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TO : Department of State

837.424/3-850

2 enclosures

FROM : HABANA 519 March 8 1950

REF :

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
BUREAU OF  
AFFAIRS

MAR 13 1950

File

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INFO

SUBJECT : CELEBRATION OF GEORGE WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY IN CUBA

A very simple but effective program honoring George Washington was sponsored by the National Association of Cuban Revolutionary Emigrees (Asociación Nacional de los Emigrados Revolucionarios Cubanos) in its meeting hall on the afternoon of February 22. The program was carried out in cooperation with the director and pupils of Public School No. 40 "Jorge Washington". A picture of Washington, framed by the American and Cuban flags, was in a prominent place in the front of the hall and the program itself (copy attached) consisted of appropriate songs and recitations by the choral group of the school.

At the end of the ceremony, Dr. Garcia BAYLLERES, President of the Asociación and evidently the prime organizer of the program, made a short speech. He eulogized the United States and particularly the help which the United States and its citizens had given to the Cubans in their fight for freedom. He severely attacked all countries having ideologies opposed to the United States and said that any enemy of the United States is also an enemy of Cuba. (Although not mentioning the Soviet Union by name, Dr. Baylles left little doubt that his words were directed at that country and at communism.) He of course pointed to Washington as one of the great leaders who had helped develop the democracy for which the United States and Cuba stand. His speech was in true Latin American verbose, flowery style, but gave the impression of being most sincere. It could not have been more pro-U.S.A.

After the ceremony, Dr. Baylles and the Inspector General of Schools in Habana, Dr. Oscar de la VEGA, stated that a similar ceremony was being carried out in all the schools of the Republic. They said that one of the main reasons for having such a program honoring Washington is to help combat Communist propaganda in the individual communities of the Republic.

Secretaries Cobb and Hoyt attended the ceremony in representation of the Ambassador.

For the Ambassador:

Henry A. Hoyt  
Second Secretary of Embassy

Enclosures:

- 1 Copy of program.
- 2 Two newspaper clippings.

HAHoyt/dts  
3/7/50

ACTION COPY - DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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

837.424/3-850

MAR 28 1950

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"EN LA CASA DE LOS EMIGRADOS"

COMMEMORACION DEL NATALICIO DE JORGE WASHINGTON EL 22 DE FEBRERO CON LA COOPERACION DE LA ESCUELA PUBLICA NO. 40 "JORGE WASHINGTON" QUE DIRIGE LA DRA. VIOLETA LANGUENHEIN MORTILLAS.

P R O G R A M A

1. Himno Nacional.
2. Himno de los Estados Unidos.
3. Palabras de Apertura. Por la Alumna Nilda Rodriguez.
4. Himno a Jorge Washington. Por la Coral de la Escuela No. 40.
5. Soneto a Jorge Washington. Por la Alumna Ofelia Rodriguez.
6. Dramatización de una anécdota sobre la vida de Jorge Washington, por la Alumna Josefina Rodriguez, secundada por un grupo de pequeñas Alumnas.
7. A Cuba. Canto por la Coral de la Escuela.
8. Poesía a Jorge Washington. Por la Alumna Hilda Chirino.
9. La Rosa Blanca de José Martí. Versión inglesa del Dr. Francisco Palma, por una alumna del cuarto grado.
10. Pensamientos de Jorge Washington, por la Alumna Martha Crespo.
11. Himno a los Emigrados Revolucionarios Cubanos.
12. Palabras del Dr. José L. Garcia Baylles, Presidente de la Asociación Nacional de los Emigrados Revolucionarios Cubanos.
13. Himno Invasor dle Gral. Loynaz.

HORA: CUATRO DE LA TARDE ( 4 P.M.)

THE HAVANA POST  
FEB 24 1950

REVOLUTIONARY EMIGREES FETE WASHINGTON ANNIVERSARY



Emigrees of Cuba's Wars of Independence yesterday feted Washington's Birthday with a ceremony at their Hall on Zuleta street. Above Hilda Rodríguez, a pupil of the George Washington Public School, of Havana, reads an essay on the life of Washington during the ceremonies. At the main table, from left to right, are Dr. Joaquín García Gato; Dr. F. Pazos; Dr. Alberto C. Jané; Carroll Cobb, second secretary of the U.S. Embassy; Oscar de la Vega, School Inspector General; Henry A. Hoyt, second secretary of the U.S. Embassy; Dr. José García Baylles, president of the Association of Revolutionary Emigrees; Dr. Violeta Langenken; and Dr. Gabriel García Galán.