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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

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FROM : AMEMBASSY, HABANA 669  
TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON  
REF : A-188

January 10, 1955

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	REC'D	OTHER
	ara-3	Rep-2 cc/ra-2
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SUBJECT: INTERPRETATION OF THE CUBAN-U. S. BILATERAL AIR TRANSPORT AGREEMENT

By reason of the reorganization of the offices responsible for Civil Aviation in Cuba, plus the intervening holidays, it was only possible this morning to confer with the appropriate authorities on the proposed interpretation of the Civil Aviation Agreement contained in the instruction under reference. In a preliminary conference with Dr. Francisco VELASCO Guzman, Chief of the Air Transportation Office, and Dr. Mario HAEDO Triana, Legal Adviser of the Air Transportation Office, it was the general understanding that Cuba would probably accept the U. S. proposal, but would suggest: one, that the maximum time for initiating consultation would be no longer than 30 days subsequent to request for such consultation by the other contracting parties.

Cuba is concerned about this interpretation only as regards the Havana-Miami run; consequently, they may ask likewise for a general consultation on criteria to be followed in case competition between the lines serving that route should result in excessive services, and, hence, from Cuba's point of view, do harm to Compania Cubana. The American lines serving that route are: National with three flights per day, and PanAmerican with six flights per day.

They explained that during the past six months Cubana has not been in a position even to consider additional flights, but that they now anticipate that such may be the case in the near future. The thought was expressed to them that no special formula concerning a specific route should deviate from the general formula presented today, and that in any case it should be the prime responsibility of the air lines to work out an equitable system of schedules between themselves with the contracting parties to serve as a mediating and determining agency only as a last resort. Both gentlemen agreed that such should be the case.

They will take the current U. S. proposal under consideration and inform the Embassy in writing of the conclusions of the newly organized Civil Aeronautics Commission, of which they are both members.

HMRandall/lb  
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From \_\_\_\_\_

For the Ambassador:

*Harold M. Randall*  
Harold M. Randall  
Counselor of Embassy  
for Economic Affairs

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