

1942 SEP 9 PM 1 45

No. 772

Nabena, August 20, 1942

AIR MAIL

Subject: {E.S. COLABEE case: forwarding letter
{from Dr. Figueredo to Mr. Graham

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to refer to my despatch No. 506 of July 22, 1942, file 885.7, and previous correspondence concerning the COLABEE matter and to enclose a letter to Mr. Chalmers Graham, Admiralty Counsel of War Shipping Administration, from Dr. Carlos Figueredo, a local attorney in whose hands Mr. Graham left the case. I should appreciate it if the Department would kindly forward this communication to Mr. Graham. It will be observed that Dr. Figueredo reports that no progress has been made but that he hopes to discuss the case with the ex-Prime Minister, Dr. Saladrigas, and subsequently with Comodoro Argüelles.

Respectfully yours,

Spruille Braden

Enclosure:

Dr. Figueredo to Mr. Graham,
August 19 (original and copy)

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To Department in original and hectograph

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Carlos Figueredo
Abogado
Habana, Cuba, August 19, 1942

Mr. Chalmers G. Graham,
Admiralty Counsel,
War Shipping Administration,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Graham:

I acknowledge receipt of your letter of July 31 last, with reference to the S.S. COLABEE.

I wish to state that I have not, at any moment, furnished Commodore Argüelles, or even mentioned to him, the documents which you delivered to me regarding this matter. I remember your instructions perfectly well, in the sense that these documents were exclusively for my private use, in order to obtain any information I might need, and particularly the decisions issued by the Admiralty Courts in certain cases of salvage. Mr. J. L. Rigg's information in this respect is completely without any foundation.

I understand that this case must be considered as an assistance one, and not of salvage, and that, therefore, the services rendered should only be compensated on the basis of the cost incurred in the operations involved, without granting any compensation for salvage.

The salvage proceedings filed by the Captain and proprietors of the S.S. ORIZTE have not as yet been delivered to Commodore Argüelles, neither has the presidential decree referred to by me in my report to Mr. W. S. Loudernilk been promulgated. This delay is due to internal government conflicts.

I have arranged an interview for next Tuesday with the ex-Prime Minister, Dr. Carlos Saladrigas, with whom I have been dealing regarding this matter, and shall also arrange to interview Commodore Argüelles immediately afterwards.

I hope that after these interviews have been held, I shall be able to inform you regarding a definite solution to this matter, at which time I shall submit a report covering my points of view with respect to this case.

Yours very truly,

C. FIGUEREDO

Dr. Carlos Figueredo

CF:JS
Copy/dec