

AIR POUCH
PRIORITY

UNCLASSIFIED
(Security Classification)

DO NOT TYPE IN THIS SPACE

837.261/4-2953
XR 837.2612

FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM : AMEMBASSY, HABANA

1690
DESP. NO.

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

April 29, 1953
DATE

REF : Voluntary

18 For Dept. Use Only ne	ACTION COMM* REC'D MAY 1	DEPT. N F O OTHER	REP ARA* OLI* E*
-----------------------------------	-----------------------------------	-------------------------------	------------------

SUBJECT: First Cuban Underwater Vehicular Tunnel Inaugurated

Cuba's first underwater vehicular tunnel was officially inaugurated on April 25, 1953. This tunnel, under construction since 1951, runs beneath the Almendares River and connects Havana with the residential area of Marianao at a point near the river mouth.

The construction of the tunnel itself was carried out by a United States contractor on a cost-plus-fixed-fee basis. Roadways and approaches to the tunnel were built under the direction of the Ministry of Public Works. The entire project is estimated to have cost approximately \$5,500,000.

The tunnel is 216 meters long, has a clearance of 4.38 meters, a center partition and accommodates double lane traffic in either direction on lanes 6.57 meters in width.

This project was undertaken to relieve frequent traffic congestions at two double lane steel-girder bridges over the Almendares River that must open to permit passage of boats and barges.

Press photos showing the Marianao entrance to the Almendares tunnel are enclosed.

For the Ambassador:

David S. Green
David S. Green
Commercial Attaché

Enclosure:
Press photos (5)

HTAndersen:ecv
REPORTER

UNCLASSIFIED

ACTION COPY — DEPARTMENT OF STATE

The action office must return this permanent record copy to DC/R files with an endorsement of action taken.

837.261/4-2953

CS/3

FILED
MAY 4 1953