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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM: American Embassy, HABANA

733

TO: THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

November 16, 1959

RE: [blank]

26 For Dept. Use Only	ACTION	DEPT.
	11/14 REC'D 11/18	I N F O P O

SUBJECT: Conversation with Minister of State Raul Roa on November 16, 1959

In the course of my call on Dr. Roa today, I discussed the following matters with him:

Disappearance and Presumed Death of Major Camilo Cienfuegos

I left with Dr. Roa note No. 168 expressing condolence on the presumed death of Major Camilo Cienfuegos. He expressed appreciation.

U. S. Cooperation in Air Search for Major Cienfuegos

I left with Dr. Roa note No. 172 together with a map showing what had been done by the United States Air Force and the Civilian Air Patrol to meet two requests for assistance in the search for Major Cienfuegos's plane which had been made by the Cuban authorities. I told Dr. Roa that our Air Force had been glad to make this quite considerable effort and only regretted that it had not produced any positive results. I took occasion to say that I had noted that Dr. Fidel Castro, in his television appearance on November 12, had given what purported to be a very thorough description of the search for Major Cienfuegos but had made no mention whatever of the two rather large areas which had been covered by U.S. planes.

Visit of Senator Carlson

I gave Dr. Roa a note about Senator Carlson's visit, including biographic information. I arranged to bring Senator Carlson to call on Dr. Roa at 11:00 a. m. on Thursday, November 19. I told Dr. Roa that I knew Senator Carlson was interested in seeing Dr. Castro but added that, in view of my own difficulties in obtaining interviews with Dr. Castro, I would leave this matter entirely up to Dr. Roa. He replied that he would speak to Dr. Castro about it.

PWBonsal:vk

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Meat Inspection Matter

I referred to our note of August 31 on this subject and to the failure of the Cuban authorities to date to take the fairly simple action requested. I told the Minister that, as a result, we are confronted with the possibility that Cuba may be dropped as a country from which meat can be imported into the United States. I said that I assumed that if this happened a cry of "economic aggression" would go up. I described to him the discussions of this subject which have taken place between the Embassy's Agricultural Attaché, Mr. Chester Davis, and the Director of Agriculture in the Ministry of Agriculture. The Minister said that he would look into the matter and see whether it could be helped along.

Agrarian Reform

In reply to my question, Dr. Roa said that a reply was in the course of preparation to our note of October 12 on this subject. I referred to increasing reports of arbitrary action on the part of INRA officials, particularly in the provinces. I described the case of Mr. Jack Everhart, whose house has been occupied by the Interventor who is using Mr. Everhart's personal property as though it were his own, in spite of the fact that Dr. Waldo Medina, head of INRA's Legal Department, has assured Agricultural Attaché Davis on numerous occasions that this condition will be corrected.

Philip W. Bonsal

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