

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Memorandum of Conversation

DATE: July 13, 1955

SUBJECT: General Aviation

PARTICIPANTS: Señor Sanchez Whyte, Secretary General, National Federation
of Aviation Workers of Cuba
Two other Cuban Labor Leaders
Mr. Terrance G. Leonhardy, MID
Mr. Gerald W. Russell, AR

COPIES TO: MID
AV
American Embassy, Habana

During the visit of Señor Sanchez Whyte and two other Cuban Labor Leaders to discuss the sugar problem, Señor Sanchez Whyte indicated that he would like to discuss the U.S.-Cuban aviation agreement. On the morning of July 13 these three Cubans, accompanied by Mr. Leonhardy, called on Mr. Russell in AR. Señor Sanchez stated that his labor union had purchased stock in Compania Cubana de Aviacion and therefore they were more interested in Cubana's operations. He requested a copy of our Bilateral Air Transport Agreement stating that he was unable to secure one in Habana as the Cuban Government had not printed this agreement. He then asked for an explanation of the duties of the Civil Aeronautics Administration and the Civil Aeronautics Board and an explanation as to how their functions differed. He also requested the names of the members of the Civil Aeronautics Board which were furnished him.

In discussing the aviation situation in Habana, Señor Sanchez stated that several foreign airlines were picking up passengers in Habana without permit from the Cuban Government. He was asked if he was referring to any U.S. airline, and he stated he was not. He was informed that the U.S.-Cuban bilateral had no effect on such activities as they are in the purview of the Cuban Government to take whatever action it felt necessary. Señor Sanchez then stated that he did not feel that Cubana was getting its share of the Habana-Miami traffic and that the agreement should be modified to provide a 50-50 division of traffic. Señor Sanchez was informed that the policy of predetermination of frequencies and capacity was a very short-sighted policy and one which even Cubana would soon find to its disadvantage if such policy were inaugurated. Señor Sanchez was informed that the U.S. had never considered nor would it consider any agreement for arbitrary division of traffic between various airlines.

Señor Sanchez stated that he appreciated the opportunity to have a general discussion on aviation matters while he was in Washington.

ARA:AR:GWR:Russell:DHH

611 3794/7-1355
6/11/3794/7-1355
CS/Y