

FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

SECURITY : RESTRICTED

TO : Department of State

FROM : HABANA 1882 MARCH 13, 1951

REF : -

SUBJECT : REAFFIRMATION OF DEMOCRATIC FAITH BY CTC YOUTH GROUP

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BUREAU OF EXR 511.37
INTERAFFAIRS 7.00
MAR 13 1951
noted
file

2
For Dept. use only.
MARCH 16

ACTION
FR
DCR
OLI
IE
UNA
EUR/X
P

In an effort to reach a large segment of Cuban labor, officers of the USIE on the evening of March 9, 1951 lent their cooperation to a rally by the Youth Movement of the Confederación de Trabajadores de Cuba, the largest labor confederation. The theme of the rally was reaffirmation of faith in the democratic way of life.

More than 2,000 members and relatives of members of the youth section of the CTC, as well as officers of the USIE, attended the ceremony which took place in the new headquarters of the Confederation which had been draped with Cuban flags and with American flags lent by the Embassy. A table was placed at the entrance of the hall where more than 3,000 pamphlets were distributed by three members of the Confederation.

The ceremony began with the playing of the Cuban and American national anthems. Then followed four speakers, whose speeches, alternating with vaudeville acts contributed by the Musicians' Union, were well-received by the audience. The most dynamic speech was given by Jesús ARTIGAS, Secretary for Finance of the CTC and a rising young political figure in the Autentico Party. "Tomorrow," Artigas declared, "the communists will say that this ceremony was paid for by the American Embassy and that we are tools of the Yankee imperialists. But this is not so. The representatives of the American Embassy who are here are representatives of the real American people, not of those who exploit labor. They are representatives of the American people with whom Cubans will fight side by side anywhere in the world if the need arises."

Other speakers joined Artigas in asserting that Cubans would fight against communism and condemned those--whether capitalists or communists--who exploited labor, reserving, however, for communists in general and Russian communists in particular especial censure as the destroyers of liberty. Speakers other than Artigas were Fausto WATERMAN, Secretary-General of the Youth Movement; Aida PÉREZ of the women's section of the Youth Movement; and Prisciliano FALCÓN, Secretary for Organization of the CTC.

WMBastian/mfd

NR
R

37.06/3-1951

MAR 22 1951

HH

ACTION COPY — DEPARTMENT OF STATE

The action office must return this permanent record copy to DC/R files with an endorsement of action taken.

UNCLASSIFIED

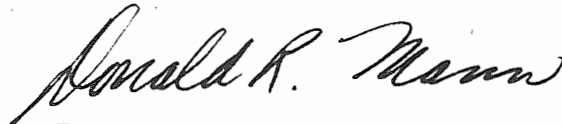
(Classification)

2 HABANA 1882

The Embassy believes this ceremony possesses special significance not only for what it represents in itself, but also for what it portends. The members of the youth section regarded the event as the official launching of a cultural and information program in connection with the American Embassy which will feature USIE films on a regular schedule, and Embassy cooperation in a series of short courses and lectures given at CTC headquarters under cooperative sponsorship of the Confederation and the USIE.

The Youth Movement has also offered to lend the Embassy its list of its affiliated unions and corresponding secretaries to whom pamphlets and other USIE material may be sent. The celebration itself provided new personal contacts with members of the Confederation.

For the Chargé d'Affaires ad interim:



Donald R. Mann
Public Affairs Officer

WMB/mfd

UNCLASSIFIED