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EMBASSY OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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No. 9501 0

AIR MAIL

Habana, June 15, 1945. ~~DATA~~

CONFIDENTIAL

Subject: Submitting information concerning Dr.  
Carlos AZCARATE y Rosell, Cuban  
Minister of Labor.

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



Sir:

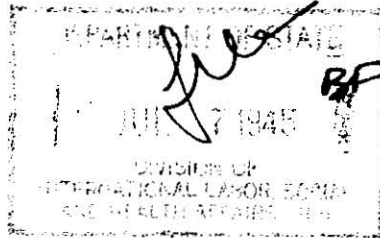
I have the honor to submit herewith a memorandum prepared by an officer of this Embassy containing certain comments and information concerning Dr. Carlos AZCARATE y Rosell, Cuban Minister of Labor. This information has been developed in the light of Dr. Azcárate's performance as Minister of Labor since October 10, 1944 and will serve to supplement and bring up to date the data contained in the confidential biographic report submitted by the Embassy, on November 3, 1944.

857.002/0-1545

Respectfully yours,

For the Chargé d'Affaires, a.i.,

*Albert F. Nufer*  
Albert F. Nufer  
Counselor of Embassy  
for Economic Affairs



Enclosure:  
Memorandum on comments and  
information concerning  
Dr. Azcárate.

File no. 850.4  
ED/amd

To Department in original  
and hectograph.



OS/D 837.002

XP 837.500

Enclosure to Despatch no. 9501  
dated June 15, 1945 from the Embassy at Habana

MEMORANDUM

Dr. Carlos Azcárate y Rosell.

Dr. Azcárate's activities as Minister of Labor have borne out previously expressed opinions concerning his lack of administrative ability. Employees of the Ministry and persons who maintain contact with the Ministry on official matters report a deplorable lack of efficiency and organization in the handling of the most routine matters in that Department, giving rise not only to increasing delays in resolving the many issues which come up to the Ministry for decision but in a "left hand knoweth not what the right hand doeth" situation which is a severe handicap to effective work.

While this may be due in part to circumstances which are beyond the Minister's control, such as the high incidence of personnel changes which followed the change in Administration, the fact that employees work only half a day by law, and the fact that salary appropriations are grossly inadequate, there is reason to believe that Dr. Azcárate has made no effort to organize his Department in a manner calculated to insure the best degree of efficiency under the circumstances. In fact, while Dr. Azcárate has the reputation of being a hard worker, and is known to remain frequently in his office until late hours of the night, his inclination toward long-winded interviews with his numerous visitors is believed to afford him little time to devote to important problems of organization and formulation of policy. He is prone to delegate responsibility, a practice in which he indulges to such a extent that in a number of instances he has approved measures without apparently being aware of their significance.

His relations with the Embassy have always been cordial, and whenever it has been necessary to request his assistance he has expressed himself as desirous of cooperating, but in most cases he has been found to be dilatory and ineffective. In fact the Embassy's experience has revealed that more prompt and effective action can be expected by resorting directly to other officials of the Ministry.

Azcárate is not believed to be a policy maker. He is a personal friend and a loyal supporter of President Grau, and the policy he has pursued as Minister of Labor has undoubtedly been shaped largely by

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the President. Azcárate has often explained privately that the Government's "benevolence" toward the CTC (Confederation of Cuban Workers) and labor in general has been governed in substantial measure by reasons of political expediency:- the danger that a head-on clash between Government and organized labor might result in wide scale violence and might threaten the stability of the Government itself. He has often predicted that the time will come when the Government must take a firmer stand, but there are no present indications of a tendency in that direction.

Azcárate appears to be easily susceptible to pressure, particularly on the part of the powerful and influential labor organizations. There is no reason to believe that this susceptibility is motivated by any thought of personal gain, but rather, that it is indicative of a certain weakness of character. He is often accused of being a "weak-kneed sister" incapable of dealing on an equal footing with such forceful labor-leader personalities as Lazaro PEÑA, Jesus MENENDEZ and others. More objective critics consider him a man fitted by neither background, temperament, experience, nor ability to be a good Minister of Labor.

He is reputed to be personally opposed to Communism and, in fact, has always been considered a conservative. He is said to complain bitterly about the Communists to his close advisers. Yet, the widespread belief that he would oppose the Communists as Minister of Labor and that he would reduce the power of the Communists in the organized labor movement has proved to be utterly false. The Communists have, if anything, continued to gain in power under his administration. Some of his friends, who belong to the professional and conservative classes of the population, complain that he has turned out to be a "cheap demagogue" and that he has sold out to the Communists. Criticism of Azcárate on the part of the producing and employer classes has been mounting steadily. While even his detractors regard him as honest in the sense that he is beyond bribery and corruption, doubt is often expressed as to his intellectual integrity. It is of particular interest and significance that his best and most vociferous supporters today are to be found among the Communist party and labor leaders, but he is not known to be on close personal terms with any Communist leaders. He is said to have expressed himself privately of Lazaro Peña as "a rather disagreeable fellow but a very capable leader".

Azcárate is professorial in appearance and academic in manner. He is single and appears to live modestly. He reads and understands English, but does not speak it. He is sensitive to criticism and gives the impression of being constantly on the defensive.

EJ.