From: Embassy Havana
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Prio's arrival in Washington was big story in today's press. Morning papers played up Truman's greeting words on Cuban-American friendship and carried play-by-play stories on ceremonies. Some included surprise award of Legion of Honor at evening banquet, others did not. Much speculation on possible replacement of Belf as Ambassador to Washington, naming as possible successors Gonzalo Gidell, new Cuban Ambassador to Mexico, and Luis J. Botifoll, Habana lawyer who accompanied Prio on trip. Description of press coverage follows:


El País (afternoon edition): Came out early, carried only one column saying Prio had embarked and describing plans for reception.
Alerta: Also came out early. Two photos of departure, one column on front page and 1½ columns inside, describing departure and giving plans for reception.
Pueblo: Scarce half column, with only the lead on front page. Features box on front page reporting that José Manuel Alemán took special airplane from Miami to Washington to interview Prio and Pérez Dámaso at Cuban Embassy during stay.
Avance: Only afternoon paper which waited to report arrival. Two photos of departure on front page; two columns front page, one more inside. Headlines Truman's greeting, "There are no two countries in the hemisphere more united than Cuba and USA."

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Morning, Havana, December 9.

Diario de la Habana: Have budget spread, broken into three different articles. Only page to publish photos of Washington arrival, one on front page and one inside. Total 3½ columns with 2½ on front, headline Truman statement: "American and Cuba represent friendship and solidarity." Also published two photos of departure in rotto section.

Informacion: Total 3½ columns with one column front page. Photo of departure, headlines feature Truman statement, "Never have two countries been more united," and Legion of Honor award.

El Vida: Total 4½ columns with two on front page, large photo of departure. Headline, "Truman and Prio hold conference--will discuss sugar."

El Pais (morning edition): Total 2½ columns with one column on front page, two photos of departure on front page. Headline: "Truman statement, "Never have two countries been more united..."

Reina Libra: Total of two columns spread through tabloid layout, with lead and vignettes of Truman and Prio on front page. Largest headlines feature Truman statement, "Cuba and U.S. are the best example of solidarity."

Havana Post: Five column spread dominates front page, with two photos of departure. Special article on award of Legion of Honor. Headline plays up arrival and Prio's praise of Truman as great statesman.


El Grafico (mid-morning): Total 3½ columns, with one column on front page and photo of departure. Headline: "Truman and Prio hold conference--will discuss sugar--Truman desires to visit Havana."

Habana (mid-morning): Total 2½ columns, with 1 column and two departure photos on front page. Headline: "President Prio attends numerous functions in his honor."

Not: Communist daily ran five inches ofstudioyly factual reporting of the departure and arrival, without comment.

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