



G.L.S.  
JUL 7 1916  
ACCORD

612  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

July 6, 1916.

My dear Mr. President:-

In your opinion that the Financial Adviser of the Government of Haiti should possess a knowledge of the French language, I of course heartily concur, and, prior to my recommendation of Mr. Ruan of June 29th, every effort was exerted by this Department to find a man possessing this qualification in addition to the other important requisites for this office.

As illustrative of the difficulties attendant upon the search for such an official, I beg to enclose a letter from the Chief of the Bureau of Insular Affairs of the War Department in which, again endorsing Mr. Ruan, he recites the failure of that Bureau to find a native-born American for the somewhat similar but less important position of the Resident Manager of the National Bank of Haiti.

Mr. Ruan reads French but has, as yet, no conversational ability. His knowledge of Spanish and of Latin and a natural facility in languages should, however, enable him soon to acquire conversational fluency. His duties for the first few months will be limited to a careful analysis of the finances and budget for, for the exception of the payments of interest as it may become due upon its foreign indebtedness

The President,

The White House.

ness, it would appear that expenditures of Haitian funds should be confined to the most important public works. In this he will be assisted by the French-speaking Engineer. The most important task confronting the Financial Adviser is that connected with Haiti's desire to negotiate a loan in this country, which will depend entirely upon the result of this initiatory study of the revenue and expenses.

The members of the Haitian Commission in their desire to obtain the services of a man well versed in national finances and currency, have stated that they consider that a lack of conversational knowledge of the French language is no drawback to the appointment of an official possessing the other qualifications. In this preliminary work, the interpretative and other facilities of the Legation will, of course, be at his disposal.

Confident in the belief that the other qualifications and endorsements of Mr. Ruan peculiarly fit him for this position, and awaiting your pleasure regarding the point which you have so properly brought forth, I am, my dear Mr. President,

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Robert Lansing", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Enclosure;  
As stated.