EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA Air Mail 17 No. 8734 Habana, Cuba, February 3, Resignation of Eugenio DE SOSA, Jr. Subject: as Editor of the Diario de la Marina. HESEC CONFIDENTIAL MAR 2 6 1945 1/ The Hongrable The Secretary of Statur, Mc -1 Washington, D.C. 1945 5. SIATE Sdr: 837.911/2-34 **نیا** ليا I have the honor to advise the Department that, 5 as reported in the February 1, 1945 issue of <u>Diario</u> de la Marina, Eugenio DE SOSA, Jr. has presented his resignation as Editor of the Diario. Señer Elíseo GUZMAN, a member of the Editing Board and Manager of the Diario, has been appointed Editor for an indefinits period. In this connection, I am enclosing a memorandum dated February 1, 1945 prepared by Mr. Gustavo DURAN, Special Assistant, describing the background S 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, 均估值的 ucco 103 John J. Muccio Charge d'Affaires ad interim NEY - 8 1945 ED Menclosure: (L'" -Copy of Mr. Duran's memorandum, February 1, 1945. S GD/dsc 800 Original (Ozalid) to Department DIVISION OF ADMINISTHATINE MANAGEMENT DOR . ARA Unit de. anaj he

AMERICAN EMBASSY

Habana, Cuba February 1, 1945

MEMORANDUM

Resignation of Eugenio de Sosa, Jr.

Mr. Muccio:

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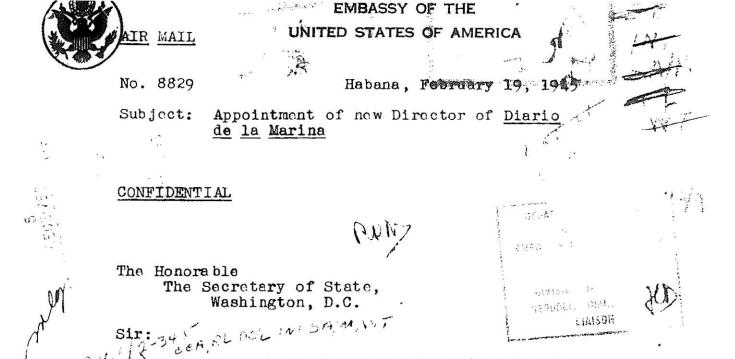
According to the information I have, the resignation of Sosa is a result of the dissatisfaction of the Rivero family with the tactless manner in which the former has conducted himself during his editorship of the <u>Diario</u> de la Marina. Sosa's incident with this Embassy last July, as well as other of his faux pas and gaucheries, are well known. In addition, under Sosa's direction the <u>Diario</u> 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 <u>Diario</u> 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 Dierio) 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 ewaed 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 Riveres, and he has been discarded as a candidate for the Dierie editorship.

I wonder whether Iraizoz will be the successor of Sesa. 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 <u>Diario</u>.

G.D.

GD/dsc



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 <u>Biario</u> de la <u>Marina</u>, 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 consul-PUBLIC LIAISO, appointment, I promptly telephoned him, since I have of course known him for some time, to offer my congratulations.

APR 2 4 1945

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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. A He said that he had learned something of the true nature of the United States and its people and family Aife 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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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,

du

Edward L. Reed Charge d'Affaires ad interim

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