

The original documents are located in Box 6, folder “8/8/75 - Mrs. Juan Velasco” of the Sheila Weidenfeld Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

*Juan
Javier*

MRS. FORD:

Event: Tea with Mrs. Juan Velasco, wife of the President of Peru

Date/Time: August 8, 1975 4:30 p. m.

Sequence of
Events:

4:25 p. m. Nancy Ruwe will escort you to the Diplomatic Reception Room where you will wait for the arrival of Mrs. Velasco.

4:30 p. m. Mrs. Velasco and your guests will arrive through the Southwest Gate. You will greet Mrs. Velasco in front of the entrance to the Diplomatic Reception Room.

NOTE: There will be press photo coverage of the greeting.

4:35 p. m. You will escort your guests to the Second Floor via elevator.

You will have tea with your guests in the West Sitting Hall.

NOTE: There will be a small photo pool present.

After the tea, you may wish to give your guests a tour of the Family Quarters.

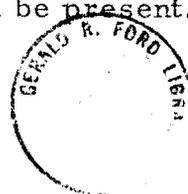
5:00 p. m. You will escort your guests to the Diplomatic Reception Room and bid farewell.

NOTES:

An interpreter will be present.

A White House photographer will be present.

A guest list is attached.



Nancy Ruwe

CALL BY MRS. CONSUELO VELASCO
WIFE OF THE PERUVIAN PRESIDENT
Friday, August 8, 1975
4:30 p.m.

BACKGROUND

Mrs. Consuelo Velasco (Veh-LAHS-coe), wife of President Juan Velasco of Peru, came to Washington for a medical check-up at Walter Reed Army Hospital. She accompanied Mrs. Tantalean (Tahn-tah-lay-AHN), wife of the Peruvian Minister of Fisheries, whose fears that she might have breast cancer were apparently disproven. The doctors found Mrs. Velasco in good health. Mrs. Tantalean apparently requires minor surgery. During her stay in Washington, Mrs. Velasco has been staying at the residence of Ambassador Arce. Mrs. Arce (AHR-say) will accompany the two ladies when they call on you. Mrs. William Rogers (Suki), wife of the Assistant Secretary of State for inter-American Affairs, also will be present.

Mrs. Velasco has taken an active interest in social problems. She played a particularly active role following the major earthquake in Peru in 1970. As head of the Peruvian government's relief coordination agency, she was the host of Mrs. Nixon's trip to Peru in June 1970, and later came to Washington to decorate Mrs. Nixon as a gesture of appreciation for United States assistance to Peru following that major disaster.

U.S. -Peruvian relations at the moment are under particular strain as a result of Peruvian nationalization last month of the Marcona iron mining complex. Provisions for compensation are as yet unclear and should Peru not provide compensation, a whole series of automatic sanctions required by our legislation could be called into play and lead us back into a period of confrontation with Peru from which we so recently emerged. A number of past investment disputes dating from the beginning of President Velasco's administration (1968) were settled in 1974 through a negotiated agreement. President Velasco himself apparently made the decision to nationalize Marcona. In general, he adopts an anti-imperialist, Third World stance.

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E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.5
NSC Memo, 11/24/98, State Dept. Guidelines
By U/AM, NARA, Date 11/22/00



We have also had recurring problems with Peru over the seizure and fining of U.S. tuna boats fishing in waters claimed by Peru (Peru claims a 200-mile territorial sea). While there have been no seizures by Peru within the last year, the problem has not been resolved and the potential for further seizures does exist.

Your gesture in receiving Mrs. Velasco at this time will be deeply appreciated by her and could have important benefits for U.S. - Peruvian relations particularly at this time of tension. Mrs. Velasco is reported to exercise strong influence with her husband and is well-disposed toward Americans. She speaks a little English. Mr. Theodore Herrera will be available to interpret as necessary.

TALKING POINTS

- Express your pleasure that the ladies were able to meet with you today (Mrs. Velasco had made plans to return to Peru Thursday until notified of your invitation).
- Express your hope that the doctors at Walter Reed found both Mrs. Velasco and Mrs. Tantalean in good health and that their stay in Washington has been a pleasant one.
- Note that you know Mrs. Velasco played a very active role following the major earthquake that struck Peru in 1970, as head of her government's relief coordination agency. Coordination of a major effort of that nature is both an important and impressive job. You would be interested in hearing about the role of women in Peruvian life today.

Biographic material on Mrs. Velasco, Mrs. Tantalean and Mrs. Arce is attached at Tab A.



WITHDRAWAL SHEET (PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARIES)

FORM OF DOCUMENT	CORRESPONDENTS OR TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
Report	Government report (4 pages)	N.D.	A

File Location:

SHEILA WEIDENFELD FILES, Box 6, "8/8/1975 - Mrs. Juan Velasco"

SMD, 10/5/2016

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For immediate release
Friday, August 8, 1975

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford

Mrs. Ford will receive Mrs. Juan Velasco, wife of the President of Peru, for tea today at 4:30 p. m. in the West Sitting Hall of the Family Quarters.

Mrs. Valasco will be accompanied by Mrs. Javier Tantalean, wife of the Peruvian Minister of Fisheries, Mrs. Jose Arce, wife of the Peruvian Ambassador to the U. S., and Mrs. William Rogers, wife of the Assistant Secretary of State for inter-American Affairs.

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Note: There will be press coverage of the arrival at the Diplomatic Entrance at 4:30 p.m. and a small photo pool in the West Sitting Hall for photographs of Mrs. Ford and Mrs. Valasco.

