

# INCOMING AIRGRAM

DEPARTMENT OF STATE DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS TELEGRAPH BRANCH

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FROM

Habana

Dated June 27, 1947

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Secretary of State,  
Washington, D. C.

A-675, June 27, 1947

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Isauro VALDES Moreno appointed Minister of the Treasury on June 26 by President Grau. Valdés, native of Pinar del Rio, age forty, is a self-made man, civil and electrical engineer by profession, with long revolutionary history extending back to early 1930's. He is a personal friend of President Grau, who is godfather of Valdés's children. On Grau's accession to power, Valdés was made Interventor de la Republica, or General Auditor, at the Treasury, which post he administered competently and honestly. He was made Treasurer of the Republic in April 1946.

Qualifications principally personal loyalty to Grau, administrative ability, familiarity with Treasury matters, integrity, and industry. Although from Pinar del Rio Province he is not a member of the Prio clique, but is believed to be sponsored by José Manuel ALEMÁN, Minister of Education, a rival of Prio high in Palace favor. He is backed by the "young revolutionary organizations", and it has been remarked that on his assuming office for the first time in many months visitors to the Treasury are today not being frisked for pistols. These associations give rise to the only tentative misgivings expressed regarding his elevation to ministerial rank.

It is understood that Florentino MARTINEZ, who was considered a candidate to resume this post, is not aggrieved choice should have fallen on another; important Commerce post would probably be open to him, but he is believed to be little interested, for personal reasons. It is reported Commerce post will now presumably not be filled for another month.

MALLORY

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