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REF :

SUBJECT : Fourth of July Activities in Cuba.

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The Embassy wishes to report on the Fourth of July activities which took place on the Republic of Cuba this year and the statements made by both Americans and Cubans, emphasizing the close ties which have traditionally bound the United States and Cuba.

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Cuba's President Carlos Prío Socarrás issued a statement on the occasion of the 174th anniversary of American independence, in which he declared that "Cuba is proud of the role assigned by destiny in the expansion of the ideals formulated by the American people on July 4, 1776, and of its firm identification with the United States during the two great crisis which have shaken the world in our times. As President of Cuba I can state emphatically that the American people had us and will have us again at their side, unequivocally and determined by facing all consequences which may be derived from its courageous attitude in face of communist aggression, and in face of the threat which such aggression represents for the human rights which constitute the common heritage of both peoples." A copy of the complete statement is attached herewith.

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Mr. Harold S. Tewell, Chargé d'Affaires, declared at an American Club luncheon that it was "the self-evident truth, the inalienable rights set forth in the declaration of independence," that inspired the American people to help Cuba obtain its independence.

"It was those self-evident truths and the determination to preserve them," he said, "that recently gave the people of the Philippine Islands their political independence, that provided aid to Greece, that sustained the Berlin airlift, that inspired the Marshall Plan, and that precipitated assistance to the Korean Republic in accordance with the decision of the United Nations." [Enclosed herewith is the complete text of Mr. Tewell's address] In the absence of the Ambassador Butler from Cuba, the customary "open-house" reception for the American Colony had to be cancelled.

Mr. Tewell's address which was prepared for release to the press by the Embassy's Information Section, received front-page coverage in numerous newspapers, including the Havana Post, Diario de la Marina, Mañana and Voz.

The Information Section also released a series of articles and photographs, concerning American independence, to newspapers throughout

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the Island, and all these were published in one form or another by almost all newspapers. In Havana, the major newspapers -- Diario de la Marina, El Mundo, Información, The Havana Post, El Crisol, El País, Alerta and Avance -- carried over 600 columns-inches of material, or an average of 75 inches each. Among the interior newspapers which have been checked, the average is about 20 column inches.

In addition, the Information Section released special Fourth of July radio programs to stations, not only in Havana but in Pinar del Rio, Santa Clara, Camaguey and Oriente Provinces. Articles were released to the press concerning these programs, as well as the special Fourth of July program carried in the VOUSA service to Latin America.

Editorials commemorating the anniversary were published in a large number of newspapers across the Island. These are excerpts from several of those editorials:

El Mundo: "It is doubtful whether any independence anniversary has had such significance for the United States as the one being celebrated today... The anniversary finds the United States holding firm to all its traditions... In accordance with these traditions, the United States has not hesitated to lend assistance to the Republic of Korea... Cuba knows well how the United States has always come to the defense of small nations..."

El País: "Cuba... has, with its strong neighbor across the Gulf, established a firm friendship... In this year of anxiety and trial for the United States, our country, as in any other occasion, is at the side of the United States."

Diario de la Marina: "The people of the United States have offered to help humanity in the same spirit that the early colonizers helped each other.... The United States has made every effort to secure the peace of the world. Today, on this new anniversary of independence, all of these nations... which had been coming closer and closer to the United States because of its democratic ideals, are making efforts to strengthen even more their ties with the United States... Cuba... is at the side of the United States..."

La Tribuna, of Camaguey: "Cuba, grateful to the United States, feels on this day the same pride that American must feel."

El Imparcial, Matanzas: "On this Fourth of July... the great North American nation is found at the head of those countries which are fighting to defend the liberties of all people..."

In Havana, the occasion was also celebrated by several civic groups and one of the more eloquent ceremonies was the brief service before the Lincoln monument, conducted by the Organizing Commission for the Celebration of the Cuban Flag Centennial. Dr. Emeterio Santovenia, president of the

Cuban Academy of History, spoke briefly, praising the United States and declaring that its mission in history has been primarily that of "protecting the liberty of nations and men." Present at the ceremonies were Mr. Tewell; Mr. Jacob Canter, Cultural Attaché; representatives of the President, and other government and educational leaders.

On July 6th, a delegation representing the Veterans of the Cuban War of Independence called at the Embassy to express felicitations on the 174th anniversary of American independence and to declare that the organization is backing fully the United States in its efforts to save the Republic of Korea.

The delegation headed by its president, Colonel Quiñones, was received by Mr. Tewell. Colonel Quiñones read a statement in which he said the organization wished to express its sincere good wishes to the United States on its Independence anniversary, and its gratitude for the backing which the United States has given Cuba, both before and following its independence... "The veterans of the Cuban Independence have taken into account the grave situation which confronts the world in view of the invasion of the Republic of Korea... In the face of that situation" the Colonel declared, "it might be necessary to unite the material and spiritual forces of all nations... We wish to emphasize," he said, "that we will be at the side of the United States at all times."

Mr. Tewell thanked the veterans group for its good wishes and expression of solidarity and declared that "the United States has, by tradition, always maintained close ties with those groups who have fought for and sought to preserve human freedoms. Your organization," he added, "should be proud of its membership and of the high ideals of brotherhood among nations which it has expoused through its years of existence."

Photographs and an article on the ceremony were released to the Cuban press by the Embassy's Information Section. This material was published in several newspapers, including Diario de la Marina, Información and The Havana Post.


For the Chargé d'Affaires, ai.:



Richard Salvatierra
Information Officer



Enclosures:

1. Statement by Carlos Prio Socarras
 2. Address by Mr. Harold S. Tewell
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Statement Made by President Carlos
Prío Socarrás on the Occasion of the
174th Anniversary of the American
Independence.

"On July 4, 1776, the United States justified the struggle carried on by the peoples of the thirteen colonies in a Declaration of Independence in which were established not only the right of the colonists to separate from an oppressive tutorship, but also the right of all men to enjoy the inalienable right of liberty.

"On April 19, 1898, the American people carried for the first time the defense of those principles beyond their national frontiers, with another memorable declaration in which the Congress of the United States recognized the right of the people of Cuba to be free and independent, and authorized the Executive to use all the forces of the great Republic to assure the upholding of that right, for which the Cubans had fought for more than thirty years.

"The participation of the United States in two world wars during the present century, and their gallant and generous attitude at the present grave historical moment, challenging the sinister power of communist despotism to defend the liberty of a weak people and to honor its obligation as a member of the United Nations, are but a corollary of those two declarations which history shall mark as the source of a new international order based on the solidarity of peoples and universal respect of human rights. No international order can last without effective recognition of those rights, because our world is today one world only, and that world cannot subsist one half free and one half enslaved.

"Cuba is proud of the role assigned it by Destiny in the expansion of the ideals formulated by the American people on July 4, 1776, and of its firm identification with the United States during the two great crises which have shaken the world in our times. As President of Cuba I can state emphatically that the American people has us and will have us again at their side, unequivocally and determined by facing all consequences which may be derived from its courageous attitude in face of communist aggression, and in face of the threat which such aggression represents for the human rights which constitute the common heritage of both peoples."