



EMBASSY OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
Panama, Republic of Panama

~~CONFIDENTIAL/EYES ONLY~~

March 27, 1972

Robert A. Hurwitch, Esquire  
Deputy Assistant Secretary, ARA  
Department of State  
Washington

Dear Bob:

I enclose a copy of Dave Parker's reply about presentation of Panamanian flags by the Canal Zone Governor.

I can only say that I never ceased to be amazed at this place--the Canal Zone Governor carrying out in Panama a program of replacing worn out Panamanian flags! It would never have occurred to me that U.S. officials would presume to give another country its own flag. I am certain Dave Parker enjoyed pointing out that a senior officer of this Embassy was present at two such occasions and saw nothing wrong. Needless to say, I would be embarrassed if a Panamanian official wanted to present me with a U.S. flag because the one I had needed to be replaced.

But I suppose that the fundamental point here is that Canal Zone Governors have felt that they could do what they wanted to in the Republic of Panama without consulting the Ambassador. Naturally with this historical tradition, it is somewhat jarring to have an Ambassador ask one of them what he is doing. You will undoubtedly recall my previous letter reporting that Governor Parker felt that he should be free to carry on business with the President of Panama without consulting me.

With warmest regards,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bob", with a period at the end.

Robert M. Sayre  
Ambassador

Enclosure:  
Letter from Governor Parker  
to Ambassador Sayre dated 3/24/72.

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