

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

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F760012-1761

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**UNCLASSIFIED**

Control: 15092  
Rec'd: August 23, 1957  
7:39 p.m.

FROM: Habana  
TO: Secretary of State  
NO: 117, August 23, 5 p.m.

*File: [Signature]*  
DECLASSIFICATION DATE 11/22/76  
PER P. Johnson OFFICE ARA  
FADRC FOR CASE NO. 610363 Moley

PRIORITY

Had 2-hour conversation with President and Foreign Minister Guell evening Wednesday August 21. This report delayed because spent all following day at ceremonies connected sinking new offshore oil well Camaguey province.

First hour all pleasantries. Batista indicated wished retain and continue good relations with US and felt that as I was accredited his government I should support him.

I pointed out at length that we had been subject to much criticism because of feeling that US Government was especially friendly to him not only in outward appearances but in supplying of arms and munitions under MAP which were being used to kill Cubans. I stated it was my position to be strictly neutral. He said he understood my position and agreed. I asked President if he would not take the same position were he in my place and he replied yes.

Reference attacks by Masferrer, Vasconcelos, and Rosell I mentioned that the resolution introduced by Senator Rosell was still receiving wide circulation in Senate-franked envelopes. I indicated that I personally did not mind but pointed out that such mailings gave impression that unfriendly relationship still existed between Cuban Government and American Embassy. Batista showed embarrassment and surprise and insofar as Vasconcelos was concerned stated that although he was helpful he was hard to control.

Batista was first to bring up Oriente trip, inquired if I had been to Moa Bay and Nicaro, and discussed huge American investments. Then, referring to Santiago, he said that demonstrations in all Cuba by women and youths were

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Communist

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F760012-1762

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-2- 117, August 23, 5 p.m. from Habana

Communist-inspired. This is in line with usual government propoganda.

I pointed out that if his government had indicated in any manner that it did not wish me to go I obviously would have cancelled the trip. As I had pointed out to him on the occasion of presentation of credentials and through the press, Oriente was logical and obvious province for first visit. As to statement I made in Santiago, I pointed out to President that I was faced with but two choices. (A) To remain non-committal which implied endorsement, (B) to make the statement I did. Batista made no comment but nodded in agreement. I then outlined further contemplated trips in Cuba and asked his approval before we completed our plans.

I assured Batista that I was fully aware that as long as I was accredited to his government I must do nothing to embarrass his government and that I was anxious to continue to maintain good and cooperative relations, to which he heartily agreed. Meeting throughout was cordial and friendly.

I feel strongly that events since my arrival July 15 culminating in foregoing conversation have achieved desired objective of firmly convincing Batista and his government as well as Cuban people of basic US policy of non-intervention and neutrality in Cuban internal affairs. At same time fundamentally friendly and cooperative relations between two governments unimpaired.

SMITH

AB:GEV/5

AUG 26 1957  
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INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

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Control: 15523  
Rec'd: August 24, 1957  
5:12 p.m. *Handwritten initials*

FROM: Habana  
TO: Secretary of State  
NO: 118, August 24, 5 p.m.

*File: [Handwritten signature]*

EMBTEL 117 August 23.

Received following message from USA Director Johnston, who had farewell interview with President Batista yesterday, and from William Lane, Public Relations representative in Miami for Cuban Government: (1) Batista now understands my position perfectly and is fully satisfied. (2) Orient officials have been instructed to be discriminatory where Americans are concerned. (3) Censorship of American press will be removed tomorrow (Sunday). (4) William Lane states Batista administration will strike friendship with American Government that free elections will be expanded that campaign to convince Cuban people to this effect will be initiated shortly.

Am now firmly convinced that primary mission has been accomplished of assuring Cuban people and Cuban Government of United States Government position on non-intervention and neutrality. Sentiment of both Cuban Government and Cuban people toward United States at present time generally highly favorable.

DECLASSIFICATION DATE 11/22/76  
PER R. P. Johnson OFFICE ARA SMITH

MEJ:GEV/5 FADRC FOI CASE NO. 610363 Morley

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