

7. Chinese Excluded from Guatemala Ask for Help
of the United States, 1907

Chargé Sands to the Secretary of State [Elihu Root]

AMERICAN LEGATION,
Guatemala, December 13, 1907.

SIR: ... I have the honor to transmit copies of the decrees issued since 1896 by the President of Guatemala relative to Chinese immigration into this Republic.

I desire to call attention to the latest decree, permitting Chinese residents in this country to leave it, but with the understanding that they are not to return ...

A strict adherence to this decision would undoubtedly work great hardship to the reputable Chinese merchants of this country who are all known in the communities in which they live beyond the possibility of mistake.

A delegation of these men came to this office to request that the legation take some action in the matter. I explained to them that they must refer it to the Chinese ambassador at Washington, and advised them to call upon the minister for foreign affairs [of Guatemala] before doing so and obtain from him a clear statement as to the meaning of the decree. I told them that after they had done this and made their protest of the Guatemalan Government I would forward their petition to Washington and report upon this subject myself.

I have, etc.,

W. F. SANDS.
