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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

TELEPHONE

Memorandum of Conversation

DATE: March 14, 1952

SUBJECT: Relations Cuban Labor Movement to Current Cuban Developments

PARTICIPANTS: Mr. Serafino Romualdi, Latin American Representative, AFL  
ARA - Mr. John Fishburn *JF*

COPIES TO: ARA - Mr. Mann, Mr. Miller  
MID - Ambassador Nufer  
Mr. Wellman  
Amembassy Habana

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Mr. Romualdi called me at my home at 8 a.m. in order to inform me of a telephone conversation which he had with Mr. Francisco Aguirre, the Secretary of the ORIT (Inter-American Regional Organization of Workers). Mr. Romualdi was informed that Messrs. Aguirre and Mujal, the Secretary-general of the Cuban Confederation of Workers, met with Mr. Batista earlier that night and had a thorough, frank conversation with him. Mr. Batista informed the labor leaders that they would have complete freedom of operation and that he would not interfere with the CTC. (Mr. Mujal had earlier been released after a half hour's detention, and no labor leaders were under detention at that time according to Mr. Aguirre.) However, Mr. Batista's offer was not satisfactory to the CTC leaders who also insisted upon a definite date for the elections and the re-establishment of the "normalidad" of the Government. Batista promised to set a date for the national election and to reply to their questions at a public interview to be held Friday, March 14.

Mr. Aguirre requested that the AFL not make a public statement, and Mr. Romualdi informed me that he would pass this request on to Mr. Michael Ross, the Director of International Relations of the CIO (who subsequently arranged to cancel the proposed CIO statement).

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Mr. Romualdi agreed that the situation looks more promising, although certain reservations must be maintained regarding the re-establishment of political liberties as well as the fulfillment of the promises indicated above.

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At 3:20 p.m., Mr. Romualdi called me to state that the Cuban Charge d'Affaires had just informed him by telephone that "Pres." Batista promised complete freedom of action to the ORIT headquarters and its officials in Habana.

ARA:JTFishburn:av

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