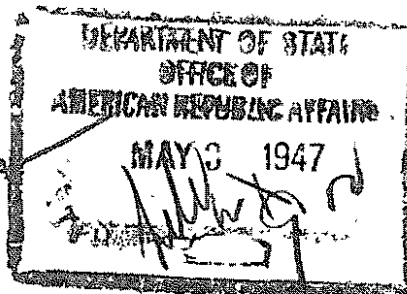


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Control 958

Rec'd May 4, 1947
12:41 p.m.

FROM: Habana

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 238, May 4, 11 a.m.

US URGENT

Habana Mayor Supervielle died this morning at 8:05 result self-inflicted revolver shot one hour earlier. Generally believed and even commented over radio that action taken consequence despondency over frustrated endeavors carry out campaign promise to supply Habana with adequate water works.

NUFER

NOTE: Mr. Barber (CRB) notified 2 p.m. - 5/4/47 (CWO-NFL)

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MAY 7 1947

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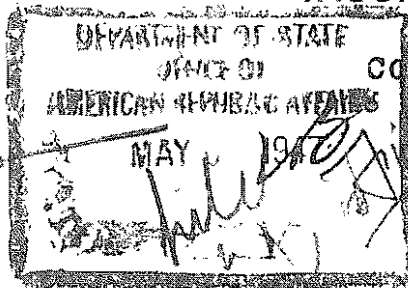
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CONFIDENTIAL

Control 1177

Rec'd May 5, 1947
3:42 p.m.

FROM: Habana

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 239, May 5, Noon

Suicide of Supervielle (EMBTTEL 238 May 4) caused tremendous shock in all circles. Great weight public opinion, as openly expressed, blames Grau and administration for death holding that honorable honest official was hampered in fulfillment water-works campaign promises by venality of politicians and preferred death to dishonor. Chibas last night vigorously expressed these charges over radio referring to recent Curti motion in Lower House to transfer waterworks from municipality to Ministry Public Works. See page five Embassy's despatch 2974 March 25.

In present over-emotionalized atmosphere only minor acknowledgment made that possible clinical factors may have complicated ex-Mayor's despondency. Rumors current Mrs. Supervielle turned back on Grau when he called to express condolences and that President profoundly disturbed by suicide. There is no doubt administration has received another very serious blow and prestige is now at lowest ebb. Currently feared there may be hostile public manifestations against Grau if he attends funeral this afternoon.

Nicolas Castellanos, President of Ayuntamiento, has become acting Mayor. Reported be uneducated ward politician elected councilman last June on Autentico ticket.

NUPER

DES: PAL

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MAY 7 1947

Control 1564

Rec'd May 6, 1947
Noon

FROM: Habana

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 241, May 6, Noon

Interment of Supervielle accomplished yesterday evening without public disorder after one of most impressive public tributes and funeral processions ever seen in Habana. Grau under heavy police protection was only speaker at burial where following keynote of current eulogies he said "your tomb receives tears which symbolize great aqueduct you envisaged".

Ex-Mayor's widow reported by PRENSA LIBRE to have blamed Grau for death; Vasconcelos says Grau assassinated him. EL MUNDO comments suicide "was necessary dramatic act" which Cuban people see as expression of mayor's manly protest against political corruption. DIARIO more calmly recognizes deceased's civic virtues but deploras self destruction under any circumstance. Only very few writers concede clinical complications played part, Alfonso Gonsse now editor ALERTA mentioning kidney trouble. Political storms will probably intensify with further loss of administration prestige. Political business as usual already being restored however, with reappointment of Jose San Martin as Minister Public Works as probable preliminary to others.

NUPER

MP:OWD

MAY 14 1947

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