

## CLAIMS: PAYMENT OF DUTIES TO REBEL CHIEFS

*Agreement signed at Bluefields, Nicaragua, April 29, 1899*

*Entered into force April 29, 1899*

*Terminated on fulfillment of its terms*

1899 For. Rel. 576

### [TRANSLATION]

The undersigned, Joaquin Sanson, minister of foreign affairs of Nicaragua, and William L. Merry, envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary of the United States of America, desiring to find a friendly solution which will put an end to the difficulties which have lately presented themselves between the fiscal authorities of the Republic and some American merchants by reason of the occurrences which have taken place on the Atlantic coast in relation to the payment of duties which they made during the month of February, 1899, to the rebel chiefs who operated here, and which the Government has not wanted to recognize as legitimate, have agreed to celebrate the following agreement:

1. The merchants, Messrs. Samuel Weil & Co., The New Orleans and Central American Trading Company, Allen & Caldwell, J. A. Peterson, S. D. Spellman, and Orr & Laubenheimer, will deposit in the consulate of Her Britannic Majesty the value claimed as owing to the fiscal authorities and which they object to pay directly by reason of having once paid to the employees of the revolutionary organization of General Reyes after the 3d and before the 25th of February, 1899.

2. The fiscal authorities on their part will rescind the provisions of "embargo" on merchandise which they had decreed to make effective the payment aforesaid.

3. The difficulty overcome, once that it has been discussed before whom it may appertain, and as a last resort by the secretary of foreign relations of Nicaragua and the Department of State of the United States, the deposit shall be paid by Her Britannic Majesty's consul to the authorities of the custom-house if it is decided that Government has had the right to demand the payment claimed, or to its owners, the American merchants, if it is decided that the payment made to the revolutionists of Bluefields was legal for the reason that they pretend that the revolutionary organization of General Reyes, between February 3 and 25, 1899, was the government de facto.

4. If the Government should collect the duties which are now charged to the merchants owing, it can not make any charge for fines in regard to the default in paying the demand.

5. The undersigned, in case that the present matter results in diplomatic action, will request their respective Governments to the end that it may be decided within four months.

6. The present convention does not diminish or alter in any manner the rights of the parties which they may have in other matters, and has been prompted entirely by the spirit of fraternity which invites our respective peoples and Governments.

Signed at Bluefields, Nicaragua, in duplicate, on the 29th day of April, 1899.

JOAQUIN SANSON  
WILLIAM LAWRENCE MERRY