

FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

SECURITY : UNCLASSIFIED W/RESTRICTED SECTION

PRIORITY: AIR POUCH

TO : Department of State

837.062/5-1750
XR 937.62
737.00
937.40

FROM : HABANA 1118 May 17, 1950

REF :

SUBJECT : AIR TRANSPORT WORKERS PROTEST TRANSFER OF PERSONNEL

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A "no tie and rolled up sleeve" (cero corbatas y mangas al codo) movement among the employees of the Compañía Cubana de Aviación, which started in Camagüey, has now spread to Habana and other Cuban cities. The movement is reportedly in protest to the proposed transfer of several employees from Camagüey to Habana. Leaders of the Air Transport Workers Union claim that the move to transfer personnel from Camagüey to Habana is a maneuver on the part of the company to reduce the number of employees. Labor leaders have also objected to the closing of four radio stations in Oriente and Cienfuegos and claim that the company has violated the labor contract signed in October of 1949.

An official of Compañía Cubana de Aviación has informed the Embassy that a change in flight schedules has eliminated the need to maintain a night shift on duty in Camagüey, leaving a surplus of employees in that city at the same time additional personnel are required in Habana. He stated that where up to a short time ago the company had several scheduled stops in Camagüey at night, all but one had now been eliminated. He added that the company acted within its rights in transferring the employees to Habana as the 1949 labor contract contains a clause which provides that the company may transfer an employee at any time it requires his services in another city.

Service on the airline has not been affected as yet, but it is feared that the employees may at any time resort to a slow-down strike in order to gain their demands.

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ACTION COPY — DEPARTMENT OF STATE

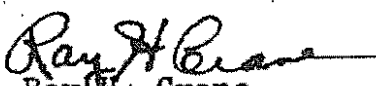
The action office must return this permanent record copy to DC/R files with an endorsement of action taken.

Comment:

RESTRICTED

The movement described above is apparently another of a series of strikes, strike threats, and slow-down movements to which labor has resorted during the past few weeks and will undoubtedly continue to take recourse in until after the June elections. Labor is well aware that the Administration is not in a position to refuse any demands made by the workers at a time when election results are in doubt and labor's vote may be a deciding factor in the final outcome.

For the Ambassador:


Ray H. Crane,
Assistant Attaché.

