

RESTRICTED

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Memorandum of Conversation

DATE: Oct. 30, 1953

Handwritten: AHJ
~~C. R. Burrows~~
D-C/R

SUBJECT: Western Railroads of Cuba; Interest of William Pawley

PARTICIPANTS: Mr. Robert L. Garner, Vice President, IBRD
Mr. John S. Hooker, U.S. Alternate Executive Director, IBRD
Mr. Topping - MID

COPIES TO: AR - Mr. Corliss
AR - Mr. Nolan
ED
Amembassy Habana

1-1403

Mr. Garner said that he had recently been visited by Mr. William Pawley, former owner of Autobuses Modernos, S.A. of Habana. Mr. Pawley had told him that he was interested in organizing a private company, to contain a sizeable participation by producers of sugar in Cuba, to take over part ownership and operation of Western Railroads of Cuba, formerly United Railways of Habana.

Mr. Garner felt that the Cuban Government was sincere in its statements that it did not wish to retain complete ownership of the railroad, or to operate it. He felt that a possible solution of the problem would be for the railroad to be turned over, debt free and with sufficient operating capital, to Consolidated Railroads of Cuba for operation under some sort of management contract arrangement.

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