

FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

SECURITY: UNCLASSIFIED

PRIORITY: AIR POUCH

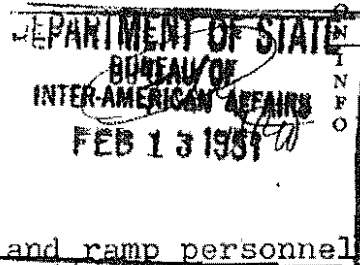
TO: Department of State

837.062/2-951
XR-937.52

FROM: HABANA, 1679, February 9, 1951

REF:

SUBJECT: THREATENED STRIKE CIA. CUBANA DE AVIACION.



A strike threat of pilots, mechanics, and ramp personnel throughout Cuba of the Cia. Cubana de Aviación in protest of various developments considered prejudicial to the interests of the Company and of the employees was called off after representatives of the workers conferred with President PRIO about the following points:

1. Failure to obtain a permit for Cia. Cubana to fly from Habana to New York. President Prio is reported to have promised to renew efforts to obtain such a permit from CAB. The workers demanded that if the Government was unsuccessful, it should revoke permits in effect for United States lines serving Cuba.
2. The authorization by the Government of two Cuban airlines, Aerovias "Q" and Cuba Aeropostal to utilize Camp Columbia airfield, which is a military field in close proximity to the center of Havana. The President is reported to have promised not to grant any additional authorizations to use this field and to investigate those already in effect.
3. The proposed increase in Cuban taxes on airplane tickets from Cuba to foreign destinations. The President is reported to have promised full reconsideration of this matter.
4. The authorization by the National Transport Commission of a Jewish airline to operate under the Cuban flag between Rome and Tel-Avis with foreign personnel. It was reported that the President promised to revoke this permit.
5. The existence of two radio stations that interfere with Radio Aeronautico de Cuba and the transmission of weather and other information for pilots. Elimination of this interference was reported to have been promised.

RMConnell:dml

ACTION COPY — DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

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

1679, Habana, February 8, 1951

President Prio is understood to have promised that he would propose at today's Cabinet meeting the formation of a five-man aeronautical commission, composed of two representatives of the workers, two of the companies, and one of the Government to study and coordinate all of the above questions.


R.M. Connell
First Secretary of Embassy