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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Memorandum of Conversation

DATE: December 10, 1953

SUBJECT: Indictment of ex-President of Cuba and Associates for
Violation of Neutrality Law.

PARTICIPANTS: Mr. D'Iberville Fortier, Third Secretary, Canadian Embassy,
Mr. Harvey R. Wellman, AID

COPIES TO: Ambassador MANANA
DIA - Mr. Wight
HCS - Mr. Taft
AMM

Mr. Fortier came to see Mr. Wellman at his request and the suggestion of Mr. Wight, DIA, to obtain information on the above subject.

Mr. Wellman explained the provision of law on which the indictment is based and also referred to the Convention on Duties and Rights of States in the Event of Civil Strife, which the law in question is considered to implement. He said that the persons indicted were undoubtedly aware of the law and of the risks which they were taking in continuing such activity.

Mr. Fortier asked if the Government of Cuba had made any representations to the U.S. Government regarding the activity of Cuban exiles in the United States, such as those which had been made to the Canadian Government following the Montreal meeting. Mr. Wellman said that the Cuban Government, while not concealing its interest in and concern about activities of Cuban exiles in the U.S., had maintained a proper and correct attitude with respect to a matter which was the responsibility of the U.S.

Mr. Wellman said that the U.S. had had obligation to enforce its laws and carry out its international commitments. It also wished to avoid any intervention in the internal affairs of Cuba.

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he said that although we had an obligation to prevent the organization of revolutionary activity in the U.S. against the Cuban Government, we had nothing to do with the organization of revolutionary activity in Cuba against the Cuban Government. He pointed out that other American States which had ratified the Convention on Duties and Rights of States have the same obligation as the U.S.

Mr. Wellman showed Mr. Fortier press clippings from the Miami Herald which gave the names of all the persons indicted in this case.

Mr. Fortier indicated that he also intended to talk with Mr. Taft, Jr., about the investigations which had preceded and provided the basis for the indictments.

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ARA:RID:  Wellman:mf