

INDEMNITY TO OWNERS OF STEAMSHIP NICARAGUA.

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MESSAGE

FROM THE

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

TRANSMITTING

REPORT FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE RELATING TO AN  
APPEAL FOR INDEMNITY BY THE OWNERS OF THE NORWEGIAN  
STEAMSHIP NICARAGUA.

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APRIL 11, 1902.—Read; referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations and ordered  
to be printed.

*To the Congress of the United States:*

I transmit herewith, as a case not acted upon by the Fifty-sixth Congress, a report from the Secretary of State and accompanying papers relating to the appeal for indemnity addressed to the equitable consideration of the Government of the United States by the owners of the Norwegian steamship *Nicaragua*.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

WHITE HOUSE,  
*Washington, April 11, 1902.*

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THE PRESIDENT:

At the request of the minister of Sweden and Norway at this capital, expressed in a note (copy of which is inclosed), I have the honor to submit for transmission to Congress, as a case not acted upon by the Fifty-sixth Congress, the appeal for indemnity addressed to the equitable consideration of the Government of the United States by the owners of the Norwegian steamship *Nicaragua*.

The minister states that the personal claim of the master of the vessel for \$750 is withdrawn. The loss alleged to have been incurred by the owners amounts to \$4,926.67.

Respectfully submitted.

JOHN HAY.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,  
*Washington, April 10, 1902.*

[Translation.]

LEGATION OF SWEDEN AND NORWAY,  
*Washington, April 3, 1902.*

Mr. SECRETARY OF STATE: Your excellency was good enough to inform me, by a note dated December 13, 1899, that the question of an indemnity to the owners of the Norwegian steamer *Nicaragua* had been for the second time referred to the decision of Congress. The Fifty-sixth Congress, however, adjourned without taking up the case. I have received instructions from my Government to have again recourse to the kind intercession of your excellency, in order to have the claim again submitted to the favorable decision of whom it may concern.

As your excellency will be pleased to remember, the case may be summed up as follows: The owners of a Norwegian vessel wish to obtain, if possible, the reimbursement of a sum of 18,228.68 crowns, or \$4,926.67, which they lost on account of their ship saving an American citizen's life during the political disturbances of Bluefields, in Nicaragua. A full description of the matter has been officially published several times, and I believe I may refer to those documents.

The amount claimed by my fellow-countrymen has, however, been reduced since I last wrote to your excellency on the subject. The commanding officer of the *Nicaragua*, who had estimated his personal loss to be \$750, died several months ago, and his widow has agreed to withdraw her claim for the said \$750, which was not supported by written evidence or vouchers. There thus remains but the claim of the owners for the above-mentioned sum of 18,228.68 crowns, equal to \$4,926.67, the correctness of which is established by the exhibits transmitted at the time to the Department of State and printed in the official documents to which I had the honor to advert hereinbefore.

Be pleased to accept, Mr. Secretary of State, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A. GRIP.

His Excellency JOHN HAY,  
*Secretary of State.*

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