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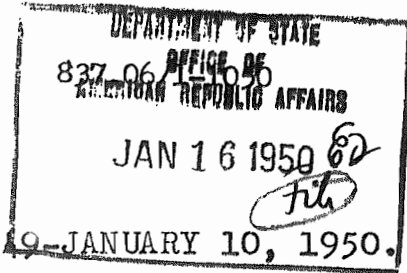
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TO : Department of State

FROM : HABANA 75 January 10, 1950

REF :

SUBJECT : LABOR NOTES ON HABANA - DECEMBER 31, 1949 - JANUARY 10, 1950.



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The following information covering recent labor developments in Habana is being forwarded as of possible interest to the Department of Labor and the Division of International Labor and Social Affairs of the Department of State. The separate items are not considered to be of sufficient importance to warrant special reports but may be of interest as a summary of activities within the labor field.

Stevedores in the port of Habana staged a four hour sit-down strike on December 31, 1949. The strike was called when workers complained that a labor agreement had been violated by the agents of the American ship "Insko Merchant", which was carrying cement in bulk rather than in bags. The workers claimed that eighteen stevedores were deprived of work, as the cement was being unloaded mechanically in place of hand labor. The work of the port was paralyzed during the afternoon shift of December 31, 1949. The stevedores reported for work and boarded the ships in the harbor but refused to handle any cargo until the alleged grievance had been settled to their satisfaction. Officials of the Ministry of Labor intervened in the dispute and convinced the workers that they should return to their jobs until such time as a study of the dispute could be made and an impartial decision reached. The following day the stevedores returned to their jobs and the port resumed normal operations.

Shipping agents have refused to pay the workers for the lost shift and the possibility of further disturbances cannot be discounted.

On January 4, 1950 a brief work stoppage occurred in the Pepsi-Cola plant in Habana. The dispute involved the dismissal of several employees and the alleged failure of the company to reimburse them fully. Employees of the plant have threatened strike action if the workers, who they claim were displaced by new machinery, are not reinstated.

Both of the above labor disturbances further emphasize labor's continued opposition to mechanization of industry and its determination to resist the introduction of mechanical

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improvements which could conceivably replace workers.

The administration's intervention policy was again evidenced on January 5, 1950 when the Cabinet agreed to appoint a government interventor in the Luyanó slaughterhouse.

For the Chargé d'Affaires a.i.:



Ray G. Crane
American Vice Consul