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837.061/12-1450

TO : Department of State
 FROM : HABANA 1269 December 14, 1950
 REF : Embassy's telegram No.210 of November 14, 1950
 SUBJECT : PREVAILING WAGES FOR CUTTING SUGAR CANE

837.061/12-1450
 XR-837.2351

With reference to the Embassy's telegram No.210 of November 14, 1950, in answer to Agriculture's request contained in Circular 142 of November 10, the Embassy finds the data contained therein, as originally furnished by the Cuban Association of Mill Owners to be wrong. The following is the correct information as calculated from the data furnished by that organization.

Pursuant to the terms of the 1937 Coordination Law and the amendments thereto, on the basis that a cane cutter averages 170 arrobas of cane per 8-hour working day, he receives \$3.18 per 8-hour day or 39.7 cents per hour and \$1.32 per short ton of sugar cane. Wages include the compulsory 10% bonus and the 9.09% vacation pay. The above wages for cane cutters are for the grinding season only. (See below for dead season wages). The legal minimum wage for all agricultural workers, including sugar field workers, is \$1.60 per day plus 10% and 9.09%. (Minimum salary Commissions ruling #61 of July 7, 1944) The actual wage for sugar field work during harvest is tied to the number of arrobas cut and the sugar yield. The cane cutter's share is 62.5% and the loader and hauler 37.5% of 52 lbs. of sugar per each 100 arrobas when the sugar yield ranges between 12.25% to 13.25%.

The "dead season" wage for sugar field workers is \$2.88 per 8-hour day. In addition, pursuant to Section 66 of the Cuban Constitution, the "dead season" worker is entitled to 48 hours pay for 44 hours work (9.09%) or \$2.88 plus 26 cents or \$3.14 per 8-hour day. The 48 hours pay for 44 hours work is not applicable to workers during the grinding season.

For the Ambassador:

Chester E. Davis
 Chester E. Davis
 Economic Attaché

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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.