

Air
PRIORITY

CONFIDENTIAL
(Security Classification)

FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM : American Embassy, HABANA

1271

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

May 8, 1959

REF :

MAY 12 1959

ACTION	DEPT.
For Dept. Use Only	REC'D OTHER

SUBJECT: Ambassador's Call on President Urrutia on May 6.

On May 5 I told Minister of State Agramonte that I would like to pay a courtesy call on President Urrutia. I stated that I particularly wished to thank President Urrutia for some friendly expressions regarding the United States and regarding me personally which he had included in a television address last week. The interview was arranged for the following day at 6:00 p.m. Minister Agramonte was also present. Our conversation covered a variety of topics along more or less conventional lines. I was impressed by President Urrutia's cordiality and friendliness toward the United States and by his realization of the role that private enterprise must play if Cuba is to continue to develop economically and to move toward the objective of a higher standard of living for all Cubans. The President stated that it would be only in case Cuba fell back in the struggle for economic improvement that Communism would find opportunities for control here. I endeavored, with what success, I do not know, to impress the President with some of the factors involved in economic development other than the providing of very large sums of money, and I also tried to indicate the relative slowness of over-all progress even in those countries which have the most outstanding records in this respect.

My call was suitably publicized in the newspapers and over television but without any indication of the nature of the conversation.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BUREAU OF
INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS
File 5/15/59

Philip W. Bonsal
Philip W. Bonsal

cc: Officer in Charge of Cuban Affairs

PWBonsal:vk

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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.

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