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PRIORITY

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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM : AMEMBASSY, HABANA

1524  
DESP. NO.

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

March 30, 1953  
DATE

REF : Dept's Instruction No. 104 of January 7, 1953

ACTION	DEPT.						
For Dept. Use Only	REC'D	IN	OTHER	11	1	100	101

SUBJECT: Alabama Historical Association Unveils Plaque to William Rufus King

On March 24, 1953, a delegation representing the Alabama Historical Association unveiled a plaque in the city of Matanzas to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the taking of office as Vice President of the United States by William Rufus King. King had come to Matanzas in search of health and had been authorized to take the oath of office there by a special act of Congress.

The plaque was placed on the wall near the front entrance of the city hall of Matanzas in a ceremony in which Henry P. Johnson, chairman of the delegation of the Alabama Historical Association, gave the principal address. The ceremony also included a parade by the First Company of the 4th Regiment, the playing of the national anthems of Cuba and the United States by the regimental band, and an address by the historian of the city of Matanzas, Dr. José A. Treserra. The ceremony was attended by the governor of the province of Matanzas, Dr. Manuel Alvarez, and the mayor of Matanzas, Dr. Fernando L. Villar, as well as by the Public Affairs and Radio Officers of the Embassy. Previously, in a session of the Municipal Council, the mayor of the city had presented parchment scrolls to the members of the delegation which declared them guests of honor of the city.

Tape recordings of the ceremony were taken by the Embassy's Radio Officer and despatched to the International Broadcasting Service in New York. Network CMQ took films of the event and presented them on television later in the week. After the ceremonies the visitors were entertained at lunch in Varadero by civil and military authorities of the province of Matanzas and then taken on a tour of the city of Cárdenas, where they were greeted by the Mayor of that city.

The day before, March 23, the delegation placed a floral wreath at the statue of José Martí in Central Park of Habana and visited the museum of the city of Habana and the house in Habana where Martí was born. In the early evening a solemn session

JCanter/fmr  
REPORTER

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

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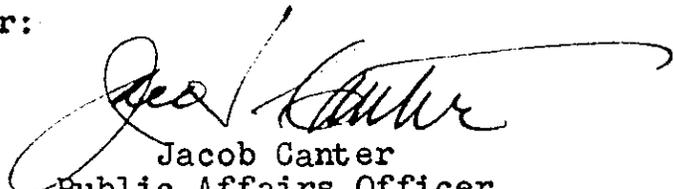
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(Classification)

of the Academy of History was held in commemoration of the centenary, at which addresses were given by Dr. Emeterio S. Santovenio, President of the Academy, and Mr. Thomas W. Palmer, a native of Alabama and resident of Habana. Later in the evening the Ambassador gave a reception in honor of the visitors.

The various events of the program were given considerable publicity in the Habana press, most of which was provided by USIS-Habana. The arrangements for the two-day commemoration program were made by Mr. Thomas W. Palmer with the full cooperation of the Sociedad Colombista Panamericana. USIS-Habana assisted in the coordination of plans and the carrying out of the program.

For the Ambassador:

  
Jacob Canter  
Public Affairs Officer

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*Handwritten mark*

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EVERARD H. SMITH, CLERK  
 CECIL H. TOLBERT, ASST. CLERK

**ACTION**  
 is assigned to

**ARA**

**United States Senate**  
 COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Washington, D. C.  
 January 12, 1953

3 letters drafted  
 1/21/53  
 by  
 J.C.  
 Jopping  
 MID

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
 JAN 14 1953  
 BUREAU OF  
 INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

Honorable Dean Acheson  
 The Secretary of State  
 the Department of State  
 Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

We are enclosing a letter and attachment received from Mr. Henry P. Johnston of Birmingham, Alabama, regarding plans being made for celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the swearing in of William Rufus King as Vice President of the United States, including unveiling of a plaque or monument at Matanzas, Cuba, on March 24, 1953.

We are happy to call on the State Department to extend all possible assistance and cooperation to Mr. Johnston in connection with the proposed ceremony. Please also kindly furnish the specific information Mr. Johnston has requested regarding the exact status of William Rufus King's service in various Diplomatic Posts, including the dates of his service.

We shall appreciate your fullest cooperation in the above, and request the enclosures be returned when they have served their purpose in your office.

Thanking you, and with kindest regards, we are

Very sincerely,

*Lister Hill*

Lister Hill, U. S. S.

*John Sparkman*

John Sparkman, U. S. S.

*Laurie Battle*

Laurie Battle, M. C.

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JAN 28  
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Enclosures

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*Completed*  
*1/14/53*  
*make all*  
*reply letters*  
*1/15/53*

micro-records

In reply refer to  
ABA: MID 837.422/1-1253

JAN 23 1953

837.422/1-1253

My dear Senator Sparkman:

With your letter of January 12, 1953 you enclose a letter from Mr. Henry P. Johnston, concerning the plans for the celebration of the centenary of the taking of the oath of office of William Rufus King, as Vice President of the United States, at Matanzas, Cuba, on March 24, 1953. You ask that the Department furnish information concerning Mr. King's service at his various diplomatic posts.

As an officer in the Department explained to Mr. John Campbell of Senator Hill's office on January 15, only a part of the information was available in the Department and a search was accordingly made in the National Archives. The information we have been able to develop is that Mr. King was appointed Secretary of Legation at St. Petersburg, Russia on April 23, 1816. He was apparently relieved the following year. He was confirmed as Minister to France on April 9, 1844, and went on leave September 15, 1846. The date of his resignation has not been found, though he presumably did not return to Paris, since his successor was confirmed March 3, 1847.

The Department had already heard of the plans to celebrate Mr. King's centenary, including the unveiling of the commemorative marker at Matanzas, and had instructed our Embassy at Habana to cooperate fully with

the

The Honorable  
John Sparkman,  
United States Senate.

File

837.422/1-1253

CSJEC

837.422/1-1253

the project. The Embassy will also be informed of the interest you have expressed.

As requested, the letter of January 6 from Mr. Johnston, together with its enclosure, were returned to Senator Hill.

Sincerely yours,

Ben H. Brown, Jr.  
Acting Assistant Secretary

SIS-CR  
JAN 22 1953

H-FK-X

ARA:MID:JLTopping:jgh - 1/21/53

*[Handwritten initials]*

MR  
ARA IP



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Sincerely yours,

Ben H. Brown, Jr.  
Acting Assistant Secretary

Enclosures:

Letter of January 6, 1953 from  
Mr. Johnston, together with  
its enclosure.

S/S-CR  
JAN 23 1953

ARA: MID: JLTopping: jgh - 1/21/53

ML  
ARA/P

H-FK-X

In reply refer to  
ARA:MID 837.422/1-1253

JAN 23 1953

My dear Mr. Battle:

With your letter of January 12, 1953 you enclose a letter from Mr. Henry F. Johnston, concerning the plans for the celebration of the centenary of the taking of the oath of office of William Rufus King, as Vice President of the United States, at Matanzas, Cuba, on March 24, 1953. You ask that the Department furnish information concerning Mr. King's service at his various diplomatic posts.

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The Honorable  
Laurie Battle,  
House of Representatives.

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Sincerely yours,

Ben H. Brown, Jr.  
Acting Assistant Secretary

B/S-CR #  
JAN 22 1953 PM

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EVERETT MCKINLEY DIRKSEN, ILL.	WARREN G. MAGNUSON, WASH.

# United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

ACTION  
is assigned to

*AAA*

Washington, D. C.

April 9, 1953

EVERARD H. SMITH, CLERK  
THOMAS J. SCOTT, ASST. CLERK

*RET*

Honorable Thruston B. Morton  
Assistant Secretary of State  
Department of State  
Washington 25, D. C.

*N.A.N. —*  
*Senators ...*  
*4/16/53 - ML*

*4/20 1953*

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My dear Mr. Morton:

I appreciate your kindness and thoughtfulness in sending me the newspaper picture showing the unveiling of the plaque in honor of William Rufus King at Matanzas, Cuba, recently which appeared in an Havana newspaper.

Mr. Henry P. Johnston and other Alabamians who went to Cuba to participate in the ceremony have expressed their great appreciation for the fine cooperation and assistance received from officials at the United States Embassy in Havana. In particular, Mr. Johnston has stated that Dr. Jacob Canter had an excellent way of going about things and took a great deal of responsibility throughout the entire stay of the group in Cuba. Also Mr. Johnston has expressed his own personal appreciation and that of the entire group for the very delightful entertainment provided by Ambassador Beaulac.

I do feel the event was most worthwhile.

Permit me to send you a copy of my telegram to Señor Alvarez, Governor of the Province of Matanzas in regard to the ceremony.

With kindest regards, I am

Very sincerely,

*Johnston*

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MAY 6 1953

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

APR 13 1953

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GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL

CABLEGRAM

LT

Washington, D. C.  
March 23, 1953

His Excellency  
Senor Alvarez  
The Governor of the Province of Matanzas  
Matanzas, Cuba

Permit me to express my sincere regrets that my duties in the United States Senate prevent me from personally participating in the ceremony honoring the great Alabamian and the great American, Honorable William Rufus King.

Kindly accept and express to those present for the ceremony my warmest greetings. My thoughts are with you as the Alabama Historical Association and the Academia de la Historia de Cuba join hands to commemorate the One Hundredth Anniversary of the swearing in of William Rufus King as Vice President of the United States.

In the United States Senate on January 29 it was my privilege to pay tribute to the great Cuban liberator and patriot, Jose Marti on the centenary of his birth. In Marti's own words, "We Americans are one in origin, in hope and in danger" and I am confident the warm and enduring ties of friendship between Cuba and the United States will continue to strengthen our countries in the struggle to preserve freedom and to build lasting peace.

Lister Hill, U. S. S.

UNCLASSIFIED

No. 157

To the

Officer in Charge of the American Mission,  
Habana.

The Secretary of State encloses herewith a copy of a letter from Senator Lister Hill of Alabama and a copy of a telegram to the Governor of the Province of Matanzas, relative to the unveiling of the plaque in honor of William Rufus King at Matanzas, Cuba.

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Enclosure:

1. Copy of letter from Senator Lister Hill to Assistant Secretary Thruston B. Morton dated April 9, 1953.
2. Copy of telegram from Senator Lister Hill to the Governor of the Province of Matanzas dated March 23, 1953.

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4/16/53

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/c [Signature]