

Ambassador Jefferson Caffery (1886-1974): Latin American Posts

Introduction Life Before Ambassador El Salvador (1926-28) Colombia (1928-1933)

Cuba (1934-37) Brazil (1937-44)



El Salvador (1926-28)

“My dear Mr. Caffery:

It was with a feeling of genuine pleasure and pride that I read of your distinguished son’s promotion in the diplomatic service of our country. I had the pleasure of meeting him on the train some months ago when he was on his way



back to San Salvador and we had quite a long talk together. His rapid advancement sheds luster on his native city and should be a real inspiration to our youths. If we, his fellow-citizens, are all so proud of him and of his fine record of service what must be the feelings of his own fond father. Please accept my sincerest congratulations. May Jefferson long continue to be your pride, your comfort and your joy. Very sincerely yours, Jules B. Jeanmard, Bishop of Lafayette.”

–BISHOP OF LAFAYETTE TO CHARLES DUVAL CAFFERY (FIGURE 1)

El Salvador was Jefferson Caffery’s first assignment as a United States Ambassador, and it was the perfect destination for Caffery to ease into his new duties as chief of mission. From 1911 to before his first appointment as Ambassador to El Salvador in 1926, Caffery was considered a tenured member of the United States Consular Service (Dur 11). Once a member of the consular service is promoted to that of ambassador, their career only lasts as long as the presidential administration that appointed them (Dur 11). As a result of this constituency, many consular service members decline ambassadorship appointments because of the unstable job security (Dur 11). Caffery not only accepted his appointment

as Ambassador to El Salvador with ease, but he also maintained his position as ambassador throughout 8 different presidential administrations, something no one has ever been able to accomplish since (University of Louisiana at Lafayette).

Compared to his other Latin American ambassadorships in Colombia, Cuba, and Brazil, El Salvador was on the more uneventful side of diplomacy (Dur 11). Caffery served as Ambassador to El Salvador for a total of two years, arriving at his post in July of 1926 and leaving in July of 1928 (Office of Historian). El Salvador was not known to be a country filled with crime and strife, but rather just a small community of coffee planters dedicated to producing the crop for which its country relied on for economic and political stability (Dur 11).

In 1927, Charles Lindbergh became the first man to fly across the Atlantic Ocean, and in 1928 he began his Central American tour making sure to stop in El Salvador (Figure 2) (History). As Phillip Dur recognized, this was probably the most invigorating and interesting aspect of Caffery's time in El Salvador (11). "Life was pleasant," Caffery stated, "with plenty of bridge, cocktail parties and dances, but I didn't have enough work to do" (Dur 11). Caffery left his post in El Salvador in July of 1928 and began preparing for his next assignment as Ambassador to Colombia (Office of Historian). As we will see, Colombia would be much different than his time in El Salvador, and provide the conflicts and opportunities Caffery needed to truly showcase his diplomatic skill and worth.

30-VI-28

DIocese OF LAFAYETTE
BISHOP'S HOUSE
LAFAYETTE, LA.

June 30, 1928

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Please accept my sincerest congratulations. May Jefferson long continue to be your pride, your comfort and your joy.

Very sincerely yours,

Julius B. Jeune
Bishop of Lafayette.

Chas. D. Caffery, Esq.,
Lafayette,
Louisiana.

Figure 1



Figure 2

***Photos throughout all pages are picture galleries; click photos to**

read captions, context, articles, and newspapers*

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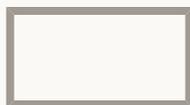
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