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Action

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FROM: AMEMBASSY, MEXICO, D. F.

Date Sent: March 18, 1960

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TO: Secretary of State

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NO: G - 169

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Ref : Embassy's G-162, March 9, 1960

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The Minister of Foreign Relations, in a memorandum dated March 9 but received in the Embassy on March 16, 1960, replied to the Ambassador's Aide-Memoire left with Minister Manuel TELLO on March 7, 1960.

The memorandum reiterates that the Mexican position at the Conference will again be the same as proposed at the First United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, namely, to recognize the right of every state to a breadth of the territorial sea to a distance of twelve miles, "and to establish a fishing zone contiguous to said sea to a distance of 12 miles measured from the baseline of the territorial waters, in those cases in which the breadth of the latter may be less than the aforesaid distance of twelve miles." To this is again added the Mexican proposal of a regional inter-American agreement on the breadth of the territorial sea, in the event a rule of universal character is not reached at the Conference.

The security aspects urged upon the Ministry in the Ambassador's Aide-Memoire are treated as (1) not applicable to innocent passage through straits, as provided in Paragraph 4 of Article 16 of the Convention on Territorial Sea, and (2) to be given high attention by the COM, which will give instructions to the Mexican Delegation "to favor all measures proposed which tend to strengthen military security that are compatible with the basic position of Mexico."

The memorandum closes with the assurance that the Mexican Delegation will be instructed to maintain close and friendly contact with the United States Delegation and to assume a flexible position.

EGL
HILL

Approved for Transmittal:

Minister Gale *EGL*

POL:RSLeddy/sab

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