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TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON. April 18, 1952
DATE

REF : 000133 Labor Developments

APR 18 1952

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BUREAU OF
INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS
APR 21 1952

SUBJECT: Cuba Sends Delegation to Rio ILO Meeting

A nine-member delegation was named by the Minister of Labor, Jesús PORTOCARRERO, to represent Cuba at the Regional Conference of the International Labor Organization which opened April 17, 1952 in Rio de Janeiro. The government order signed by President BATISTA appointing the delegates was published in the Official Gazette of April 15, 1952.

Labor is represented by Francisco AGUIRRE, Secretary-General of the Inter-American Organization of Workers (ORIT); Angel COFINO, Secretary-General of the electric plant workers; José PEREZ Gonzales, a member of the railroad brotherhood; and Ignacio GONZALES Tellechea, Secretary of Propaganda of the maritime union and Secretary of Foreign Relations of the Cuban Confederation of Labor (CTC).

Government is represented by Dr. José SANDOVAL, Chief Technical Adviser of the Ministry of Labor; Andrés SOBERON, Director-General of the Ministry of Labor and head of Bloque Obrero of PAU and Mario BARRERA, labor writer on the staff of Prensa Libre.

Business is represented by Dr. Francisco FERNANDEZ PLA, a prominent labor attorney, and Dr. Vicente GRAU IMPERATORI, also an attorney.

COMMENT

Announcement of the composition of the ILO delegation was delayed until four days before the scheduled opening date of the conference. Sandoval told the Embassy's labor reporting officer that the reason for this was indecision on the part of the Minister of Labor as to whether or not there should be union representation this year. Sandoval indicated that it was difficult to select delegates because of the desire of both CTC and Bloque Obrero to participate.

Marcos A. HIRIGOYEN, Secretary-General of the transport workers' federation, had been mentioned in the press previously

ISLippe:rc
REPORTER

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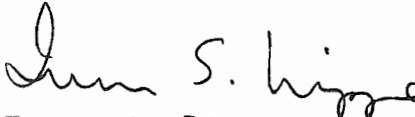
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as a likely delegate. He declined, according to Angel BRAVO, ORIT office manager, because the revolutionary group of which he is a member, Acción Revolucionaria Guiteras (ARG), frowns on participation in conferences which it believes are dominated by the point of view of business.

Barrera, the newspaperman, apparently is going just for the trip, probably accepting payment for some past publicity favor to Portocarrero. The attorney, Pla, is a very well known lawyer who is said to have been the author of proposed labor court legislation during the recent session of Congress under PRIO.

For the Ambassador:


Irvin S. Lippe
Attaché

Copy to Amembassy, Rio de Janeiro

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