

SPANISH-AMERICAN CLAIMS COMMISSION

*Exchange of notes at Washington February 23, 1881, supplementing
agreement of February 11 and 12, 1871*

Entered into force February 23, 1881

*Terminated by protocol of June 2, 1883*¹

Treaty Series 331-1

The Secretary of State to the Spanish Minister

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

WASHINGTON, 23 Feb., 1881

SEÑOR DON FELIPE MENDEZ DE VIGO

&c. &c. &c.

SIR:

I have had the honor to hold several recent conferences with you touching the desire of your Government, formally expressed in the note of the Minister of State, Señor Elduayen, to the Minister of the U.S. at Madrid on the 5th of July 1880, for the adoption of an accord between the two Governments looking to the fixation of a term for the labors of the American and Spanish Claims Commission which was organized under the Agreement of February 12, 1871.² In those conferences, the entire agreement of our views in the matter happily renders any discussion thereof unnecessary, save only as to the form and manner of placing such agreement of views on record, with the same force and effect as the original Agreement of 1871.

As you are aware, the Agreement of 1871 was discussed between the U.S. Minister at Madrid and the Spanish Minister of State for some time before a final understanding was reached, during which time various written projects and counter projects of an agreement were reciprocally submitted and considered, and that, at the wish of the Spanish government itself, it was determined that a final accord should be effected by simple exchange of diplomatic notes. This was accordingly done and the date of Señor Martos' note accepting the completed reduction of the Agreement became, therefore, the date of the Agreement itself. It is thought unnecessary that a fresh agreement determining the duration of the Commission should involve more of formality

¹ TS 335, *post*, p. 569.

² TS 328-1, *ante*, p. 540.