd of last September.

Finally, I have the honour of including a map which will render more comprehensible the scope of the disagreements to which the said Minutes refer, and to add that, in conformity with the rules of procedure which Your Excellency may think fit to lay down for the arbitration, an opportunity will arise for presenting further data and information to illustrate the matter.

I am, etc.

DOMINGO GANA.

No. 8

LETTER, ARGENTINE MINISTER IN LONDON TO THE  
MARQUESS OF SALISBURY

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Legation of the Argentine Republic,  
London.

23rd November 1898.

To:

H.E. The Marquess of Salisbury,  
Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Mr. Minister,

On 14th July 1896 Her Britannic Majesty's Government was good enough to accept the high investiture which the Governments of the Argentine and Chilean Republics agreed to confer upon it in order that, in the capacity of Arbitrator, it might resolve in the manner laid down in the Protocol signed on 17th April 1896, such differences as might arise in the course of the demarcation of boundaries between the two Republics, if the Governments did not succeed in settling them.

Notwithstanding the fact that the Argentine Government is of opinion that the period laid down in Clause Four of the Agreement of 17th April 1896 has not yet expired, I have received telegraphic instructions from my Government to address to Your Excellency the present communication, for it is aware that the Chilean Government will itself be communicating with you to-day, to inform you that, as the cases provided for in Clauses Two and Three of the Agreement of 17th April 1896 have arisen, it was appropriate that Her Majesty's Government should assume the office of mediator which it had accepted and should proceed to appoint the Commission which will have to carry out the surveys on the ground in order that, in accordance therewith, it may proceed to resolve the differences as a whole and in a single award.

My Government instructs me to tell Your Excellency that it does not hand in along with this communication the minutes recording the differences between the Experts and the Governments, or the supporting documents referred to therein, because the Argentine Government has not yet finished preparing them, it having believed

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that it was still in time to do so, because it understood that the period of sixty days after which it was possible to request the mediation of the Arbitrator did not begin to run until 11th October, the date on which the Government received in Buenos Aires the September Agreements and on which it was able to give its approval thereto; but that all these documents will be arriving in London shortly and I shall have the honour of presenting them to you in the form agreed.

I am also instructed to tell Your Excellency that the Argentine Government understands that the procedure for the arbitration is laid down in the 1896 Agreement and in the minutes of the Governments which have established the differences in a definitive manner; and that having delivered all the documentation, it thinks that there is nothing more for it to do, and it thus leaves Her Britannic Majesty's Government in complete freedom to form its judgment from its own studies and to resolve the differences by applying the Treaties strictly.

That with this procedure the Argentine Government is of opinion that it is conforming to the letter and spirit of the Treaties and Agreements, responding to the distinction bestowed by Her Britannic Majesty's Government in accepting the office of Arbitrator and contributing, for its part, to the allaying once and for all of the agitations of public opinion which have caused so many difficulties. Accordingly, I have the honour to ask Her Britannic Majesty's Government to accept this as due notification by the Argentine Government, bearing in mind the consideration formulated.

I take this opportunity to present to Your Excellency the assurances of my highest and most esteemed consideration.

FLORENCIO L. DOMINGUEZ.

No. 9

LETTER, MARQUESS OF SALISBURY TO THE CHILEAN  
MINISTER IN LONDON

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FOREIGN OFFICE, November 28, 1898

SIR, -

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Note of the 23rd instant in which you recall that in the year 1896 Her Majesty's Government consented to accept the office of Arbitrator conferred upon them by the Chilean and Argentine Governments for the settlement, in the form laid down by the Protocol signed on April 17th, 1896, of the difficulties which might arise in fixing the boundaries between the two Republics.

You state that you have now received instructions from your Government to inform me that the contingency provided for in the 2nd Article of the Agreement of 1896 has arisen and you are accordingly to request that Her Majesty's Government will proceed with the necessary steps in fulfilment of the engagement which they accepted on the invitation of the Governments of Argentina and Chile.

I have the honour to inform you that Her Majesty's Government take note of your communication which will be laid before Her Majesty the Queen.

I have, etc.

SALISBURY

No. 9

Letter  
Marquess of  
Salisbury to  
Chilean  
Minister in  
London dated  
28th November  
1898