

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Meeting September 18, 1952

Memorandum of ~~Conversation~~

DATE: September 22, 1952

SUBJECT: Establishment of an International Airport at Batista Field in Havana.

PARTICIPANTS: Mr. Nicholas Arroyo of the firm of Arroyo e Menendez, Dr. Jorge Cubas, Special Representatives for Airport Problems, Cuban Government  
Dr. Espinosa, Cuban Embassy  
Mr. Frank Stone, Deputy Director, International Region, CAA  
Mr. George Clark, Chief, Technical Assistance Division, International Region, CAA

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~  
COPIES TO:

Mr. John Topping, MID  
Miss Joan Stacy, AV  
Mr. Gerald W. Russell, AR

Copies to:

MID - Mr. Topping      CAA - Mr. Clark      American Embassy,  
AV- Miss Stacy      AR - Mr. Russell      Habana (Informally)

This meeting was held at the request of Dr. Espinosa of the Cuban Embassy. Dr. Espinosa on opening the meeting referred to our previous conversations on this matter and stated that the Cuban Government had now made a decision that San Antonio de los Baños (Batista Field) would be converted into an international airport for Havana and that military operations would be moved to Rancho Boyeros. He stated that Mr. Arroyo had been commissioned by the Cuban Government to establish the plans for the airport and the buildings and that Dr. Cubas came to Washington to assist him in this project.

Mr. Arroyo stated that his business in the United States was to personally inspect and observe various outstanding airports and to determine what cooperation and assistance he could get from the United States. He stated that he had visited some of the major airports on the eastern seaboard.

Mr. Arroyo was questioned as to the timetable which had been established for the move of the operations from the present airport to Batista Field. He stated that the first project to be completed was the construction of a highway from Rancho Boyeros to Batista Field. He stated that it would be his recommendation that no operations be moved until this highway was finished. He also stated that very few, if any of the temporary barracks on Batista Field could be utilized. He indicated, however, that several of the airlines had expressed a willingness to move their operations to Batista Field and to use temporary terminal facilities which could be established by utilizing some of these barracks, pending the construction of a new terminal.

DA/R  
Anal  
Rev  
C.A.

125937

After

937.524/9-2252

After some discussion it was suggested that probably the best plan of action would be for the CAA representative to meet with Mr. Arroyo and draw up a proposed plan of action. If this plan was approved the United States would try to send an airport engineer and a communications engineer to Cuba to make preliminary surveys and plans which could be developed while the highway was being constructed and during this period the United States, if officially requested by the Cuban Government, would try to arrange for a technical assistance mission to assist the Cuban Government on the actual installation ~~and~~ the airport equipment.

It was suggested that Mr. Bennett of the CAA regional office in Miami get in touch with Mr. Arroyo and arrange a meeting at his convenience to draw up the preliminary plans. This suggestion was acceptable to the Cuban representatives.

Arrangements were made for Mr. Arroyo to call upon Mr. Clark of CAA at 3 p.m. to look over various airport plans and layouts.

After the meeting Mr. Bennett was contacted by phone and he will meet with Mr. Arroyo in Miami tonight at 10:30 p.m. when he arrives from Washington. The two men will make the necessary arrangements for Mr. Bennett to go to Havana at Mr. Arroyo's convenience.

  
ARA:AR:GW Russell:mh  
9/22/52