

●PSF

Cuba

CONTINUED

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE

WASHINGTON

August 25, 1933.

My dear Mr. President:

Referring to my note enclosing copies of telegrams Nos. 182 and 184 from Welles, I enclose herewith copy of telegram No. 185 which I venture to suggest that you read.

Welles says that in view of the urgency of the situation, President Cespedes yesterday evening expressed a desire to carry out the policy indicated in his telegram No. 184. During a Cabinet meeting which the President held last night a decree was drafted which was handed to Welles at four o'clock this morning. The decree, which is quoted in telegram No. 185, puts into effect a revolutionary change of policy.

Respectfully yours,

The President,  
The White House.

*Jefferson Caffery*

COPY FOR THE PRESIDENT

MET

GRAY

Habana

Dated August 25, 1933

Rec'd 6 p. m.

*File  
Confidential*

Secretary of State.

Washington.

185, August 25, 11 a. m.

My 184, August 24, 5 p. m.

In view of the urgency of the situation President Cespedes yesterday evening decided to carry out the policy indicated in my telegram under reference. He was advised to adopt this course by all of the members of his Cabinet and by all of the political leaders that have now returned to Cuba. During a Cabinet meeting which the President held last night the following decree was drafted which was handed to me at four o'clock this morning. The decree reads as follows:

To the people of Cuba. Whereas the Congress of the Republic in the exercise of the powers established in Article 115 of the Constitution resolved by the law of June 21st, 1927 to amend certain provisions of the constitution;

Whereas in the call of the election for delegates of the constitutional convention the laws by virtue of which the reorganization of political parties had been prohibited remained in force as well as that prohibiting the organization of new parties and other laws were enacted prohibiting the presentation of independent candidatures all of which legal provisions had no object other than to carry into effect the amendment to the constitution with absolute disregard of the popular will inasmuch as the electors opposed to said amendment were not able to elect delegates to afore-said

said constitutional convention in manifest infringement of Article 38 of the constitution which recognizes the right of suffrage to all Cubans over 21 years of age;

Whereas, the constitutional convention elected to that effect did not limit its acts to the approval or disapproval of the amendment voted by Congress in accordance with the provisions of Article 115 of the constitution above cited but overstepping its authority proceeded to change certain provisions of the law which contained the amendment;

Whereas, one of the provisions which was the one of modification was that by virtue of which the presidential term of office which should have expired on May 20, 1929, was extended for two years to May 20, 1931, and which, furthermore, prohibited the reelection of the President of the Republic then in office, the change commencing on (\*) in permitting said chief executive to be reelected for the next presidential term;

Whereas, on May 11, 1928, the amendment of the constitution was promulgated by the President of the Republic, the same containing as has been said important changes in the text of the law which had been voted and passed by Congress;

Whereas, in the emergency electoral law of July 20, 1928, a series of provisions were included tending to assure the reelection of the person who at that time held the Presidency of the Republic and at the same time to prevent the presentation of other candidates for the same office which objects were achieved with absolute disregard of the popular will;

Whereas, the Supreme Court of Justice en banc in several decisions handed down in writs of unconstitutionality

ity has recognized that the constitutional convention in altering the text of some of the provisions of the amendment law infringed the provision contained in Article 115 of the constitution so often cited;

Whereas, all the illegalities and overriding of authority which have been mentioned constituted a coup d'etat against the popular sovereignty and gave rise to an intense revolutionary agitation which obliged the Government constantly to maintain in suspense the individual guarantees and to appeal to all class of violence in order to appease the protests of the people;

Whereas, the good offices of the Ambassador of the United States of America to procure a solution to such an intense political crisis having been offered and accepted and the President of the Republic having refused to give performance to the essential obligations acquired by the parties within the negotiations which were being carried on, the revolutionary state became more acute to such an extent that he was forced to resolve the abandonment of the power and withdraw from the national territory in use of a leave of absence at the same time leaving a full resignation of his office;

Whereas, by virtue of said leave of absence I have provisionally assumed the Presidency of the Republic;

Whereas, a large number of Senators and Representatives have presented the resignation of their offices and others have left the country without requesting a leave of absence;

Whereas, in view of everything that has been set forth above and with the object of reestablishing constitutional legality and restoring tranquillity to the country, interpreting the popular will which is clearly manifested

manifested at this time throughout the country, conscious of the national conventionalities and of the transcendency of the measures I am adopting, with my thoughts placed on the founders of the nation and on the welfare of the Republic, and having heard the opinion of my Cabinet, I proceed to issue the following decree:

First. The text of the Constitution of 1901 is re-established in its full force and effect and consequently the constitutional amendment promulgated on May 11th, 1928, remains null and without any value or effect.

Second. Therefore, the mandate attributed to citizen Gerardo Machado y Morales as President of the Republic is hereby terminated.

Third. The present Congress is declared dissolved and as a consequence the mandates of the Senators and Representatives as well as the rights of their substitutes to take their places are terminated.

Fourth. The offices of Justices of the Supreme Court filled after May 20th, 1929, are hereby declared vacant.

Fifth. The mandates of all the other officials of popular election are hereby declared at an end, nevertheless, those holding such offices at the present time shall remain in the discharge thereof until the Government shall order what it deems proper in each case.

Sixth. On February 24th, 1934, general elections shall be held for the filling of all offices which have their origin in popular suffrage, the new presidential term of office to be inaugurated on May 20th of that year.

Seventh. An advisory commission shall be created charged with the proposing of the modifications considered indispensable to carry into effect the measures contained in this decree, and the recommendations of the said commission

5-#185 from Habana, Aug. 25, 11 a. m.

sion once approved in whole or in part shall be promulgated by the Executive.

Eighth. The Government shall respect and give fulfillment to all international obligations contracted in the name of the Republic even though they may be dated after May 20th, 1929.

Ninth. All the Secretaries of the Cabinet are entrusted with the fulfillment of this decree insofar as it may be pertinent to each of them.

Given at the Presidential Palace in Habana on August 24, 1933. Signed Carlos Manuel de Cespedes, President.  
Signed Carlos Saladrigas, Secretary of Justice and Acting Secretary of State."

For the reasons set forth in my telegram above referred to, I consider that the action taken by the Government is in the best interests of the Republic of Cuba. Furthermore, I believe that under the circumstances now existing it is calculated to promote stability and to quiet opposition.

Owing to the fact that three members of the Supreme Court were appointed during Machado's second term and that their appointments are consequently held to be illegal; that the President of the Supreme Court has resigned; and that one of the remaining members is seriously ill a quorum of the Supreme Court cannot meet for the time being. The Government has decided consequently to take upon itself the responsibility of declaring unconstitutional Machado's second term of office and not refer the constitutionality of that regime to the Supreme Court.

The eighth clause of the said decree which specifically announces the intention of the Government to comply with all of the international obligations entered into by the  
the

6-#185 from Habana, Aug. 25, 11 a. m.

the Cuban Government from May 20, 1929, until the present date should relieve anxiety on the part of American banks which have made loans or extended credits to the Cuban Government during that period.

The President will issue within the next few days a further decree containing the electoral code under which the national elections are to be held six months from now. It is the intention of the Government to adopt Professor McBain's suggested reforms in their entirety.

WELLES

(\*) Omission  
CSB

MET

GRAY

Habana

Dated August 25, 1933

Rec'd

6 pm

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

185, August 25, 11 a. m.

My 184, August 24, 5 p. m.

In view of the urgency of the situation President Cespedes yesterday evening decided to carry out the policy indicated in my telegram under reference. He was advised to adopt this course by all of the members of his Cabinet and by all of the political leaders that have now returned to Cuba. During a Cabinet meeting which the President held last night the following decree was drafted which was handed to me at four o'clock this morning. The decree reads as follows:

To the people of Cuba. Whereas the Congress of the Republic in the exercise of the powers established in Article 115 of the Constitution <sup>resolved</sup> / by the law of June 21st, 1927 to amend certain provisions of the constitution;

Whereas in the call of the election for delegates of the constitutional convention the laws by virtue of which

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2-#185 from Habana, Aug. 25, 11 a.m.

the reorganization of political parties had been prohibited remained in force as well as that prohibiting the organization of new parties and other laws were enacted prohibiting the presentation of independent candidatures all of which legal provisions had no object other than to carry into effect the amendment to the constitution with absolute disregard of the popular will inasmuch as the electors opposed to said amendment were not able to elect delegates to aforesaid constitutional convention in manifest infringement of Article 38 of the constitution which recognizes the right of suffrage to all Cubans over 21 years of age;

Whereas, the constitutional convention elected to that effect did not limit its acts to the approval or disapproval of the amendment voted by Congress in accordance with the provisions of Article 115 of the constitution above cited but overstepping its authority proceeded to change certain provisions of the law which contained the amendment;

Whereas, one of the provisions which was the one of modification was that by virtue of which the presidential term of office which should have expired on May 20, 1929, was extended for two years to May 20, 1931, and which, furthermore, prohibited the reelection of the President of the Republic then in office, the change commencing on (\*) in permitting said chief executive to be reelected for the  
next

mam

3- #185 from Habana

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Whereas, the Supreme Court of Justice en banc in several decisions handed down in writs of unconstitutionality has recognized that the constitutional convention in altering the text of some of the provisions of the amendment law infringed the provision contained in Article 115 of the constitution so often cited;

Whereas, all the illegalities and overriding of authority which have been mentioned constituted a coup d'etat against the popular sovereignty and gave rise to an intense revolutionary agitation which obliged the Government constantly to maintain in suspense the individual guarantees and to appeal to all class of violence in order to appease the protests of the people;

Whereas,

mam

4- #185 from Habana

Whereas, the good offices of the Ambassador of the United States of America to procure a solution to such an intense political crisis having been offered and accepted and the President of the Republic having refused to give performance to the essential obligations acquired by the parties within the negotiations which were being carried on, the revolutionary state became more acute to such an extent that he was forced to resolve the abandonment of the power and withdraw from the national territory in use of a leave of absence at the same time leaving a full resignation of his office;

Whereas, by virtue of said leave of absence I have provisionally assumed the Presidency of the Republic;

Whereas, a large number of Senators and Representatives have presented the resignation of their offices and others have left the country without requesting a leave of absence;

Whereas, in view of everything that has been set forth above and with the object of reestablishing constitutional legality and restoring tranquillity to the country, interpreting the popular will which is clearly manifested at this time throughout the country, conscious of the national conventionalities and of the transcendency of the measures I am adopting, with my thoughts placed on the founders of the nation and on the welfare of the Republic, and having heard the opinion of

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#185 from Habana

-5-

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Sixth. On February 24th, 1934, general elections shall be held for the filling of all offices which have their origin in popular suffrage, the new presidential term of office to be inaugurated on May 20th of that year.

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Seventh. An advisory commission shall be created charged with the proposing of the modifications considered indispensable to carry into effect the measures contained in this decree, and the recommendations of the said commission once approved in whole or in part shall be promulgated by the Executive.

Eighth. The Government shall respect and give fulfillment to all international obligations contracted in the name of the Republic even though they may be dated after May 20th, 1929.

Ninth. All the Secretaries of the Cabinet are entrusted with the fulfillment of this decree insofar as it may be pertinent to each of them.

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Owing to the fact that three members of the Supreme Court were appointed during Machado's second  
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#185 from Habana

-7-

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The eighth clause of the said decree which specifically announces the intention of the Government to comply with all of the international obligations entered into by the Cuban Government from May 20, 1929, until the present date should relieve anxiety on the part of American banks which have made loans or extended credits to the Cuban Government during that period.

The President will issue within the next few days a further decree containing the electoral code under which the national elections are to be held six months from now. It is the intention of the Government to adopt Professor McBain's suggested reforms in their entirety.

(\*) Omission  
CSB

WELLES

*File  
Personal  
Confidential*

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY

September 7, 1933.

MEMORANDUM

Dr. Marquez Sterling, the new Cuban Ambassador, called to tell me of a telephone conversation he had this noon with Professor Guillermo Portela, one of the members of the junta of five <sup>and</sup> ~~who is~~ in charge of foreign relations. Dr. Portela said that the junta was somewhat concerned about the discussions which President Roosevelt and the State Department had held yesterday with the Latin American diplomats. He said that the junta is not communistic and that its members had had nothing to do with the hatching of the revolt which overthrew President De Cespedes.

In order to stabilize the situation Dr. Portela stated that this morning the junta had conferred with the principal members of the opposition in an effort to work-out a formula that would be satisfactory to all the major groups. This formula includes a cabinet of concentration in which all groups would be represented. He hoped that this cabinet of concentration might be formed today.

Dr.

Dr. Portela also stated that the commissioned officers, with the exception of those too closely affiliated with the Machado regime, were being re-established in their former positions as quickly as possible.

LA:LD:AEM:SS

November 7, 1933.

My dear Mr. Secretary:

At the request of the President I am sending you herewith a copy of his letter of November 6th to General Machado.

Sincerely yours,

LOUIS McH. HOWE  
Secretary to the President

The Honorable  
The Secretary of State.

Enclosure.

Miss S. Hand:  
You may wish  
to keep this in  
your file R. G.

COPY

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

November 8, 1933.

Excellency:

I have received and read with interest Your Excellency's letter of October 19, 1933, informing me of your deep concern with regard to the establishment in Cuba of a Court of Sanctions. I may say that the latest advices I have received do not indicate that this Court has as yet started functioning.

As you know, no one more than myself desires peace and happiness for the Cuban people. To be lasting, and not ephemeral, however, national peace and happiness must be the product of the efforts of a people themselves. It is needless for me to add that I am most anxious that the several problems facing Cuba be solved at the earliest possible moment, as the continuance of the political disturbance and economic distress naturally works great hardship on the population of the Island.

I am pleased to learn of Your Excellency's appreciation of the courtesies extended to you by the public officials of this country on your recent visit here.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Franklin D. Roosevelt

His Excellency

Gerardo Machado,

Mount Royal Hotel

Montreal, Canada.

not sent

File  
Cuba  
1933

On July 1, I addressed through Ambassador Welles a message to the Cuban people expressing the sympathetic interest of the American people in the peaceable settlement of Cuba's political difficulties. Since that time the political scene has undergone major changes. I as firmly believe today as I did last July that the "restoration of political peace is a necessary and essential preliminary step on the way to economic recovery."

While the energy and attention of Cuba have continued to be preoccupied with political matters, the economic life of the Republic daily is disintegrating.

It would afford the American Government and people, as sincere and close friends of Cuba, the deepest satisfaction if all factions in Cuba would, through their responsible leaders, without delay and in the interest of their own fatherland, bury their partisan grievances and unite patriotically to combat the forces of disintegration which now threaten the well-being of the Republic. It is my fervent hope that the Cuban people, in this hour of crisis, will subordinate personal interests to the welfare of the country as a whole.

Department of State

BUREAU  
DIVISION

*a-jc*

ENCLOSURE

TO

Letter drafted *Nov 3*

ADDRESSED TO

*The President*

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

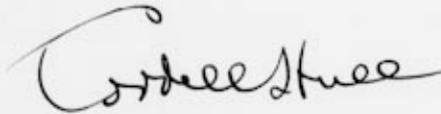
November 3, 1933

My dear Mr. President:

Pursuant to your request I am submitting herewith a suggested reply which you may desire to send to General Machado in acknowledgment of his letter to you of October 19, 1933. I am also attaching the original letter from General Machado, with translation.

If the proposed reply meets with your approval I should greatly appreciate receiving for the records of this Department copies of this correspondence.

Faithfully yours,



Enclosures:

From General Machado,  
October 19, 1933, with  
translation;  
Proposed reply to General  
Machado.

The President,

The White House.

*42  
Personal  
Cuba*

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I am pleased to learn of Your Excellency's appreciation of the courtesies extended to you by the public officials

His Excellency

Gérardo Machado,

Mount Royal Hotel,

Montreal, Canada.

-2-

officials of this country on your recent visit here.

Very truly yours,

C O P Y

TRANSLATION

*File  
Cuba*

Mount Royal Hotel,  
Montreal, Canada,

October 19, 1933.

His Excellency,  
Mr. Franklin D. Roosevelt,  
President of the United States of America,  
Washington, D. C.

Excellency:

I have received the kind letter which you were good enough to write to me on September 26 of the current year. I am doubly grateful for your statements on the desire which animates you that, on the restoration of peace and order, Cuba may again become happy and prosperous with the cooperation of all her citizens, and for your kind reference to my attitude in withdrawing from power. Concerning the events in Cuba which preceded this last step of mine, I must tell you that it would have been very desirable if everything had occurred in perfect harmony with your noble purposes.

I am calling your attention away from your many occupations at this time in an effort to prevent the commission in my country of further and more atrocious crimes. Recently there has been established there a Court called the Court of Sanctions to judge former servants of the State who represent the most illustrious group of our public men. In

reality, a Court of Sanctions, from its very name, from the state of passion of those who have forcibly seized power and also because of the derogation from the Constitution and the laws, can not judge, but merely apply penalties. In fact, the true aim which the irresponsible groups which govern today propose to achieve thereby is to punish all those who served the Country in any way during my presidency; it is a question of an act of vengeance in a moment of collective madness.

The painful fact which may have irreparable consequences is that in Cuban prisons are found a Secretary of Department, senators, representatives, governors, alcaldes, high officers of the army, etc., and the evident intention is to shoot many of them. I think that for the honor of Humanity such barbarous violence should be avoided.

I find no other authority than Your Excellency who can prevent such great harm, as both Government and people in my country have fallen into such chaos that they respond to no appeal to duty. I know your Excellency's endowments of honor (hombria de bien) and energy and believe that you will not fail to heed this appeal of mine in this hour of great sadness for me.

Furthermore, when the members of my Government, of the Congress, of the Political Parties and also of the opposition groups accepted the mediation of the Ambassador of the United States of America, we all felt inclined thereto not because of

the advice which he could give us, inasmuch as Your Excellency's high representative was a new arrival in our country and unfamiliar with our psychology, but because of the guarantee which his high mission gave to the agreements which might be entered into. And, likewise, when the Secretary of Gobernacion, - now a prisoner and probably the first one to be condemned -- resigned his office, he did so upon the request made to that effect by the American Ambassador acting as Mediator, who personally asked for the said resignation and many additional acts, "as just and reasonable to solve the Cuban political problem"; and when many of the military leaders assumed an attitude of rebellion on August 11, they were impelled thereto by continued threats of armed intervention, as the Chief of the military rebellion told Mr. Welles on the night of August 11th to 12th.

In all this I have no desire to place an obligation upon Your Excellency's Government, such a thing is far from my mind; but I submit these facts in order to incline Your Excellency's mind to save the lives and property of men who cannot be judged in such a moment of aroused passion.

I desire to avail myself of this opportunity to thank Your Excellency for the courtesies of which I have been the object on the part of the Consul of the United States at Montreal and the custom-house authorities in my recent crossing of the boundary line.

With all consideration and respect I am, Sir, Your Excellency's  
humble servant.

(s) Gerardo Machado

Tr FGH:WCW.

CABLE ADDRESS "MOUNTROYAL"



1000 ROOMS - 1000 BATHS

VERNON G. CARDY  
MANAGING DIRECTOR

A Su Excelencia

Sr. Franklin D. Roosevelt,

Presidente de los Estados Unidos de America.

The White House,

Washington, D. C.-

Excelencia:-

He recibido la fina carta que V. E. se sirvió dirigirme el día 26 de Septiembre del corriente año. Quedo doblemente agradecido por las declaraciones de V. E. sobre el deseo que la anima de que siendo restaurada la paz y el orden, Cuba vuelva a ser feliz y prospera con la cooperación de todos sus ciudadanos, y por la benevola mención que hace de mi actitud al apartarme del poder. Sobre los hechos que en Cuba precedieron a este último paso mio, debo decir a V. E. que hubiera sido muy deseable que se hubiesen desarrollado en perfecta armonía con los nobles propositos de V. E.-

Molesto ahora la ocupada atención de V. E. para tratar de evitar que en mi País se cometan nuevos y mas atroces delitos. Recientemente se ha creado allí una Corte llamada de Sanciones para juzgar a antiguos ser-

*Translate*



# MOUNT ROYAL HOTEL

MONTREAL  
CANADA

Octubre 19 de 1933.- 1933

*F. G. H.*  
*Very urgent*  
*File - Personal*  
*Cuba*

CABLE ADDRESS: "MOUNTROYAL"



# MOUNT ROYAL HOTEL

MONTREAL  
CANADA

(2)

1000 ROOMS - 1000 BATHS

VERNON G. CARDY  
MANAGING DIRECTOR

vidores del Estado que representan el grupo mas ilustre de nuestros hombres publicos. En realidad una Corte de Sanciones por su propio nombre, por el estado pasional de los que han asaltado el poder y tambien por la derogacion de la Constitucion y de las leyes, no puede juzgarse, sino meramente aplicar penas. En efecto, el verdadero fin que se proponen con ello los grupos irresponsables que hoy gobiernan es castigar a todos los que sirvieron de algun modo al Pais durante el periodo presidencial mio; se trata de un acto de venganza en un momento de locura colectiva.-

El hecho doloroso que puede provocar lo irreparable es que en las prisiones cubanas se hallan un Secretario del Despacho, senadores, representantes, gobernadores, alcaldes, altos jefes del Ejercito, etc., y el proposito evidente es fusilar a muchos de ellos. En honor de la Humanidad estimo que estas barbaras violencias deben ser evitadas.-

No encuentro a otra autoridad fuera de V.E. que pueda impedir tanto dano, pues Gobierno y pueblo, en mi Patria, han caido en tal caos que no responden a ningun llamamiento del deber. Conozco las dotes de hombría de bien y de energia de V. E. y estimo que no desoira esta voz mia en esta hora para mi de gran tristeza.-

CABLE ADDRESS "MOUNTROYAL"



1000 ROOMS - 1000 BATHS

VERNON G. CARDY  
MANAGING DIRECTOR



# MOUNT ROYAL HOTEL

MONTREAL  
CANADA

(3)

Ademas, cuando los miembros del Gobierno, del Congreso, de los Partidos Politicos y tambien los de las agrupaciones oposicionistas aceptamos la Mediacion del Embajador de los Estados Unidos de America, todos nos sentimos inclinados a ello no por los consejos que nos podria dar, toda vez que el alto representante de V. E. era un recién llegado a nuestra patria y desconocedor de nuestra psicología, sino por la garantía que su elevada misión daba a los pactos que se conviniesen. E igualmente, cuando el Secretario de Gobernación, - hoy preso y probablemente el primero en ser condenado- renunció su cargo, lo hizo por la demanda presentada al efecto por el Embajador Americano en funciones de Mediador, que pedia personalmente tal renuncia y otros actos mas, " como justos y razonables para solucionar el problema político cubano"; y cuando muchos de los jefes militares asumieron una actitud de rebeldía el 11 de Agosto, fueron impulsados a ello por continuas amenazas de intervencion armada, como lo manifesto al Embajador Welles el Jefe de la rebelion militar en la noche del 11 al 12 de Agosto.-

No deseo con todo esto poner una obligacion sobre el Gobierno de V. E., lejos de mi animo esta tal cosa;

CABLE ADDRESS "MOUNTROYAL"



1000 ROOMS - 1000 BATHS

VERNON G. CARDY  
MANAGING DIRECTOR



# MOUNT ROYAL HOTEL

MONTREAL  
CANADA

(4)

pero presento estos hechos para inclinar el animo de V. E. a salvar las vidas y las haciendas de hombres que no pueden ser juzgados en un momento de tanta exaltacion pasional.-

Deseo aprovechar esta oportunidad para dar gracias a V. E. por las cortesias de que he sido objeto por parte del Consul de los Estados Unidos en Montreal y de las autoridades aduaneras al pasar la frontera en reciente ocasion.-

Con toda consideracion y respeto soy de  
V. E. su seguro servidor,

*Guarido Pacheco*

# TELEGRAM

*File personal.*

Naval Communications.

The White House

Washington Nov. 9th-1933.

*Cuba*

Chief of Naval Operations:

With surrender of Arates Fortress at 330 PM this afternoon Thursday last organized resistance in Havana is overcome. Government in control but anti-govt sniping continues with persistent rumors that next step of opposition is incendiarism against foreign property to force intervention. Streets ordered kept clear all persons from 600 PM on. Defacto Government has ordered martial law in provinces wherever unsettled conditions warrant.

945 PM

PSF: Cuba



THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

November 15, 1933.

The Secretary of State encloses for the information of the President a copy of the telegram indicated below.

Enclosure:

Telegram No. 461, November 15, 1 p. m., Havana,  
from Ambassador Welles.

PSF: Cuba

REP.

GRAY

Habana

Dated November 15, 1933

Rec'd 1:35 p. m.

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

461, November 15, 1 p. m.

~~STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL.~~

Rebel bands in southern Oriente are increasing.

An encounter between band of revolutionists and soldiers took place near Bayamo yesterday. Four were killed and fifteen wounded on both sides. There is no available information regarding movements of revolutionary forces in the north of Oriente beyond the report that revolutionists are active to the south of Gibara. The Consul at Santiago reports that the leaders of the A. B. C. in that city are fearful of persecution by the new governor appointed two days ago who has a long criminal record. Many of them have left the city.

The Consul in Matanzas reports advice that some 5,000 oppositionists in Matanzas are armed awaiting opportunity for concerted movement. In Camaguey more bombs were exploded last night. A bridge was bombed in Matanzas.

A group

PSF: Cuba

RUEP

2-#461, From Habana, Nov. 15, 1p.m.

A group of twenty-two revolutionists were forced to surrender near Cienfuegos last night. There are reports of new revolutionary activities in the north of Santa Clara Province but owing to severed communications and strict censorship no detailed information is available.

A Cuban gunboat has been despatched to the coast of Northern Oriente.

WELLES

FW

CSB

P. F.  
Cuba

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

December 13, 1933

My dear Mr. President:

With reference to your inquiry this afternoon regarding Sumner Welles' telegram of December 9, requesting the Department's opinion as to the relevancy of Article II of the Permanent Treaty in connection with the recent Cuban decree authorizing the issue of \$20,000,000 of new money, I beg to say that we have cabled Welles as follows:

"In view of existing conditions do you believe the Cuban authorities would seriously consider suggestions made by us at this time advising prudence and delay? At least most doubtful whether the plan as stated would violate Article 2 of the permanent treaty."

Article II of the Treaty reads as follows:

"That said government <sup>(Cuba)</sup> shall not assume or contract any public debt, to pay the interest upon which, and to make reasonable sinking fund provision for the ultimate discharge of which, the ordinary revenues of the island, after defraying the current expenses of government shall be inadequate."

As you will note, this Article lays an obligation upon

The President,  
The White House.

upon Cuba. It is entirely discretionary with the United States, in the event of a pertinent case arising, to invoke the Article or to refrain from invoking it.

Faithfully yours,

*William Phillips*

Cuba - 1934

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

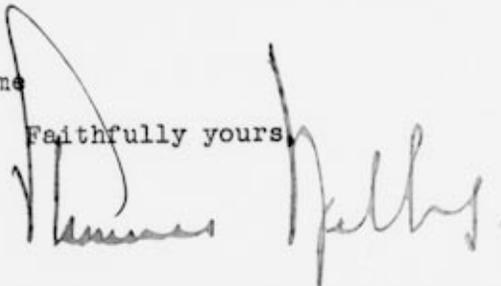
February 27, 1934.

My dear Mr. President:

I received yesterday, through the Cuban Ambassador, a letter from President Mendieta, of Cuba, in which he asked me to transmit to you a personal letter which he had written you. I am consequently enclosing his letter to you, together with a translation thereof. I believe you will find it gratifying.

Believe me

Faithfully yours,



Enc.

The President,  
The White House.

La Habana,  
20 de Febrero de 1934.

Mi querido Señor Presidente:

Ha sido para mí altamente honroso recibir, por el muy respetable conducto de vuestro Representante personal, Mr. Jefferson Caffery, vuestra expresiva carta de fecha 2 del presente mes. Una vez más ha sido puesta en evidencia la buena voluntad del ilustre Presidente de esa gran nación amiga para con Cuba. Para mí constituye un honor altísimo el servir de motivo y medio para tan señalada deferencia.

El pueblo y el Gobierno de Cuba, cuyos sentimientos creo interpretar, reconocen y agradecen los vehementes deseos del pueblo y del Gobierno de los Estados Unidos de América y la decisiva voluntad de Vuestra Excelencia en el sentido de ayudar a este país a salir de sus dificultades de toda índole, tan agudizadas en los últimos tiempos y ya en el camino de las rectificaciones salvadoras. Un mes lleva al frente de los destinos nacionales el Gobierno que presido, y tanto en lo interior como en lo exterior se observa la transformación dichosa que conduce nuestros más vitales intereses a la estabilidad y el mejoramiento.

Personalmente, me considero en extremo obligado para con Vuestra Excelencia por todas las benévolas atenciones de que me ha hecho objeto, a las que no puedo corresponder sino con mis mayores deseos por vuestra ventura personal y el engrandecimiento de vuestra obra de gobernante.

Esta oportunidad es por mí considerada muy feliz y propicia para reiterar a Vuestra Excelencia la expresión de mi consideración más respetuosa y cordial.

*Carlos Mendicuti*

A Su Excelencia Mr. Franklyn D. Roosevelt,  
Presidente de los Estados Unidos de América,  
Washington. D.C.

T R A N S L A T I O N

Habana

February 20, 1934.

My dear Mr. President:

It was for me a very high honor to receive, through the channel of your personal representative, the Honorable Jefferson Caffery, your kind letter of the second instant. Once more, the good will of the illustrious President of your great and friendly nation towards Cuba has been displayed. It constitutes a very high honor for me to serve as the occasion and means for so signal a courtesy.

The people and the Government of Cuba, whose sentiments I believe I can interpret, appreciate and are grateful for the ardent wishes of the people and the Government of the United States of America and Your Excellency's decisive will in the direction of aiding this country to emerge from her difficulties of all kinds, which have been so acute of late, and to start on the path of saving rectifications. It is now a month since the Government over which I preside has been in charge of affairs, and the fortunate transformation which is leading our most vital interests towards stability and improvement in both domestic and foreign aspects is evident.

Personally, I consider myself under extreme obligations to Your Excellency for all the kind attentions of which you

His Excellency  
Mr. Franklin D. Roosevelt,  
President of the United States of America,  
Washington, D. C.

have made me the object and which I can only reciprocate by sending you my most earnest wishes for your personal welfare and the most complete success in your task as Chief Executive.

This occasion is a very happy and propitious one to repeat to Your Excellency the expression of my most respectful and cordial consideration.

(Sgd) CARLOS MENDIETA

"file  
Personal"

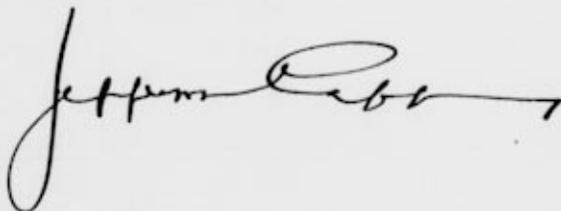
Habana, November 26, 1934.

My dear Mr. President:

It is extremely kind of you to take the time to send me, and the other members of the Foreign Service here, Christmas and New Year's greetings. I desire to assure you of our high appreciation of your thoughtfulness.

I, on my part, Mr. President, as well as on the part of the Foreign Service officers now stationed in Cuba, send you our cordial greetings for Christmas and the New Year, and respectful good wishes for your continued health and happiness.

Yours respectfully,



The President,

The White House,

Washington, D. C.

*With the compliments  
of*

PEDRO MARTINEZ FRAGA

*El Ex. Ministro Plenipotenciario  
de la República de Cuba.*

LEGACIÓN DE CUBA  
GRAN BRETAÑA

U.S.A. AND CUBA

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES

Sir,—In your very interesting leading article on "Pan-America" in *The Times* of to-day it is stated that President Roosevelt

has consistently refused to play the part of the policeman armed with a big stick, and where, as in Cuba, for example, conditions have arisen which seemed to invite or even to demand the intervention of the United States, he has endeavoured to secure the participation of the other American Governments.

May I beg leave to state,

to witness duty, not to show my wit:  
Duty so great, which wit so poor as mine. . . .

that the above-mentioned reference to President Roosevelt's foreign policy in America is not correct because it ignores, or forgets, the most important phase of that policy's historical development?

The right of the United States to intervene in Cuba's affairs was established by the Treaty of Relations of May 22, 1903. That right was exercised once, in 1906, but Cuban and United States public opinion have been always clearly opposed to it.

After the revolution of 1933 and thanks to the good will prevailing between both countries and to President Roosevelt's happy "good neighbour foreign policy," a New Treaty of Relations, signed on May 29, 1934, and duly ratified on June 9 of the same year, not only declares that the Treaty of Relations of 1903

shall cease to be in force, and is abrogated, from the date on which the present Treaty goes into effect,

but clarifies, in its five articles, the status of the United States coaling and naval station (Guantanamo) in Cuba, and the mutual sanitary obligations of both countries. The new treaty puts an end to the right of intervention, and is, up to now, the foremost practical and historical evidence of the sincere foundations of President Roosevelt's foreign policy.

I am, &c.,

MARTINEZ FRAGA, Minister.  
Legación de Cuba, Gran Bretaña,  
London, April 24.

The Times  
April 28, 1936

*file Cuba folder  
personal 1-42*

**THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON**

December 9, 1942

MEMORANDUM FOR GRACE TULLY:

Dear Grace:

Here is Jack Romagna's transcript of the toast the President gave, extemporaneously and informally, last night at the dinner he gave in honor of President Batista of Cuba.

This copy is for the records.

The President did not want me to publish the text of this toast.

*S. T. E.*  
S. T. E.

Enclosure.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. EARLY:

I heard rather poorly, being more than 30 feet from the President.

I am not so sure of the beginning of the next to the last paragraph, "And on this dais I see a young man --".



J. Romagna

12-8-42

At the State Dinner for President Ful-  
gencio Batista of Cuba

December 8, 1942

---

THE PRESIDENT: Back in March, 1933, there was some talk about our relationship with our neighbors, which I suppose includes not only our farthest neighbors, say in the Argentine, but also the nearest neighbor we have -- in Cuba.

Everybody in this country at least, and I think in other parts of the world, appreciated the ideal -- the ideal of the Good Neighbor. But they were words only; they had never been fulfilled. They had never been used for the fulfillment of the ideal; and in the summer of 1933 there were many reasons for it. The fact remains that there was serious trouble in our nearest neighbor; and a young man -- one of our youngest Ambassadors -- went down there to Havana, and came through the subsequent troubles in Havana with flying colors.

The main point I want to make is that when these troubles occurred in Havana, an unprecedented meeting was called at the Executive Offices. At that meeting we had all the Ambassadors and Ministers of all the American Republics.

And I said to them, speaking as a liberal, and very simply, "I think the time has come to recognize the practical exposition of the Good Neighbor Policy. I want to take this occasion to tell you that under a somewhat ancient treaty between the United States and Cuba we are permitted -- and in a sense

because of necessity we are compelled by that treaty, which was better known as the Platt Amendment -- we are compelled to go into Cuba -- a free people, and one we helped to free and set up as a sovereign nation -- and restore arms."

And I said, "Gentlemen, I am not going to do it. I am not going to apply the Platt Amendment. I am not going to send either the Army or the Navy to restore order in Cuba."

Well, there was a lifting of eyebrows among a good many of these nineteen other envoys. What is this new President of the United States going to do?

I said, "I am going to exercise the Good Neighbor Policy, because this is the first chance I have to put it into practical effect. If any Americans want to leave Cuba, they will have every opportunity. If any Americans want to get out, they can go down to the nearest port, and they will find a revenue cutter or a patrol boat of some kind that will take them on board and take them out. I am not going to land a single American soldier or sailor on the soil of the Cubans. I think this is an internal matter, which Cuba is fully competent to settle."

Well, that was the beginning. I think the Bible says, "Ye shall be known by your deeds."

And that particular act, throughout all the American Republics, did have an effect, because the United States proved in a practical way that it could apply the doctrine of the Good Neighbor.

Somebody in the paper, a few days ago, called it

by a new term -- which I think is rather good -- called it not just the policy of the Good Neighbor, but the policy of the Good Partner. In other words, all of these Republics of ours are not just neighbors. We are partners in the common good -- all of us.

We are recognizing more and more that the word "partner" means that any country -- on either <sup>Continent</sup> ~~hemisphere~~ -- cannot be happy and prosperous until all the hemisphere is happy and prosperous; that if one nation of the twenty-one -- of the twenty-two, if we include our neighbor Canada -- is unhappy and full of unrest, in a serious depression which affects the lives of all their people, that that affects the happiness and the prosperity of all the other twenty, or twenty-one.

And on this dais I see a young man, and I think he had a vision. He was an army officer, and he took part in that revolution of 1933 in a very modest way. Today the Cuban people are very happy that he is holding the office of Chief Magistrate of the Republic of Cuba.

And so while he is not entirely a stranger with us -- he has been here before -- we received him as a Major General in command of the Armies of Cuba -- we are now very happy to have him come back to us as the President of our nearest neighbor, the Republic of Cuba; and I drink his health.

(President Batista replied to the  
President very briefly in Spanish)

Cuba folder  
1-42

WAR DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

December 10th, 1942.

Memorandum for Mr. McIntyre,  
White House.

File  
M.H.M.

The State Department is insisting that the War Production Board authorize the release of critical materials for construction of some water works and sewage systems for cities in Cuba, as well as for a military highway in Cuba. The War Production Board has decided to turn down the request, except as to the military highway. The State Department has said that it will lay the matter before the President.

These projects in Cuba will take substantial amounts of materials of which we are extremely short.

At the insistence of the armed forces, the War Production Board is engaged in cutting back our domestic program for construction of projects of the same type, in order that our output of steel, copper and other materials, and also our output of pumps, generators and other equipment may be directed into production of munitions. The effectiveness of this effort on the part of the War Production Board will be impaired if projects of the type in question are carried forward by materials furnished by us. I believe that the decision of the War Production Board is clearly right.

The War Department, by the way, has stopped work of this character in connection with its Caribbean bases, because of shortage of materials and difficulties in ocean transport.



Robert P. Patterson,  
Under Secretary of War.

rpp:lm

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

December 22, 1942.

MEMORANDUM FOR  
THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

F. D. R.

Transmitting letter which the President received from Hon. Donald M. Nelson, WPB, 12/21/42, a copy of which has been retained for our files, in re repair and improvement project for the Central Highway.

*Cuba folder*  
1-42

December 21, 1942

My dear Mr. President:

Replying to your memorandum of December 14, to which is attached a letter of December 12 to you from the Under Secretary of State, Mr. Sumner Welles, there is no doubt in our minds but what the repair and improvement project for the Central Highway can be granted.

However, it is our recommendation that the waterworks at Santiago, the sewage system at Santiago, and the waterworks at Guantanamo be deferred. We have had to stop all similar projects in this country because of their interference with production for war. It is true that they take a relatively small amount of steel as such, but they do take a great many other materials, particularly in the finished state.

It is our further recommendation that the Cubans be notified that we will give consideration to these projects again in February or March when we can see more clearly just what our war program requires in manpower and materials.

Respectfully yours,

**(Signed) D. M. Nelson**

Donald M. Nelson

The President

The White House

*Copy for program  
to help administration  
adjust to situation*

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

December 12, 1942

My dear Mr. President:

I have had lengthy conversations with the President of Cuba during the last days regarding the various Cuban problems with which you are familiar. I believe that in general it will be possible within the limits imposed by war shortages to permit him to return to Habana satisfied that the United States has done everything possible to help Cuba in its difficult situation.

President Batista on his return to Cuba will be under the necessity of explaining to his people the inevitability of war sacrifices and the reasons for reduced employment in the sugar industry, ports, and the construction industry. The opportunities we have offered under an agricultural diversification program will only partially compensate for unemployment which will result from the shortage of critical materials and of shipping. This may well raise political and social problems which may make it

difficult

The President,

The White House.

difficult for him to carry out the broad military, economic and political collaboration which he has so wholeheartedly extended to us, and which we need.

There are three projects which are of the greatest importance to President Batista because of the employment which they offer, and especially because of their political implications. One of these is the repair of the Central Highway in order to permit continued through transportation the length of the Island. This project is of considerable interest to our War Department and of great economic importance to Cuba. Also, it is a part of the land-water route to Puerto Rico and can be carried out with a rather small amount of iron and steel and used construction machinery. I am informed that in due course the War Production Board would probably authorize this project, but I am most anxious to give the President a definite decision immediately so that he can take it back with him.

The other two projects are of less military significance but are of the greatest political importance to the President. For many years the streets of Guantánamo and Santiago have been open while sewerage and waterworks were at a standstill. The health conditions in Guantánamo

adjacent

adjacent to our naval station are, as a consequence, deplorable while the water supply of Santiago is extremely bad. A few months ago President Batista, while visiting Santiago in his home province, committed himself to complete these indispensable improvements during his term. Failure to carry out this pledge will seriously prejudice the President's position.

The three projects together total less than 10,000 tons of iron and steel plus certain other equipment. Most, if not all, of the highway material can be obtained second-hand or by release of material now held relatively inactive by private contractors or the Army. President Batista is prepared to deduct the iron and steel from the usual small allocations which we are able to make available for Cuba. In addition, he is prepared to have our engineers thoroughly comb the projects, stripping them of all unessential critical materials so that the drain on our materials situation will be very small indeed. Furthermore, he is prepared to see the projects at Santiago and Guantánamo proceed slowly.

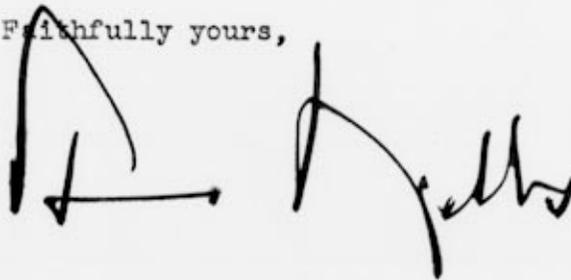
President Batista has assured me that he will inaugurate a vigorous campaign of scrap collection, the  
proceeds

proceeds to be turned over to the United States. Cuba, as you may be aware, is one of the greatest possible sources of high grade ferrous and non-ferrous scrap, the tonnages of which will run many times the amounts involved in these projects, on which the heart of the President is set.

The foregoing, as you see, is a matter of both urgency and importance. If you agree with me that these projects should be authorized, will you indicate your approval on this letter so that I may inform the War Production Board accordingly.

Believe me

Faithfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. H. H. H.', written in a cursive style.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Honorable Donald M. Nelson,  
Chairman,  
War Production Board,  
Washington, D. C.

300

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

December 14, 1942

MEMORANDUM FOR

HON. DONALD NELSON

For recommendation.

F. D. R.

Enclosure

Letter from Hon. Sumner Welles, 12/12/42,  
to the President, in re various Cuban  
problems. Copy of letter retained for our  
files.

(450)

*hmn* Signed original of the letter sent to  
Hon. Sec. T. Sumner.

Cuba folder  
1-48

*hmn*

January 6, 1963

My dear General Batista:

I wish to thank you for the cabinet of Cuban cigars which you were good enough to send to me. I deeply appreciate your kind thought and assure you that I shall enjoy the cigars to the fullest extent.

With kindest personal regards and best wishes, I am

Very sincerely yours,

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

His Excellency  
General Fulgencio Batista y Zaldívar,  
President of the Republic of Cuba.

*Cabinet of cigars sent to the House*

The Ambassador of Cuba presents his compliments to His Excellency the Secretary of State, and has the honor to send, under separate cover, a box containing a cabinet of Cuban cigars, which the President of Cuba, General Fulgencio Batista, has instructed me to deliver to President Roosevelt.

The Ambassador begs to request His Excellency the Secretary of State to have the kindness to forward this cabinet to the President.

December 19, 1942.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DIVISION OF PROTOCOL

January 2, 1943.

MEMORANDUM TO MISS TULLY:

There is enclosed herewith a copy of a note from the Cuban Ambassador at Washington transmitting for the President at the instance of the President of Cuba a cabinet of Cuban cigars.

There is also enclosed herewith a draft of a brief note of thanks which the President may wish to send to General Batista. If you will return the letter to me when signed, I shall be glad to have it forwarded to the American Embassy at Habana for delivery.

  
George T. Summerlin

Enclosures:

1. From the Cuban Ambassador, December 29, 1942.
2. Package containing a cabinet of Cuban cigars.
3. Draft letter.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

*B. F.*  
*State*

May 10, 1943.

CONFIDENTIAL //

MEMORANDUM FOR

HON. SUMNER WELLES: *x 20*

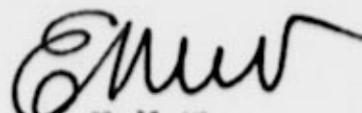
Please read and return for  
my files.

F.D.R.

Transmitting memorandum in re Cuneo Harrison,  
Peruvian Minister to Cuba.

            
*x159*

Respectfully forwarded to the President:

  
E.M.W.

(re Cuneo Harrison, Peruvian Minister to Cuba, now en route to Cuba following visit to U.S. Is pro-Nazi and has been told he will be Peruvian Ambassador to Germany after Germany wins the war)

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER  
DIRECTOR



**Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.**

SEP 29 1943

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL  
BY SPECIAL MESSENGER

Major General Edwin M. Watson  
Secretary to the President  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

Dear General Watson:

As of possible interest to the President and you, there is forwarded herewith a memorandum setting out information obtained from a reliable and confidential source concerning Cuneo Harrison, Peruvian Minister to Cuba. \*

x287

Previous information contained in the files of this Bureau concerns various reports alleging that Cuneo Harrison is engaged in pro-Axis activity. In particular, it has been reported that the former German Minister in Havana, Cuba, Steven Tauschnitz, advised Harrison that he would be made Peruvian Ambassador to Germany after Germany had won the present war. It was further reported that Harrison has voiced his admiration for the Germans and has expressed his confidence in the ability of Germany to win the present war.

With assurances of my highest respect,

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover  
x10-B

Enclosure

*file*

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

May 11, 1943

My dear Mr. President:

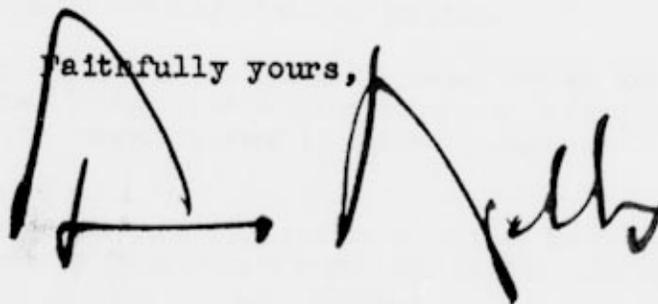
Thank you for letting me read the memorandum regarding the Peruvian Minister in Cuba which you sent to me with your memorandum of May 10.

In accordance with your request, I am returning this document herewith for your files.

Ambassador Braden is informing us almost daily with regard to this case. Unfortunately, the Cuban Government itself appears to be bringing pressure upon the Cuban Congress to prevent Congressional action directed against the Peruvian Minister.

Believe me

Faithfully yours,



Enc.

The President,  
The White House.

APR 29 1943

MEMORANDUM

Re: Cuneo Harrison  
Peruvian Minister to Cuba

Cuneo Harrison, Peruvian Minister to Cuba, is presently reported en route to Havana, Cuba, following a visit to the United States.

On April 19, 1943 Dr. Eduardo Chibas, leader of the Cuban Revolutionary Party in the Lower House of Congress of the Cuban Government, presented before the Cuban Congress a motion that Harrison be declared persona non grata because of alleged pro-Axis activities on the part of Harrison. Chibas declared before the Cuban Congress that Harrison is not defending the interests of his country, but, on the other hand, is defending the interests of totalitarian powers. Chibas further charged that Harrison is utilizing his diplomatic immunity as a cover for Fifth Column activity. Chibas declared that Harrison was very friendly with Steven Tauschnitz, German Charge d'Affairs at Panama during Harrison's stay there as Minister from 1937 to 1939 and it was pointed out that both of these individuals came to Cuba at about the same time in 1940. Chibas also alleged that Harrison has been friendly with the Italian Minister to Cuba and the Japanese Charge d'Affairs in Cuba prior to the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor. It was also pointed out that Harrison was an associate of Dr. Hornung, a friend of Heinz August Luning, who was recently executed in Cuba as a German espionage agent.

Chibas stated that Harrison now maintains friendship with Argentine and Spanish diplomatic representatives in Cuba.

In his motion presented to the Cuban Congress, Chibas asked that the Ministers of State, Treasury, and Interior appear before the Cuban Congress to answer the charges placed by Chibas concerning Harrison.

It is further reported that this action by Chibas has thrown the various diplomatic corps in Cuba into a furor and the outcome of Chibas' action is anxiously awaited in those circles.

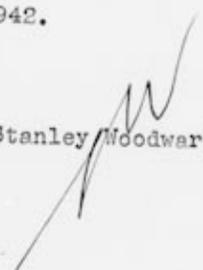


DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

March 3, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. ROMAGNA

With reference to the President's request for copies of remarks of visiting Heads of State made upon the occasion of the dinners at the White House, I enclose herewith the remarks of President Batista of Cuba made in response to the President's Toast at the dinner on December 8, 1942.

  
Stanley Woodward

Enclosure:

Remarks of President Batista,  
December 8, 1942.



Remarks of the President of the Republic of Cuba, Major General Fulgencio Batista y Zaldivar, in reply to the Toast of the President of the United States of America, Mr. Franklin D. Roosevelt, at the Official Dinner given on December 8, 1942, in honor of the Cuban Chief of State.

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Mr. President:

Although I am not a stranger to your shores and to you, as your expressive words have well stated tonight, on this occasion I have the high honor of visiting you as President of my country. Those deeply tragic days of the year 1933, the memory of which has hardly receded by the passage of time, had hours of profound preoccupation for us and of grave dangers for my country.

I was then an humble sergeant of the Cuban Army and God willed to place me at the head of that movement of re- vindication which has been, and continues as such, standing for a generating cycle of new forms in the domestic and foreign policy of Cuba. Over our destinies there was hanging the power of intervention of the Government of the United States of America in the personal affairs of the Government of the Island, provided for by the so-called Platt Amendment, inserted into the text of the Constitution of 1901, but which, fortunately, has been eliminated by your clear vision and the constant conduct of the Cuban people, deeming them worthy of their right to free determination. It pleased the Fates that there should occupy the Presidency of this great nation in that epoch a statesman of your virtues, who knew the value of taking advantage of an opportunity and make effective his intimate convictions of human decorum and political dignity,

in

in place of the mistaken scruples and fears of innovation which surround reformers.

The Cuban people have always been very jealous of their sovereignty, Mr. President, but at the same time very grateful for the services which have been, or may be rendered them. We do not forget that our independence and liberty were attained with the valiant and decisive participation of the citizens and government of the land of Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln, and of others of such rank, who, like yourself, have contributed to the glorious traditions of this Nation, the soldiers of which mingled their own blood with our own, and as our own, gave their lives, being led, among others, by a Roosevelt, for which my country bears eternal gratitude.

Now, Mr. President, not just one country, but many, are in a worse situation than was Cuba before the famous "Joint Resolution" and the United States has responded with that valor which is now characteristic in her history as a lover of liberty and of democracy.

Because between Cuba and the United States there should not reappear the jealousies of the kind which made her dubious, on different occasions, of mutual good faith; because we are pleased to observe the Good Neighbor Policy carried on by your Government; because it evidences the respect which the Government of the United States holds towards our own and the sovereign rights of all peoples, I have not hesitated to declare, publicly, that we Cubans  
consider

consider as the indisputable leader of our times the President of the United States, by whose forcefulness, talent and valor, we, who desire the triumph of Democracy over the arms and deeds that are designed to villify with violence and brutality the human conscience, are guided, I toast, Mr. President, your health and success.

EMBAJADA DE CUBA  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Palabras con que el señor Presidente de la República de Cuba, Mayor General Fulgencio Batista y Zaldívar, contestó al brindis del señor Presidente de los Estados Unidos de Norte América, Mr. Franklin D. Roosevelt, con motivo de la comida oficial celebrada el día 8 de diciembre de 1942, en honor del Jefe del Estado Cubano.

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Señor Presidente:

Aunque no extraño para el pueblo de los Estados Unidos y para usted, como bien han aclarado sus expresivas palabras de esta noche, tengo esta vez el alto honor de visitarlo como Presidente de mi país. Aquellos días más que trágicos del año 1933, apenas debilitados por el tiempo en el recuerdo, encerraron horas de profunda preocupación para nosotros y de peligrosos riesgos para mi Patria. Yo era un modesto Sargento del Ejército cubano entonces y quiso Dios ponerme a la cabeza de aquel movimiento reivindicador que viene representando, aún en estos días, un ciclo generador de nuevas formas en la política interna y exterior de Cuba. Sobre nuestros destinos pendía la facultad de intervención del Gobierno de los Estados Unidos de América en los asuntos propios del Gobierno de la Isla, que amparaba la llamada Enmienda Platt, insertada en el texto de la Constitución de 1901, desaparecida afortunadamente aquella por vuestra esclarecida visión y la constante conducta del pueblo cubano, acreedor a su derecho de libre determinación. Plugo a la historia que ocupara la Presidencia de esta gran nación, en aquella época, un estadista de vuestras virtudes, que supo apreciar el valor de la oportunidad y sobreponer el de las íntimas convicciones del decoro humano y la dignidad política, a los escrúpulos equivocados y a las timideces innovadoras que se provocan en torno de los reformadores. El pueblo cubano ha sido siempre muy celoso de su soberanía, señor Presidente, pero muy agradecido también por los servicios que se le hayan prestado o se le presten. No olvidamos que nues-

tra independencia y libertad fueron alcanzadas con el valioso y decisivo concurso de la ciudadanía y del gobierno de la patria de Washington, de Jefferson, de Lincoln y de otros de tal calidad, que como usted, han contribuido a las gloriosas tradiciones de esta Nación, cuyos soldados confundieron, con los nuestros, su propia sangre y dieron, como los nuestros, sus propias vidas, mandados, entre otros, por un Roosevelt, al que se guarda imprecadera gratitud en mi patria.

Ahora, señor Presidente, no un pueblo, sino muchos, están en peor situación que lo estuvo Cuba antes de la famosa "Joint Resolution" y los Estados Unidos han respondido con ese valor que le es ya característico en su historia de amantes de la libertad y de la Democracia.

Porque entre Cuba y los Estados Unidos no reaparezcan los celos del tipo de aquellos que le hicieron dudar, en diferentes ocasiones, de la buena fe recíproca; porque se complace en reconocer la política de buena vecindad que vuestro Gobierno practica; porque sabe del respeto que el Gobierno de los Estados Unidos tiene para el nuestro y para los sentimientos soberanos de todos los pueblos, yo no he tenido rubor en declarar, públicamente, que los cubanos consideramos como líder indiscutible de esta hora, al actual Presidente de los Estados Unidos, por cuyo dinamismo, talento y valor, nos orientamos los que queremos el triunfo de la Democracia sobre las armas y acciones que intentan envilecer, con la violencia y la brutalidad, la conciencia humana. Yo brindo, señor Presidente, por vuestra salud y por vuestros éxitos.

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MEMORANDUM REGARDING VISIT  
OF PRESIDENT-ELECT GRAU OF CUBA

General Political Situation - Dr. Ramón Grau San Martín, a man of high personal integrity, whose provisional presidency only lasted four months due to its not being recognized by this Government in 1933, was overwhelmingly elected President of Cuba in June, despite a large amount of fraud by the Batista Government. His administration, which is to start on October 10, has rather dismal prospects, owing: (1) to his vacillating character and lack of a practical program, and (2) to President Batista, the predominating influence in the Cuban Army and political scene, who is already trying to discredit him. Dr. Grau shows a ready disposition to cooperate with the United States.

Sugar - In current negotiations for the sale of its 1945 and 1946 sugar crops to this Government, Cuba is pressing strongly for an increase over the present price of 2.65 cents per pound, although an increase would raise the ceiling price here and provide greatly increased inflationary pressure in Cuba. Dr. Grau has indicated any increase in price would go to labor, which received a boost in wages earlier this year.

✓ Inflation - If Cuba seeks assistance in fighting its already serious inflation, United States is, of course, prepared to accord all possible technical aid. In addition, this Government is ready to discuss price stabilization measures covering several basic foodstuffs as a part of the sugar agreement, provided Cuba is able to give assurances of adequate price control.

✓ Claims - It is hoped that Cuba will shortly liquidate claims of United States interests, which it acknowledges, covering several unpaid current accounts and also claims based on Cuban court decisions. Furthermore, it would be highly desirable to establish a claims commission to dispose of disputed claims.

? Treaty of Friendship, Commerce and Navigation - A treaty of this nature would be most beneficial to the two countries, placing basic economic relations on a more permanent basis. As in other countries, foreigners in Cuba are faced with a growing nationalistic tendency.

Agricultural Development - The \$25,000,000 Export-Import Bank credit, already made available to Cuba, provides means for assisting Dr. Grau in carrying out certain of his programs such as the building of feeder, farm roads and irrigation projects. In addition, this Government's experts are ready to assist in agricultural development, if needed. Dr. Grau's interest in diversifying Cuban agriculture has been shared for many years by this Government; indeed, a current purchase program covers Cuba's surplus production of corn, beans, and peanuts.

✓ Guantánamo Water Supply Treaty - Pending between the two Governments is a treaty which the Batista administration agrees to carry through to the point of signing but which should be signed by Dr. Grau's Minister of State, thus insuring its support by all parties in Congress. It provides for supplying 185 liters per second of water, which is deemed sufficient for Naval Base needs and is essential to its successful operation.

REGRADED UNCLASSIFIED

August 30, 1944.

Cuba folder 1-44

RESTRICTED

FROM

Habana

Dated November 8, 1944

Rec'd November 10, 6p.m.

Secretary of State  
Washington, D. C.

A-2498, November 8, 1:30 p.m.

President GRAU this morning sent his Chief Military Aide and one of his Assistants to convey to me his "personal and most sincere congratulations" on the re-election of President ROOSEVELT, a victory which he said gave him just as profound satisfaction as he knew it did me (sic.)

I, of course, requested the Aide to express my deep thanks to the President for his message, observing that the personal acquaintanceship between the two Chiefs of State insured the continuance of friendship between our two Governments and Nations.

SB;dsc:ph  
800

BRADEN

*Cuba folder 1-44*

AIRGRAM

FROM American Embassy

Habana

Dated November 14<sup>th</sup>, 1944

Rec'd November 15, 5p.m.

UNRESTRICTED

Secretary of State,

Washington

A-2534, November 14, 8:35 a.m.

The re-election of President Roosevelt has been received throughout all sectors of Cuban official and private life with the highest acclaim. All shade of editorial opinion, reactionary, conservative, liberal and communist, have unanimously paid tribute to the President in recognition of his great democratic accomplishments and in wishing him well for the future. I have been flooded with congratulatory messages.

BRADEN

HEM/ms