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H. A. Cunard Cummins Interview With Antonio Ramos Pedrueza
Document 4 in [The Investigation of Antonio Ramos Pedrueza](#)

Statement of Mr. H. A. Cunard Cummins, made on August 14, 1911, in Torreon, Coahuila, in the presence of Mr. Lic. Antonio Ramos Pedrueza, representative of the Mexican Government and Owyang King and Arthur Bassett, representatives of the Chinese Government, in relation to the events in Torreon on May 13, 14, and 15, 1911.

Mr. Pedrueza: I am the representative of the President of the Republic; this is Mr. Bassett and this is Mr. King, representatives of the Chinese Legation.

Mr. Bassett: Please give your full name.

Mr. Cummins: H. A. Cunard Cummins.

Mr. Bassett: Are you the British Consular Agent in this city?

Mr. Cummins: I am the British Vice-Consul in this district, which includes Gómez Palacio, Lerdo, and Torreón.

Mr. Bassett: Please tell us everything you know regarding what happened here on May 13, 14, and 15, 1911.

Mr. Cummins: On May 5th, one of the Maderista leaders, named Jesús Flores, gave a speech in Gómez Palacio, in which he stated that the Chinese were doing no good for the country; that they were taking jobs away from women and the poor, and that one of the reforms that would result from the revolution, should it succeed, would be the expulsion of the Chinese from the country. In support of this statement, he mentioned that in the United States, the Chinese had been classified as undesirable citizens and that the necessary steps had been taken to prevent more of them from entering the country. I firmly believe that Jesús Flores had no intention whatsoever of inciting people to murder the Chinese, but nevertheless, he knew he was touching on a sensitive subject, since the competition posed by the Chinese and their independent spirit had been a source of antipathy towards them for some time. On the night of May 13, 1911, I visited Agustín Gastro, an individual who at that time was considered the leader of all the assembled insurgents, and proposed that he allow me to organize a Red Cross corps, entirely foreign in composition. He immediately agreed to my wishes and gave me a letter for General Lojero so that he could give his consent and, if necessary, instruct the federal forces regarding the meaning of the society's emblem. I left for Torreon with a guard of Maderistas, but the fighting broke out, and I had to return. Nevertheless, the corps was formed with surgeons from the hospital service, etc., and I was at the irrigation ditches opposite Torreon for part of the fighting. I heard at that time from

the Maderistas that the "Yellows," a volunteer corps, the Spaniards, and the Chinese were inflicting heavy casualties on the Maderista ranks. At the time, I considered this to be just one of the many inflammatory rumors circulating at that time. I still hold the same opinion. I didn't find a single Maderista who said they personally knew that such a thing was true, that is, that the Chinese or the Spanish were involved in any way. Around nine o'clock in the morning of the 15th, I was suddenly called from the hospital and informed that the city of Torreón had been evacuated. I immediately took a carriage in the company of Dr. de la Parra, a Dutchman, and about halfway to Torreón we met an individual who claimed to be Mr. Emilio Madero's secretary, carrying a message stating that Mr. Emilio Madero wished to see the Red Cross in Torreón as soon as possible. Upon arriving in the city streets, I saw in front of the old Chinese Bank, now the Banco de la Laguna, across from the plaza, the corpses of nine Chinese men, two of them mutilated. In the street, trampled by the horses that filled it at that moment, lay the corpses of two more Chinese men, covered in mud. In other parts of the city, I saw other corpses of Chinese men. I also saw a corpse that did not appear to be Chinese, though passersby said it was Spanish. I traveled through many of the city streets in search of the wounded, and during this time I saw many large groups of Maderistas marching through the streets in double file, maintaining perfect order. In front of a certain small house with Chinese hieroglyphs above the door, I saw a highly excited crowd trying to force the door open. Dynamite was demanded, and there was great excitement. At that moment, a cavalcade of Maderistas passed by, carrying pistols in their right hands and maintaining perfect discipline. They stopped for a few moments, observing the scene, and then continued on their way. There were Maderistas and common people of the lower classes trying to enter this building. On two or three occasions, I saw groups of 20 or 30 Maderistas on horseback leading the Chinese ahead of them on foot. It is my opinion that no more than 20% of the Maderista soldiers took part in the massacre of the Chinese subjects. I saw individuals among the Maderista soldiers who were so overwhelmed that they themselves didn't know what they were doing, in my judgment. Having stopped Agustín Castro during the formal parade, indicating to him that it was time to begin the burials, I found myself in command of about 20 Maderistas to begin said work. I gave instructions to the leader of this group to open the trenches, etc., and I left the site around six o'clock that afternoon. Torreón, August 14, 1911

H.A. Cunard Cummins