

June 28, 1922

Governor Jose T. Lugo,  
Mexicali, Lower California.

My dear Governor Lugo:

I do hope to hear from you in a few days as to your suggestions as to method of procedure in the matter of the 14-1/2 miles of highway to be constructed thru Mexico, as discussed at our meeting here.

Would you kindly answer me the following questions:

1. Do you think it is at all feasible and practical to have a neutral zone declared thru Mexican territory as planned, and policed by United States and Mexican authorities working together?
2. Can any help be expected from Mexican interests toward the construction of the highway?
3. Would it have to be by a franchise from Baja, California government, or would it have to be by treaty with the Mexican government, and Washington?
4. Can we get any franchise or treaty which, in your opinion, gives us the right to move troops in case of war thru Mexican territory?

I would appreciate all the information you can give me on this subject, and at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,

EF:KLM

GOBERNADOR DEL DISTRITO  
NORTE DE LA BAJA CALIFORNIA  
ESTADOS UNIDOS MEXICANOS  
CORRESPONDENCIA PARTICULAR

Mexicali, Lower California, June 29th., 1922.

Colonel Edward Fletcher.

920 Eight Street.

San Diego, Calif.

My very dear Sir and friend:

I have the honor to inform you that I just received a letter from General Plutarco Elias Calles, in answer to the one I addressed to him to the purpose to report on the project of the construction of an asphalted road, 14 miles long, West of the town of Algodones in this District.

General Calles tells me that there will be no objection whatever on the part of the Government for the aforesaid road in the Algodones belt, and that ample protection will be given to these interests for their proper safety.

Hoping this information may please you, I have the pleasure to repeat myself

Your affectionate friend and devoted servant.

*J. T. Lugo*

7/2/22

CORRESPONDENCIA PARTICULAR  
GOBERNADOR DEL DISTRITO  
NORTE DE LA BAJA CALIFORNIA  
MEXICO

Mexicali, B.C.  
Julio 3 de 1922.

Señor Ed. Fletcher.  
San Diego, Calif.

Muy estimado señor:

No. 623;

En mi poder la carta de Ud. de 25 del mes próximo pasado, me satisface confirmarle mi anterior de -- fecha 29 del propio, referente al proyecto de construcción de un camino de 14 1/2 millas entre Algodones y un punto hacia el Oeste sobre la línea divisoria de este Distrito con el Estado de California.

En esta virtud, contestando el interrogatorio de su citada carta, opino:

- I- Que no es factible el establecimiento de un camino sobre Territorio mexicano bajo la vigilancia de autoridades extranjeras, pues tal acto -- lesionaría la dignidad de México como nación soberana.
- II- Con la construcción de un tramo de camino tan -- pequeño como el que se proyecta hacer en territorio mexicano, no se beneficiarán los intereses de México, de un modo sensible y por tanto, no -- habría estímulo para ayudar a dicha construcción.
- III- La construcción del camino puede obtenerse por -- una franquicia del Gobierno Federal mexicano sin necesidad de tratado con el Gobierno de Washington, y
- IV- Entiendo que no habría dificultades serias para que se celebrara un tratado entre los Gobiernos de México y Estados Unidos a efecto de que se -- permitiese recíprocamente transportar tropas de uno u otro país a través de sus territorios en -- caso de guerra exterior o interior.

Saludo a Ud. con el mayor afecto y me place repetirle su amigo atto. y S. S.

*J. I. Lugo*

The gist of this letter is as follows:

"Very esteemed sir:

In receipt of letter of approximate date of 28th of month past, satisfactorily confirmed on the 29th - referring to project of constructing 14 1/2 miles of road intersecting the division line of this district into the State of California near Algodones or points mentioned.. In virtue in which is contained with to yourself this letter of opinion: *but*

First: It is not feasible to establish a highway in Mexican territory under ordinary authority by necessitating dignified legislation of Mexico as to Mexican welfare.

Second: In construction of a road into Mexican territory of such small magnitude there are no particular benefits to be derived for Mexico in view of the necessary extensive formalities proceeding. *formal procedure*

Third: Though the construction of such road could be arranged without the necessity of a treaty between Mexico and Washington governments, and

Fourth: Could comprehend no difficulties in reciprocation between this government and United States in the event of transportation of troops for war from one territory to another exterior or interior.

Good wishes with greatest affection, and permit me to remain in friendly attitude.

J. I. LUGO

*Translated  
by G. L. Lugo*

*Intercept*

My dear Sir:

I have yours of the 28th of this past month, and this is to confirm what my last letter contained, referring to the project of constructing a road 14 1/2 between Algodones and a point to the west of the dividing line, between the district (Lower California) and the State of California.

Now, answering your questions which your letter contained:

First: An American company cannot build a road on Mexican territory, as such an act would be against the dignity of Mexico as a nation.

Second: The construction of such a small or short road would not be a large enough project to interest the Mexican authorities in giving any help as to construction, etc.

Third: A franchise for the construction of such a road can be obtained by dealing direct with the Mexican government at Mexico City without dealing through the government at Washington.

Fourth: The reason for this is that it is not my belief that in case it were necessary, the American government would allow the Mexican government to pass troops, as they would in return the same compliment to the United States.

With best wishes, I beg to remain in friendly attitude,

T. I. LUGO

Fourth: It is my understanding that there would be no serious difficulties to make a treaty between the governments of Mexico and the United States permitting the transporting of troops from one country to the other in case of war.

July 7, 1922

Governor Jose Y. Lugo,  
Mexicali, Lower California.

My dear Governor Lugo:

I thank you for your kind letter of June 29th, and am very much interested. Would you kindly answer me the following questions? It would be appreciated.

Is it your understanding that consent to build a highway thru Mexican territory must come from the Mexican government, and that it must be in the form of a treaty or franchise?

Will the Mexican government at all times have complete jurisdiction over the road after it is built, or can the State Highway Commission of California have jurisdiction, and the highway be exempt from the necessity of going thru the formality of passing the customs house twice?

Could a neutral zone be established and policed by both countries, with permission to the State of California to step in and maintain the highway at any time thru Mexican territory, the understanding being that both citizens of the United States and Mexico may have free use of the highway at all times.

Thanking you for this information, and with kindest personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

EF:KLM

cc W.P. Darlington

220-3

GOBERNADOR DEL DISTRITO  
NORTE DE LA BAJA CALIFORNIA  
ESTADOS UNIDOS MEXICANOS  
CORRESPONDENCIA PARTICULAR

Mexicali, B.C.  
Julio 11 de 1922.

Señor Ed. Fletcher.  
San Diego, Calif.

Muy estimado señor:

No. 656.

Me refiero a la grata de Ud. de fecha 7 del corriente, la que hace referencia a mi anterior de fecha 29 de junio próximo pasado.

Confirmando a Ud. mi carta última de fecha 5 de este mes, la que trata con precisión los detalles que se relacionan con la construcción del camino de asfalto a través de este Territorio.

Deseo a Ud. todo bien y me repito su amigo atto. y S.S.

J. I. Lugo

Very esteemed Sir:

I refer to your letter of <sup>the 7th of</sup> this month in which reference is made to my letter of the 29th of last June.

I confirm my last letter to you of the 5th of this month which treats with preciseness the details that relate to the construction of the road of asphalt across this territory.

I wish you all good, and remain in friendly attitude,

J. I. LUGO

**Ed Fletcher Papers**

**1870-1955**

**MSS.81**

**Box: 16 Folder: 33**

**General Correspondence - Lugo, Jose T.**



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