



EMBASSY OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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Air Mail

No. 8734

Habana, Cuba, February 3, 1945

Subject: Resignation of Eugenio DE SOSA, Jr.  
as Editor of the Diario de la Marina.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
MAR 17 1945  
DCL  
LAWSON OFFICE

CONFIDENTIAL

SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY  
MAR 26 1945  
*RAM*

The Honorable  
The Secretary of State  
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to advise the Department that, as reported in the February 1, 1945 issue of Diario de la Marina, Eugenio DE SOSA, Jr. has presented his resignation as Editor of the Diario. Señor Eliseo GUZMAN, a member of the Editing Board and Manager of the Diario, has been appointed Editor for an indefinite period.

In this connection, I am enclosing a memorandum dated February 1, 1945 prepared by Mr. Gustavo DURAN, Special Assistant, describing the background of Sosa's resignation as well as certain aspects of the negotiations now being carried on by the owners of the Diario for the replacement of Sosa.

Respectfully yours,

*file*  
FEB 10 1945  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

*John J. Muccio*  
John J. Muccio

Charge d'Affaires ad interim

Enclosure: *copy*  
Copy of Mr. Duran's memorandum,  
February 1, 1945.

GD/dsc

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Original (Ozalid) to Department

837.911/2-345

MAY - 8 1945

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DIVISION OF  
ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGEMENT  
MAY 11 1945

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AMERICAN EMBASSY

Habana, Cuba  
February 1, 1945

MEMORANDUM

Resignation of Eugenio de Sosa, Jr.

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Mr. Muccio:

According to the information I have, the resignation of Sosa is a result of the dissatisfaction of the Rivero family with the tactless manner in which the former has conducted himself during his editorship of the Diario de la Marina. Sosa's incident with this Embassy last July, as well as other of his faux pas and gaucheries, are well known. In addition, under Sosa's direction the Diario has become one of the most insipid newspapers of Habana. Apparently the Rivero family is well aware of this fact, which has probably caused the Diario to lose many of its subscribers and, of course, part of its influence on Cuban public opinion.

Late in 1944, the Rivero family (allegedly with the knowledge and approval of the Colegio de Belen which, according to well accepted and widespread opinion, directs the editorial policy of the Diario) decided to replace Sosa. There were two candidates at that moment. One was Jorge MANACH. The other was, if I am not mistaken, Antonio IRAIZOZ (Editor of Alerta, also owned by the Rivero family). According to statements made by Dr. Mañach to the Ambassador, when the Rivero family formally offered him the post of Editor of the Diario, Mañach expressed his willingness to accept, but under one condition, to-wit: that under his direction the Diario should primarily defend Cuban national interests and that the Diario's traditional defense of the interests of the Catholic Church and of the Spanish colony of Cuba should only come as a secondary consideration. Apparently Mañach's terms were not acceptable to the Riveros, and he has been discarded as a candidate for the Diario editorship.

I wonder whether Iraizoz will be the successor of Sosa. So far as I know, Iraizoz enjoys the confidence of the Jesuits. He is very conservative - if not reactionary. In the past he has openly and frequently expressed his sympathy with the totalitarian regimes. His appointment would not, therefore, signify any substantial change in the policies of the Diario.

G.D.

GD/dsc

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AIR MAIL

No. 8829

Habana, February 19, 1945

Subject: Appointment of new Director of Diario de la Marina

CONFIDENTIAL

The Honorable  
The Secretary of State,  
Washington, D.C.

Sir: *1574-112-341*  
*ccA, RL, DOL, IN, D, M, V, T*

I have the honor to refer to my despatch No. 8734 of February 3, 1945, reporting the resignation of Eugenio de SOSA, Jr. as editor of the Diario de la Marina, and to state that Dr. Ramiro GUERRA, who has had long and friendly relations with the United States and who will be remembered as an educator and author of several works, one of which is a definitive treatment of the Cuban sugar industry, has now been appointed as editor of the paper.

When I arrived in Habana from my recent consultative trip in Washington and heard of Dr. Guerra's appointment, I promptly telephoned him, since I have of course known him for some time, to offer my congratulations.

On February 16 I invited Dr. Guerra to luncheon. In the course of a long and friendly conversation, Dr. Guerra said that his ties with the United States dated back to the Spanish American war when he had fought for Cuban independence and had come to know and like many Americans who were here fighting for the same cause. He said that as a young teacher aspirant he had gone to the United States with a number of other Cuban young men and had there visited various schools and had even met President McKinley at the White House. He said that he had learned something of the true nature of the United States and its people and family life and that as a result, coupled with the continuing close ties that he has had with the United States, he feels that he has a true appreciation of what that country really means. He said that these unforgettable impressions which he had received of the United States and of its people would be those which would guide him in the direction of the Diario.

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APR 24 1945  
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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For convenience of reference it may be mentioned that the visit of the Chilean journalists to Argentina was also the subject of Despatch No. 11328, December 21, 1944 from the American Embassy, Santiago, Chile.

Respectfully yours,



Edward L. Reed  
Chargé d'Affaires ad interim

Original to Department for ozalid  
Copy to Embassy, Santiago

File No. 891  
AEL:fm