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Am. Staff
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

TELEPHONE

Memorandum of Conversation

DATE: March 17, 1952

SUBJECT: Relations with Cuba

PARTICIPANTS: Lt. Plitt - Air Force
Mr. Arzac - MID

COPIES TO: ARA - Mr. Mann, Mr. Miller

1-1493

Lieutenant Plitt, of Air Force Foreign Liaison (131-73989), inquired of Mr. Arzac the present policy toward Cuba. In reply to Mr. Arzac's question, Lt. Plitt stated that he was referring to official dealings with the Cubans, in particular to a communication from Colonel Barquin of the Cuban Air Mission.

Mr. Arzac informed Lt. Plitt that at the present time there are no diplomatic relations with Cuba, since that country's new government has not been recognized. Consequently, Federal Agencies are to undertake no activities which imply recognition, and communication with any Cubans should be on a personal, informal, unofficial basis. Mr. Arzac further stated that he could give no answer to Lt. Plitt's question on how long it might be before relations are reestablished.

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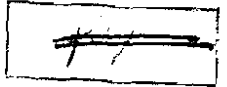
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X 3-Letter from G. G. Bond

United States Senate

Washington, D. C., March 17, 1952

Respectfully referred to

Office of Legislation and Liaison
Department of State
Washington, D. C.

Gentlemen:

The attached communication is sent for your consideration.

Please investigate the statements contained therein and forward me the necessary information for reply, returning the enclosed correspondence with your answer.

Sincerely yours,

George Gordon Bond

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George Smathers
GEORGE SMATHERS, U. S. S.

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 16-45102-1

This letter (and its enclosures, if any) are to be held for deposit in the

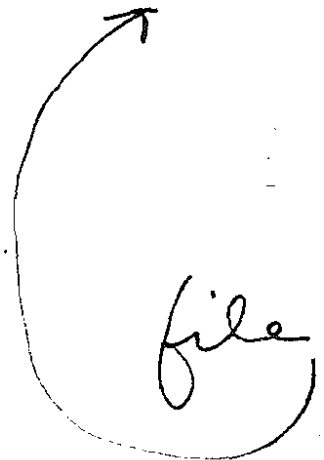
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*Reply drafted 2/30/52
file - 412-117*



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In reply refer to
APA:PID 611.37/3-1752

My dear Senator Smathers:

With your letter of March 17, 1952, you enclose a letter from your constituent Mr. George-Gordon Bond, containing remarks on the recent events in Cuba, together with certain suggestions as to the course of action our Government should now take. The Department of State is always pleased to receive the views of private citizens and gives them careful consideration.

General Batista has recently seized power in Cuba by force and has suspended certain constitutional guarantees for a period of forty-five days. It is to be hoped that the constitutional rights of the Cuban people will be promptly restored, and indeed General Batista has publicly stated that such is his purpose.

The course of action which Mr. Bond suggests would constitute direct intervention in the internal affairs of our neighbor. Such a course of action would be contrary to the well-established policy of our Government. The principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of other states is one which has been developed through the years of inter-American relationships until it has become a basic tenet of the inter-American system.

The Department is carefully examining the Cuban situation in the light of certain criteria for the recognition of any new regime which has come to power by extra-constitutional means. In making this examination the United States Government is mindful of the fact that at the Ninth International Conference of American States at Bogota, Colombia, in 1948, the Governments of the American Republics unanimously agreed that continuity of diplomatic

relations

The Honorable
George Smathers,
United States Senate.

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relations among the American States is desirable and that the establishment or maintenance of diplomatic relations with a government does not imply any judgment upon the domestic policy of that government.

There is enclosed as of interest in this connection a statement in which are considered some of the factors affecting United States policy concerning diplomatic relations with de facto governments in the American Republics.

Sincerely yours,

Jack K. McFall
Assistant Secretary

enclosures:

1. From Mr. Bond,
March 12, 1952.
2. Statement.

MAR 24 1952 AA

ARA:WID:JLTopping:dwm 3,21/52

W. Wellman

*AR - approved in draft by
Mr. Beavers. (H)*

March 24, 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. HOPKINS, THE WHITE HOUSE

Attached is a memorandum for the President from Secretary Acheson concerning continuation of diplomatic relations with Cuba. It would be appreciated if this memorandum could be sent by telegraphic means to the President at Key West.

w. J. McWilliams
Director, Executive Secretariat

Enclosure: *attached* *no. 111*
Memorandum for the President.

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Subject: Continuation of Diplomatic Relations with Cuba

In this memorandum I recommend for your consideration the continuation of diplomatic relations with the Batista Government in Cuba. If you approve the recommendation, I suggest that you authorize me to make the announcement on Thursday, March 27.

As you know, on the early morning of Monday, March 10, General Fulgencio Batista with the support of a group of officers of the Cuban Army overthrew the duly constituted Government of President Carlos Prío Socarrás. Batista's revolution came as a complete surprise both in Cuba and in this country and his revolution was carried out with remarkable ease and over virtually no resistance. Ambassador Beaulac in Habana has followed the situation with great care and he has reported that Batista is in complete control of the Cuban national territory and machinery of Government and that there is virtually complete acquiescence in his regime on the part of the Cuban people. Batista has not interfered with the Cuban labor unions or with the operations of the Inter-American Regional Office of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions which is located in Habana. Eusebio Mujal, head of the Cuban Confederation of Workers, has publicly supported Batista as have representative business and commercial associations.

The Batista regime has formally requested our recognition and has made satisfactory public and private statements with regard to Cuban intention to fulfill its international obligations;

its

its attitude towards private capital; and its intention to take steps to curtail international communist activities in Cuba. In connection with this latter point the Batista Government on March 21 refused to allow two Russian couriers with diplomatic pouches to enter Cuba from Mexico, and the new Cuban Foreign Minister has stated that he will not allow Russians to use diplomatic pouches in the future. While Batista when President of Cuba in the early '40's tolerated communist domination of the Cuban Confederation of Workers, the world situation with regard to international communism has changed radically since that time, and we have no reason to believe that Batista will not be strongly anti-communist. The new Cuban Foreign Minister, Miguel Angel de la Campa, signed the Stockholm Petition two years ago, but the Embassy and the Department are satisfied that this need not be taken as indicating softness towards communism and in fact our reports are that Mr. de la Campa is anti-communist.

The Department of State naturally deplures the way in which the Batista coup was brought about and is apprehensive that this kind of thing may occur in other countries of Latin America where elections are being held this year. Consequently, the Department and Ambassador Beaulac in Habana have been proceeding with great caution in this matter despite our very special position in Cuba which includes heavy capital investment, enormous international trade, the Nicaro nickel plant operation, the Guantánamo Naval Base, three armed services missions and the recent signing of a bilateral military assistance agreement which requires implementation. At least ten countries of Latin America have already announced continuation of diplomatic relations with Batista. These include Mexico, Brazil, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Colombia, Venezuela, the Dominican Republic and Haiti. France, Switzerland, Spain and China have also recognized Batista. We have been informed that Chile, Ecuador, Uruguay and possibly Costa Rica, which are among the leading democratic governments of the Hemisphere, will simultaneously act to recognize the Batista regime some time this week. We have been in consultation with those governments, and

their

SECRET - SECURITY INFORMATION

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their view of the situation is roughly the same as ours. The United Kingdom, Canada and Austria have asked to be given advance notice of our action.

Under the circumstances I believe that it would be detrimental to the special relations that this country has with Cuba to hold up recognition any longer, and accordingly request your authorization to announce the continuation of diplomatic relations with Cuba on March 27 and to give suitable advance notice of this action to the interested governments.

S/S
MAR 25 1952

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ARA:EGMiller, Jr: arp;dwm 3/24/52
S:DACHESON:mlm

United States Senate

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is assigned to

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Washington, D. C., March 25, 1952, 19

Respectfully referred to

Hon. Dean Acheson
Secretary
Department of State
Washington 25, D. C.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

attention and consideration
attached letter from
Thomas H. Overkleeft
1159 Lafayette Avenue SE
Grand Rapids 7, Michigan

re: Cuban situation.

This letter (and its
enclosures, if any) micro-
filmed for DC/R records

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Amers...
U. S. S.

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 16-45102-1

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MAR 24 1952

In reply refer to
ARA:MID:611.37/3-2552

APRIL 1 1952

My dear Senator Ferguson:

With your letter of March 25, 1952, you enclose a letter dated March 11, 1952 from your constituent, Mr. Thomas R. Overkleeft, containing some observations on the recent events in Cuba, and making certain suggestions as to the course of action our Government should now take. We are always pleased to receive the views of private citizens, and give them careful consideration.

The Department of State carefully examined the situation in Cuba in the light of certain criteria for the recognition of any new regime which has come to power by extra-constitutional means. In making this examination, the Department was mindful of the fact that at the Ninth International Conference of American States at Bogota, Colombia, in 1948, the governments of the American Republics unanimously agreed that continuity of diplomatic relations among the American States is desirable, and that the establishment or maintenance of diplomatic relations with a government does not imply any judgment upon the domestic policy of that government.

As a result of the examination of the Cuban situation, it was recommended to the President that the United States resume relations with Cuba. The President approved, and accordingly relations were resumed on March 27, 1952.

As of interest in connection with this problem there is enclosed a statement in which are considered some of the factors affecting United States policy concerning diplomatic relations with de-facto governments in the American Republics.

Sincerely yours,

Enclosures:

1. Statement.
2. Letter returned

Jack K. McFall
Assistant Secretary

The Honorable
Homer Ferguson,
United States Senate.

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MAR 31 1952 AM 11
MAR 3 1952 P.M.

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Date

WILLIAM A. PARSONS
1887 San Marco Blvd.
Jacksonville 7, Fla. March 26, 1952

PERSONAL

Honorable Dean Acheson
Secretary of State
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Acheson:

Realizing that you have a multitude of worldwide problems on your shoulders I take the liberty, as an American citizen, of offering some thoughts on a subject with which, due to long and actual experience, I am thoroughly familiar, viz: the complicated CUBAN SITUATION.

There may be a school of thought which would place the blame upon BATISTA for recent happenings there, but being thoroughly familiar with his ten year rule of Cuba from 1933 to 1944 when the Cuban Army took the KILLER, Machado, out of office and knowing him in person and having had dealings with him, I am convinced that he is a Liberal who prefers representative Government and Democratic processes to a Dictatorship. He is definitely against COMMUNISM which is of paramount importance in our hectic World of today and there is plenty of COMMUNISM in Cuba and Mexico.

The purpose of the Cuban Army, which does not have to do any fighting outside of its own country, is purely to keep order among its own people and I feel sure that the decision to intervene in the existing political situation in Cuba was a decision reached by the Army which represents the sentiments of the rank and file of the Cuban people and BATISTA, being an Army man and enjoying the complete confidence of the Army, was the logical man to place at the head of Government to CLEAN UP the CORRUPTION and GRAFT which has accumulated and run into the HUNDRED OF MILLIONS of Dollars during the eight (8) years of the regimes of GRAU SAN MARTIN and CARLOS PRIO SOCARRAS.

Having been a resident of Havana for 25 years and having traveled all over Latin America, knowing their language well and the characteristics of the people from contact with them as a business man and as an executive of one of the largest American corporations, I believe I know whereof I speak in presenting these thoughts which I trust may be of some value to you and your associates in handling this delicate Cuban situation which could have far reaching impressions among our GOOD NEIGHBORS throughout Latin America and which prompts me to respectfully offer the following suggestions:

1. - KEEP HANDS OFF of Politics in Cuba and do not support either side, i.e., The Cuban Army and Batista, or Prío, otherwise, it may be resented by the rank and file of the Cuban people, not to mention the impressions it might create throughout Latin America.

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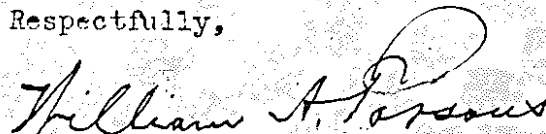
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2. - Conversely, I believe it would create a favorable impression throughout Latin America if you announce in a public statement that it is NOT OUR POLICY TO INTERVENE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF OUR GOOD NEIGHBORS IN LATIN AMERICA, and I would further suggest that YOU FROWN UPON THE IDEA OF PRIO'S SETTING UP A CUBAN GOVERNMENT IN EXILE IN MIAMI OR ANY OTHER PART OF THE UNITED STATES, which would be equivalent to TAKING SIDES in the dispute since it would be tantamount to allowing PRIO to abuse our hospitality, and Miami could become a HOTBED of intrigue in which COMMUNISTS and FELLOW TRAVELERS could play an important part.

You may have a capable Ambassador in Havana and he may have been there long enough to become familiar with the background of the Cuban situation which is essential in advising you and your associates in Washington and I trust that the thoughts I am passing along to you may be helpful not only to you but to him also. I might mention that I was in Havana all during Batista's ten year rule of Cuba including the 1933 revolution when Mr. Roosevelt sent the Honorable Sumner Welles down to straighten things out and he did a good job.

If I can be helpful in any way in Washington, Miami or Havana I am at your service..

Respectfully,



WILLIAM A. PARSONS

WAL:ep

P-S

Walter Donnelly, now in Austria, is one of the most capable men you ever had in Havana. Walter is a fine person. I played a lot of golf with him at the Country Club there.

In reply refer to
ABA:MID

My dear Mr. Parsons:

Your letter of March 26, 1952, addressed to the Secretary of State, has been received. You discussed the present situation in Cuba, a country with which you are familiar, and you make certain suggestions as to the course of action you feel we should follow in view of the recent events in that country.

The Department of State carefully examined the situation in Cuba in the light of certain criteria for the recognition of any new regime which has come to power by extra-constitutional means. In making that examination, the Department was mindful of the fact that at the Ninth International Conference of American States at Bogota, Colombia, in 1948, the governments of the American republics agreed that continuity of diplomatic relations among the American states was desirable, and that the establishment or maintenance of diplomatic relations with a government does not imply any judgment upon the domestic policy of that government. It was as a result of this examination that the United States resumed relations with Cuba on March 27, 1952.

The principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of other nations is one which is firmly established in the inter-American system, being incorporated in various articles of the Charter of the Organization of American States, also signed at the Bogota Conference in 1948. In accordance with this principle, which is a basic one in our foreign relations, the United States does not permit activities within its jurisdiction aimed at the alteration of the public order in any foreign country.

As of possible interest to you, there is enclosed a copy of a statement prepared in the Department of State in which are considered some of the factors affecting

United States

Mr. William A. Parsons,
1387 San Marco Blvd.,
Jacksonville 7, Florida.

United States policy concerning diplomatic relations with de facto governments in the American republics.

You will observe that the recommendation which you have made coincides closely with the above policy and considerations by which our Government is guided.

I thank you for your kind remarks concerning Ambassador Donnelly. The important positions he has held and is holding show that the Department of State also shares your opinion. The offer of your services is also appreciated, and will be born in mind should the necessity arise.

Sincerely yours,

~~For the Secretary of State:~~

Albert F. Nufer
Director
Office of Middle American Affairs

Enclosure:

Statement

S/S-CR

APR 7 1952 AM

APR 9 1952 P.M.

ARA: MID: JLTopping: amw: 4-2-52