The manner and degree of the execution of your proclamation by
the naval force are not related with particularity in a brief telegraphic
report just received from Capt. Wiltse. He merely says:

To-day at 9 a. m., in accordance with request of Provisional Government of Hawaii,
the United States minister plenipotentiary placed the Government of Hawaii under
United States protection during negotiations, not interfering with the execution of
public affairs.

It appears from the press reports that the ceremonial for the execu-
tion of your orders consisted in the landing of a battalion from the
Boston, its formation at the Government building in concert with three
volunteer companies of the Provisional Government, the reading of
your proclamation by Lieut. Rush, and the hoisting of the United States
flag over the Government building. The Hawaiian flag on other pub-
lic buildings in Honolulu is stated not to have been disturbed.

The phraseology of your proclamation in announcing your action in
assumption of protection of the Hawaiian Islands in the name of the
United States would appear to be tantamount to the assumption of a
protectorate over those Islands in behalf of the United States with all
the rights and obligations which the term implies. To this extent it
goes beyond the necessities of the situation and the instructions here-
tofore given you.

Your existing instructions, and those under which the commanders
of naval vessels of the United States act, were and are ample to pro-
vide all legitimate material protection in case of need, either in your
discretion or at the request of the duly constituted authorities of the
Hawaiian Islands, for the lives and property of American citizens
endangered or menaced, or for the prevention of lawless and tumultuous
acts of disturbance of the public peace and safety. The accordance of
such measures of protection, or the unsolicited taking of the needful
precautions to those ends, is, however, not to be confounded with the
establishment of a protectorate, which is, in fact, the positive erection
of a paramount authority over or in place of the duly constituted local
government and the assumption by the protector of the especial respon-
sibilities attaching to such formal protection.

It is not thought probable that the Provisional Government of the
Hawaiian Islands, in soliciting protection, contemplated more than the
coöperation of the moral and material forces of the United States to
strengthen its own authority and power as a recognized sovereign
Government for the protection of life and property, as stated in your
proclamation. Such a degree of protection you were, as I have said,
already fully competent to accord, or to exercise in your discretion in
case of need.

Your proclamation expresses no reservation as to confirmation of your
action by the Government of the United States. Its provisos are, that
the assumed function of protection is to be exercised so far as may be
necessary for the specified purpose of protecting life and property,
without interference with the administration of public affairs by the
Provisional Government, and that the action in question "is taken
pending and subject to negotiations at Washington." These qualifi-
cations are entirely in the line of my views of the scope and intent of
the request made to you by the Provisional Government of the Hawaiian
Islands. The omission of reference to the necessary sanction of the
Government of the United States is immaterial, for its function of
revision and confirmation or disavowal of the acts of its agents is inher-
ent and exercisable at its discretion.