

UNCLASSIFIED

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937.524/7-2751

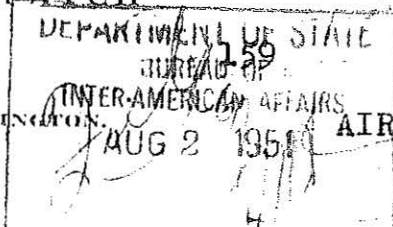
FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM HABANA (Enclosures)

July 27, 1951

TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON

REF Voluntary

SUBJECT: CONSTRUCTION OF NEW, MODERN AIRPORT AT SANTIAGO DE CUBA
EXPECTED TO BEGIN SHORTLY.

Bids have been accepted by the Cuban Ministry of Public Works for the initial phase of construction of a new airport at Santiago de Cuba, to be called the Emilio Bacardi Airport, and the contract is expected to be awarded within a few days. Once the contractor is notified that his bid has been accepted, he is to begin work within ten days.

The new airport is to be located approximately three and a half miles to the south of the city, near the entrance to Santiago Bay. It is to have a single asphalt runway 1,500 meters (4,921 feet) long and 45 meters (147.6 feet) wide. Provisions are being made to permit an extension of the runway by 170 meters (557.7 feet) at one end and 480 meters (1,574.8 feet) at the other end at some future date. The orientation of the runway is 88 degrees 30 minutes. It is reported that the new airport will be able to handle all types of planes presently operating in and out of Cuba. Plans showing the layout of the new airport will be available shortly and will be forwarded to the Department as soon as they are received.

There is attached hereto (Enclosure 1) a copy of the specifications covering the initial phase of work on the airport as called for by the Ministry of Public Works. These specifications were drawn up by the engineering staffs of Pan American World Airways and Compañía Cubana de Aviación, S. A. It is unofficially reported that this phase of the construction, which includes clearing the area, excavating and filling, building the runway, landscaping, and providing facilities for storing fuel, miscellaneous construction, water, drainage and electric systems, will cost approximately \$700,000. It is further reported that this work will take about ten months to be completed. A list of the material needed in this initial phase of construction, prepared by Pan American World Airways and Compañía Cubana de Aviación, S. A., is also attached hereto (Enclosure 2).

SWClark/mb1

REPORTER(S)

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PREPARATION TIME

ACTION COPY - DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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

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4 of
No. 159
from HABANA

UNCLASSIFIED
(Classification)

Page. of
Encl. No.
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The construction of a new and modern airport at Santiago de Cuba to replace the present one which is small and poorly located has long been championed by Sr. Pepin BOSCH, ex-Minister of Finance and President of Compañia Ron Bacardi, S. A. Decree No. 1436 of April 7, 1951 allotted \$4,517,000 to the Ministry of Public Works for special projects and it is understood that of this special fund \$550,000 has been earmarked for the new airport at Santiago de Cuba.

For the Chargé d'Affaires, a.i.:

F. D. Leatherman
F. D. Leatherman
Assistant Commercial Attache

Enclosures: 1. Copy of specifications (single copy).
2. List of material " .

Copies to: Mr. Wellman (MID)
Air Attaché
Consulate, Santiago de Cuba

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