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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DC/R - Mr. Holmes



DATE: February 17, 1953

FROM : ARA:MID - Mr. Wellman

SUBJECT: Correspondence from Mr. Rogelio de la RUA, Habana, Cuba.

737.00/1-753
ARA

Mr. de la Rua wrote to the Secretary, a letter dated January 7, 1953, which was referred to ARA for action. The letter is largely incoherent and rambling. You have supplied a sizeable amount of previous correspondence from Mr. de la Rua, all of which appears equally vague.

Our Embassy at Habana, in despatch No. 319 of October 9, 1945, said:

"After contacting several people who are acquainted with Mr. de la Rua personally, it was learned that Mr. de la Rua labors under the delusion that the United States owes him the sum of \$40,000,000 for 'damages caused to property in the Isle of Pines during the Spanish American War'. He holds himself to be the spokesman for the 'claimants' of the Isle of Pines in that matter. Replies to various letters which he has written to important personages in the United States give him renewed interest in his 'objective' and he is then off again on another letter writing spree to 'press his case'. Under the circumstances the Embassy is not replying in any form whatever to Mr. de la Rua's letter of August 22 which was transmitted with the Department's instruction."

In an OM dated June 6, 1951, concerning correspondence addressed to the President by Mr. de la Rua, our Embassy said:

"The following is a summary of a report obtained from Cuban police authorities on Rogelio DE LA RUA.

ROGELIO DE LA RUA Y PEREZ is 70 years of age and resides with one JOSE MANUEL DURAN, San Francisco No. 412, Vibora. RUA reportedly has for more than 40 years been making a claim against the Cuban Government for some lands in Oriente Province which were seized from his grandfather by the Spanish Government about 1868. RUA states

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these lands are worth today about \$12,000,000. He has lost his reason because of the obsession that the lands should be returned to him. He is said to have made an infinite number of fantastic complaints which have been published in the local newspaper.

"RUA is known to have written letters to the President of Cuba, the President of the United States, and the head of the Spanish Government, demanding that the lands be returned to him.

"RUA is known throughout his neighborhood as a crazy but harmless person, who will seize upon anyone, friend or stranger to talk for hours about his lost land.

"In view of Senor RUA's mental condition, the Embassy suggests that the correspondence on hand in Washington and that received in the future be destroyed."

In view of the nature of the communications which have been received from Mr. de la RUA, and our Embassy's repeated recommendation, no action is being taken on the letter dated January 7, 1953, which is returned herewith along with the previous correspondence. It is left to DC/R to determine, in accordance with the applicable regulations, whether the suggestion of Embassy Habana that this correspondence be destroyed, should be followed.

List of Previous filed in sep
73700/1-753
12-552
6-751
5-1751
8-2050
5-3150
4-2050
3-1750
2-2550
2-150

Detached and sent to current Files
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