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OFFICE OF
AMERICAN REPUBLIC AFFAIRS

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No ... 1329

Cultura to

Subject: Visit of Cuban President-Elect to Mexico

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The Honorable
The Secretary

The Secretary of State Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to report the recent visit of the President-elect of Cuba, Sr. Carlos Prio Socarras.

On Monday, July 26, 1948, the President-elect of Cuba, accompanied by his wife and other Cuban dignitaries, arrived by air in Mexico City for a week's visit as the guest of the Mexican Government. Although Sr. Prio has not yet assumed the presidency of Cuba, he was accorded all the honors generally extended to a visiting Chief of State.

On July 27 there was held at the Palacio Nacional a formal state dinner at which both President Aleman and Sr. Prio made speeches. In his address, President Aleman referred to the bonds of friendship existing between Mexico and Cuba, and stated that the two countries should strive side by side toward the collective security of the Western Hemisphere. President Aleman went on to state that the two countries had gone through a similar development to reach political independence, and added that our political independence will not be positively assured. without reaching economic liberation ... Sr. Prio, in his answer to President Aleman, also called attention to the friendship existing between Cuba and Mexico and to their common heritage. He particularly mentioned that in striving for the freedom of the Western Hemisphere, the "Grau doctrine" had been proposed by the Cuban delegation at the Bogota Conference. He stated that this doco trine, in identifying economic aggression with military aggression, brought into the economic field the culmination of the work of the liberators of America. The complete texts of the addresses by President Aleman and President-elect Prio are transmitted as enclosure No. 1 to this despatch.

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Although the mentions of economic freedom and economic aggression by the President of Mexico and the President-elect of Cuba may appear to have as their source the statements of policy recently made by President Perón of Argentina, the Embassy does not believe that they necessarily indicate the acceptance by Mexico and Cuba of the Argentine position, but rather are statements of an idea which may be springing up independently in other latin American countries.

On Wednesday, July 28, 1948, Sr. Prio visited the chambers of the Supreme Court of Mexico, where he made another speech. He stated that the old social and economic concepts had changed, and that there must be a new law which takes into account social progress. It is necessary to write into the new codes economic rights and labor rights. He went on to state that the nations must strive for an international political democracy which guarantees against new aggressions, the aim being collective security. The complete text of Sr. Prio's address to the Supreme Court is transmitted herewith as enclosure No. 2 to this despatch.

Among the festivities arranged for Sr. Prio, were receptions at the Ministry of Foreign Relations and at the Cuban Embassy in Mexico.

On Thursday, July 29, Sr. Prio and his party journeyed to Guadalajara on the presidential train, where they were again received with the usual festivities. They remained in Guadalajara until Saturday, July 31, returning to Mexico City August 1, and then departed by air for Cuba on Monday, August 2, 1948.

Editorial comment throughout the week on the visit of Sr. Prio was very favorable, and the strengthening of friendly ties between Cuba and Mexico would appear to have been successfully carried out, if the Mexican press was any judge of the scene.

Respectfully yours,

For the Ambassador:

Frederick D. Sharp Second Secretary of Embassy

Enclosures: 1. Text of addresses made by President
Aleman and Sr. Prio at Palacio Nacional.
2. Text of address made by Sr. Prio at

 Text of address made by Sr. Prios Supreme Court of Mexico.

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