MOM: Habana

Secretary of State

397, March 5, 6 p.m.

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March 5, 1951

9:37 p.m.

Following receipt DEPTEL 395, March 2 and letter March 2 from Wellman, discussed today with Warren Pine and Sergio Clark of Compania Cubana and Carlos Parraga, company's legal counsel, action of labor union in attempting force through company's application for NY-Habana permit. Cubana officials believe feeling on part union members has now reached point where threatened strike March 10 can only be averted by favorable decision CAB or some indication such decision will be forthcoming shortly.

I pointed out to them unfavorable impression which strike would create and possibility of adverse effect upon CAB's decision. They replied action on permit had been pending so long and deferred so frequently that workers are now determined carry out threat.

All three officers expressed anxiety over possibility permit may be granted after (repeat after) strike declared and credit for obtaining it claimed by union, thus weakening management in future negotiations with labor. They expressed desire talk immediately with Rentzrl or acting chairman CAB, hope; they could obtain sufficient assurances forestall Strike.

Following telephonic conversation with Wellman I informed Pine visit to Washington would probably not produce desired results, but that Department official would be available discuss matter if he insisted on going. Pine said he and Clark had decided go tomorrow arriving Washington Tuesday p.m., that company feels this effort should be made chiefly for psychological effect it might have on union members here. I feel they now do not expect any concrete results from talks they may have with CAB.

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