**TNA FO 371/722**

**FO Minutes**

**31 December 1909**

“R.G.S.” and Sperling accept that Whiffen and Hardenberg are “probable blackmailers.” Sperling suggests dropping the matter as it’s unprovable and will be resented by Peru. USA won't want to generate such resentment, and without them, Britain can't get involved.

“CJBH” suggests to PAC Board sending out a consular officer to make an exhaustive investigation with the PAC to bear half the expense.

Sir Edward Grey: “It is clear that the question of representations to the Peruvian Govt. must depend upon the willingness of the U.S. Govt. to join. It will not be for us to do so alone. All we can do as regards the Company is to publish the correspondence if they are obdurate & refuse to take any steps to investigate. Proceed as proposed in Mallet's minute.”