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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

TELEPHONE

Memorandum of Conversation

DATE: August 15, 1952

SUBJECT: Cuban Request for CAA Expert for New International Airport

PARTICIPANTS: Dr. Espinosa, Cuban Embassy
Mr. Topping, MID

COPIES TO: AR - Mr. Russell
Embassy Habana (informally)
CAA - Mr. Clark

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I told Dr. Espinosa that we understood that a decision had been made to locate Habana's new international airport at Batista Field at San Antonio de los Baños; that certain of the airlines now operating to Habana were objecting to the change; that the union of airport workers at Rancho Boyeros was also objecting; and that an officer of the Embassy had been told by an officer of the Cuban Government that an architect had already been selected to design the necessary new buildings at Batista Field. For all of those reasons we felt it would be desirable to delay in sending any United States technician to assist in connection with the field. We, of course, were willing to render whatever assistance would finally appear to be necessary.

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Dr. Espinosa agreed, and said that he would attempt to obtain clarification from his Government of the present situation and of its desires concerning technical assistance from the Civil Aeronautics Administration.

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