

# INCOMING AIRGRAM

DEPARTMENT OF STATE DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS TELEGRAPH BRANCH

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ DEPARTMENT OF STATE FROM: American Embassy,  
Habana, Cuba

AMERICAN REPUBLIC AFFAIRS

Date of Mailing:

*DM* JUL 23 1948

Rec'd.

Secretary of State  
Washington.

July 22, 1948 11:24 a.m.  
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A-794, July 20, 1948

## Prio's Visits to Mexico and the United States

With reference to the Embassy's A-766 of July 14, 1948 regarding the forthcoming official visits to Mexico and the United States of Dr. Carlos PRIO Socarrás, President-elect of Cuba, the Habana press reports that Dr. Prio expects to leave Habana for Mexico City by plane early on the morning of Monday, July 26, and that he will be accompanied by the following persons:

1. Senator Antonio (Tony) de VARONA Loredó and Mrs. Varona. (A close friend and adviser to President Grau; Senator Varona was elected to the Senate from Camaguey in 1944 and re-elected on June 1, 1948. Head of the Auténtico machine in Camaguey, he is one of the most powerful politicians in Cuba. Recently he has been prominently mentioned as the probable Prime Minister in Prio's cabinet. He has been described as "a man of action, but slippery and in the past connected with shady operations involving financial gain for himself." He is divorced from his first wife, who is now Prio's private secretary.)
2. Virgilio PEREZ Lopez and Mrs. Perez. (Born on August 13, 1906, Perez was head of the Cuban delegation to the IV Pan American Coffee Congress held in Mexico City on September 1, 1945. He has served as Director General of the Cuban Coffee Stabilization Institute, from which position he resigned in March 1946 to seek election as representative from Habana. He was elected to Congress in 1940 and again in 1946. His previous career

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includes: active participation in the revolution against Machado; sugar cane grower; member of the National Assembly of Sugar Colonos Association; Chief Supervisor of the Ministry of Labor. He apparently speaks no English.)

3. Sr. Manuel BRAÑA. (Braña is Director of the pro-administration but rather unimportant daily newspaper Luz. He and Prio were in exile together in Mexico in 1935. He attended the Fifth Inter-American Press Congress at Caracas in 1945 where he impressed our Public Affairs Officer there as garrulous, argumentative, shrewd but not very intelligent. He was head of the Cuban delegation to the United Nations Freedom of Information Conference recently held at Geneva.)
4. Sr. Oscar FAURE, composer. (No additional information available.)
5. Miss Belen MITCHELL, private secretary to Mrs. Prio.
6. Sr. Evelio RODRIGUES. (The Embassy's files reveal that a person with this name was a Treasury inspector in 1942. No further information available.)
7. Captain Antonio LAGE Santos, military aide.
8. Captain Rafael IZQUIERDO, aide to the President-elect detailed by the National Police.

Since it is quite possible that certain of the above-mentioned persons may also accompany Prio on his forthcoming trip to the United States, it is believed that the foregoing will be of interest to the Department. The inclusion of Senator Varona tends to strengthen reports received from numerous sources that Varona will be one of the key men in the new administration.

Copy to Anembassy, Mexico.

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