

COMPENSATION FOR EXPROPRIATED LANDS

*Exchanges of notes at Washington November 9 and 12, 1938, and
April 17 and 18, 1939*

Entered into force November 12, 1938

*Superseded April 2, 1942, by convention of November 19, 1941*¹

53 Stat. 2442; Executive Agreement Series 158

The Secretary of State to the Mexican Ambassador

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

WASHINGTON

November 9, 1938

EXCELLENCY:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the note addressed by your Government on September 1 to Ambassador Daniels.²

Careful examination of that note discloses no grounds that would justify this Government in modifying the position set forth at length in my notes to you dated July 21 and August 22, 1938.² My Government must insist that the recognized rules of law and equity require the prompt payment of just compensation for property that may be expropriated. Therefore, inasmuch as my Government remains convinced of the basic soundness of its position, buttressed as it is by law and justice, and in view of the scope and content of our recent conversations, in the course of which you informed me of the policy of your Government and of the desire of the Government of Mexico, which is similar to the desire of the Government of the United States, to settle all difficulties which may arise between the two Governments in a spirit of friendship and of equity, further discussion of the note under reference seems unnecessary.

My Government has a particular desire to safeguard friendship with Mexico not only because Mexico is one of its nearest neighbors but on account of the many ways in which ever improving relations, in the fullest sense, between the two countries could be complementary and mutually beneficial. It has, therefore, spared no effort to arrive at prompt, friendly and satisfactory solutions of problems as they arose. It was in this spirit that last November my Government urged, in accordance with the principle of just compensation,

¹ TS 980, *post*, p. 1059.

² For text, see *Compensation for American-Owned Lands Expropriated in Mexico*, Department of State publication 1288 (U.S. Government Printing Office, 1939), p. 31.