



On March 8, after inspecting military small arms exercises, General Batista was taken to Allende and Montemorelos to see the citrus development of the State of Nuevo León, and expressed himself as astonished with the great development of the region.

At 9:00 a.m. on March 9 General Batista left by Mexican Army plane for Torreón after making suitable expressions of gratitude for his entertainment and admiration of Monterrey and the State of Nuevo León in general.

While here General Batista made no public political statement nor any reference to Cuban political developments.

#### Personal and Confidential Comments

It is to be noted that only two local civilians accompanied General Batista during practically his whole stay. These were Sr. Prisciliano Elizondo, a very wealthy and prominent local capitalist, and Sr. Federico Gómez, director of the principal newspaper of Monterrey, El Porvenir.

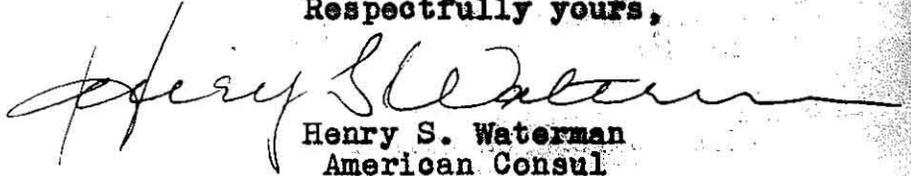
Sr. Elizondo has been extremely close to the last two administrations of the State of Nuevo León, namely that of Governor Bonifacio Salinas Leal and Governor Arturo B. de la Garza. It is believed that Sr. Elizondo is probably the most influential political factor in the state.

Sr. Federico Gómez at the luncheons and dinners was usually in a place of honor between Generals Batista and Ortiz. It is assumed that this was done in order to assure a full and eulogistic coverage in the press.

The people of Monterrey as a whole, however, were singularly unimpressed by the visit of General Batista and there was comparatively little interest manifested. I will illustrate this by reciting an incident. On March 9 I was invited to lunch by two local politicians, one of whom is a brother-in-law of Governor de la Garza. The conversation was quite unrestrained, and they brought up the subject of the visit of General Batista. They could not understand why so much money was being spent and so much fuss made over Batista. After all, they said, he was of absolutely no importance to the people of this community, and that there were many people they thought could be entertained with much better ultimate profits to the city and state. One of these men said that he

had talked at some length with Batista. Batista told him he was going to the United States to remain for about six months, inferring that he was reluctant to return to Cuba at the present time. My informant obtained the impression that Batista was hoping that a call would come for him to return to Cuba before the six months elapsed.

Respectfully yours,



Henry S. Waterman  
American Consul

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