

INCOMING TELEGRAM

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
OFFICE OF  
AMERICAN REPUBLIC AFFAIRS  
AUG 26 1948  
11:30  
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Control 8749

Rec'd August 25, 1948  
11:39 p.m.

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Action: ARA

Info :

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DER

FROM: Guatemala City

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 364, August 25, 4 p.m.

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837.001 PRIO SOCARRAS, CARLOS  
/8-2548

Visit Cuban President-Elect Prio Socarras and party which ended today (EMBTTEL 355, August 20) marked by: (1) forthright public speeches of Arevalo and Prio denouncing "tropical dictatorships" Caribbean area and pledging moral support democratic movements those countries, (2) warmest references ideological solidarity revolutionary governments Cuba, Venezuela and Guatemala which show way to peoples other American Republics still under oppression, (3) conspicuous presence Juan Bosch, Buenaventura Sanchez, Miguel Angel Ramirez, Rosendo Arguello and others known involved Caribbean legion and (4) climaxed from our viewpoint by impassioned extemporaneous speech Prio Socarras at San Carlos University before gathering which included diplomatic corps. Speech filled with such hostile statements re alleged interventionism former US Ambassadors Sumner Welles and Jefferson Caffery and "those American diplomats who serve as mouthpiece private US interests" it created sensation and caused embarrassment university officials, not to mention acute embarrassment members Embassy staff present. Prio's frankness aroused audience, judging from many expressions of apology from university circles and agitated comment from members diplomatic corps (Prio also succeeded arousing ire European diplomats by reference "worn out" countries old world). Papal Nuncio informed me member Prio party (presumably Dr. Ruben Leon, President Cuban Chamber Deputies) said he was so humiliated he thought delegation should sneak out of Guatemala quietly without fanfare. Another diplomatic colleague expressed surprise Cuban President-Elect would accept invitation visit US if he feels so strongly on subject.

Rector San

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-2- #364, August 25, 4 p.m. from Guatemala City

Rector San Carlos University who called to apologize for incident may make available recorded transcripts speech, in which case full text will be forwarded promptly in interest most objective appraisal. Yesterday's newspapers published nothing and it is possible that censorship will prevent press comments today.

Despatch follows. Repeated Habana. Via courier Caracas, Ciudad Trujillo, other CA Missions.

WELLS

MJF: BH

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