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IV. Statement on the Sinking of the German Ship "Hannover" Off Coast of Dominican Republic

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Following the procedure of consultation provided in the Declaration of Panamá, the 21 American republics have agreed upon the transmission of the following communications:

1. *A communication from the President of Panama to the President of the Dominican Republic:*

"I have the honor to inform Your Excellency that your note of March 11 reporting the sinking of the German merchant vessel *Hannover* near the eastern coast of the Dominican Republic has been transmitted to the governments of the other American republics and has received the careful consideration of those governments.

"It gives me pleasure, on behalf of the other American republics, to express cordial appreciation of the prompt action of the Dominican Government in reporting this incident. The action of Your Excellency's Government is one more indication of the determination of the nations of the American continent to face together the problems brought about by the European war.

"The American republics have authorized me to express to your Excellency their complete agreement with the position taken by the Dominican Government in the sense that the *Hannover* incident was a violation of the right set forth in the Declaration of Panama. A statement to this effect is being addressed to the British and German Governments and at the same time the attention of the Inter-American Neutrality Committee is being directed to this case."

2. *A communication from the President of Panama to King George VI of Great Britain and to the Chancellor of the German Reich:*

“The Government of the Dominican Republic has informed the other American republics that on March 9, near the eastern coast of the Dominican Republic, the German merchant vessel *Hannover* was scuttled by its own crew on being intercepted by a British war vessel obviously for purposes of search and capture.

“This incident is considered by the governments of the twenty-one American republics to be a violation of the inherent right asserted on behalf of those republics in the Declaration of Panama which was communicated to the Governments of Great Britain, France, and Germany on October 4, 1939. At the same time that the American republics have authorized me to express their regret at the failure of the belligerent governments to observe the terms of the Declaration, they reiterate the principle therein set forth and reserve all their rights in the premises.”

3. *A communication from the Secretary of Foreign Relations and Communications of Panama to the President of the Inter-American Neutrality Committee at Rio de Janeiro:*

“On March 2, 1940 a communication was addressed to Your Excellency by the Director General of the Pan American Union transmitting the affirmative answer of the twenty-one American republics to the inquiry propounded by the Inter-American Neutrality Committee as to the competence of that Committee to deal with problems arising from the Declaration of Panama.

“Since the date mentioned, a number of hostile acts have taken place within the security zone established in the Declaration. I have been requested to transmit to Your Excellency the following documents relating to the sinking by its own crew of the German merchant vessel *Hannover* near the eastern coast of the Dominican Republic on being intercepted by a British war vessel obviously for purposes of search and capture:

“(1) A telegram from the Dominican Government to the Government of Panama, dated March 11, 1940, reporting the incident.

“(2) A telegram from the President of Panama to the President of the Dominican Republic on behalf of the American republics.

“(3) A telegram from the President of Panama on behalf of the American republics to the King of Great Britain and to the Chancellor of the German Reich.”