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Detention and Deportation Division, Central Office  
J. W. Holland, District Director  
San Antonio, Texas

April 2, 1953

The need for a fence at Brownsville, Texas to form a barrier against illegal entry of aliens

We are furnishing you herewith two copies of a condensed report submitted by David Snow, patrol inspector in charge at Brownsville, Texas, and letters written by the chiefs of police at Brownsville and Harlingen, Texas and the sheriff of Cameron County, together with a number of photographs. Under separate cover there is being forwarded to you two maps of the City of Brownsville, Texas to show the need of a fence through the City of Brownsville to check the illegal flow of aliens across the international boundary.

Although we have condensed Mr. Snow's report, there is also being attached one copy of his full report for your information. This full report, you will note, will make reference to certain photographs which we have deleted from the photographs furnished with his original report. Some 50 or more photographs were furnished with his original report and the number of photographs has been reduced to 24 for the purpose of this report.

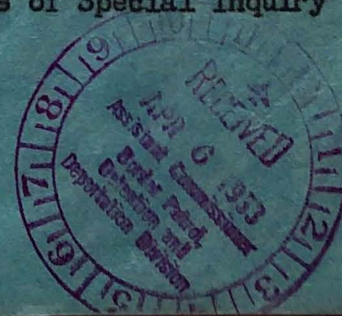
R The Rio Grande River, particularly in the last 200 miles of its lower reaches, no longer forms a barrier against the illegal entry of aliens. This condition has been brought about over the past seven years by the damming of tributary rivers and feeder streams in both Mexico and the United States with result that the watershed run-off into the Rio Grande is practically all being stored and used for irrigation purposes. We feel that the present low water in the Rio Grande is not a temporary condition and that we can no longer depend on the Rio Grande River to form a barrier against the illegal entry of aliens.

Within the city limits of Brownsville, Texas is the worst spot with which we have to deal and it is felt that the time has come when it is imperative that some barrier be erected because under present conditions it is impossible to prevent aliens from crossing and the volume of crossing has increased to the point where it is completely out of control.

It is recommended that 10 miles of fence of the chain link type approximately 12 feet high be erected through the City of Brownsville, Texas to prevent the illegal entry of aliens and to back up and support the excluding decisions of the Boards of Special Inquiry operating at Brownsville, Texas.

Attachments

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