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THE FOREIGN SERVICE  
OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
OFFICE OF  
AMERICAN REPUBLIC AFFAIRS  
MAY 4 1948  
DIVISION OF SPECIAL  
INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

No. 308

American Embassy  
Habana, Cuba, April 16, 1948

REC'D  
APR. 20

ACTION  
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CONFIDENTIAL

Subject: Transmitting Anti-American Statement of  
Official Historian of the City of Habana.

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The Honorable  
The Secretary of State,  
Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to transmit attached a translation of a statement prepared by Emilio ROIG de Leuchsenring, Official Historian of the City of Habana, in the name of the Sociedad Cubana de Estudios Historicos e Internacionales (one of Roig's outlets) on the subject of imperialism and colonization in the Western Hemisphere. It will be noted that the statement supports the independence of Puerto Rico and attacks the occupation by the United States of any bases in Latin America. The tone of the statement is definitely anti-United States; it is alleged that the Rio Treaty, for example, has become a unilateral instrument for the exclusive use of one party. It is understood that copies of this statement were circulated to all the foreign missions in Habana.

Dr. Roig is the subject of a Confidential Biographic Data report dated February 1940. He has long been an opponent of United States policy in Cuba, the Caribbean and Latin America in general. During the last few years he has become close to the Communists and may now be considered a "fellow traveler". He is an active member of the Cuban Soviet Cultural Institute, and in his writings he espouses the "Moscow line". Recently his efforts have been directed toward proving that American participation in the Spanish-American War (or the Spanish-CubaneAmerican War, as it is called here) really made Cuba's ultimate victory more difficult.

Dr. Roig's semi-official position makes him a valuable outlet for USSR propaganda. Personally pleasant, agreeable and intelligent, he is an extremely dangerous individual from the United States' point of view.

Dr. Roig

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Despatch No. 308,  
April 16, 1948,  
Embassy at Habana.

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Dr. Roig is at present attending a conference of the municipal government in Puerto Rico. The Legal Attaché of this Embassy has informed the proper law enforcement authorities in Puerto Rico of Dr. Roig's presence there.

A new Confidential Biographic Data report is being prepared on Dr. Roig and as soon as a further report is available concerning his activities in Puerto Rico, the Department will be informed.

Respectfully yours,

For the Ambassador:

*L. D. Mallory*  
Lester D. Mallory  
Counselor of Embassy

Enclosure:

Translation of statement by  
Dr. Emilio Roig de Leuchsenring.

File No. 800  
VLansing Collins, Jr./dts

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~~Handwritten initials and marks~~

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : CRB - Mr. Walker  
FC - Mr. Mashey  
FROM : CRB - Mr. Woodward  
CRB - Mr. Mackay

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS  
APR 22 1948  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

DATE: April 22, 1948

SUBJECT: Activity of Dr. Emilio Roig de Leuchsenring, Official Historian of Habana, in Cuba and Puerto Rico

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Dr. Roig, long an opponent of United States policy in Cuba, the Caribbean and Latin America in general, and during the last few years regarded by the Embassy as a dangerous "fellow traveller," has recently made certain inflammatory anti-U.S. statements in one of his publications on the general subject of imperialism and colonization in the Western Hemisphere.

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Dr. Roig, at present reported to be in Puerto Rico attending a "municipal conference", makes the following points in the attached translation transmitted by the Embassy:

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1. The Rio Treaty has become a unilateral instrument of the U.S. because of U.S. failure to invoke it in the existing controversies between the U.K. and Guatemala, Argentina and Chile; that, therefore, the other signatory nations can consider their obligations to the Treaty terminated.

8/11/01

2. Immediate independence for Puerto Rico "without the delays of unnecessary plebiscites and the obstacles of economic impositions".

3. Attacks the occupation by the U.S. of any bases in Latin America.

4. The defense of Cuba should be the prerogative of Cubans and should not be shared with anyone else.

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It would be of interest to this Division to determine the nature of Dr. Roig's visit to Puerto Rico. Miss Ulbrich in FC has indicated that she would initiate a request for such information, and add it to the intelligence she is currently supplying us on Communist influence in Puerto Rico.

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APR 26 1948  
MEMO TO CRB 5/18/48  
4 giving info from [unclear] 5/18/48  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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CRB: DAD Mackay: a ph