

FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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TO: Department of State

737.11/1-1051

FROM: HABANA 1438 January 10, 1951 1 Enclosure

REF: EMBASSY'S 1415, January 8, 1951

SUBJECT: CUBAN ASSISTANCE IN THE PRESENT EMERGENCY; PRESIDENT PRIO'S MESSAGE PUBLISHED IN THE NEW YORK TIMES OF JANUARY 3, 1951.

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It has doubtless come to the Department's attention that the New York Times of Wednesday, January 3, 1951, carried, on the first page of its Economic Section (page 59), a special message from the President of Cuba stressing the friendly understanding between Cubans and Americans and the desire of the Cuban Government to cooperate with the United States in the common task of maintaining freedom and insuring peace, under the system of the United Nations. In the message the President states: "I can assure the people of the United States that they have reason to look toward the people of Cuba with friendly confidence. For regardless of the eventualities that the future may bring, we Cubans also can be counted upon to discharge our spiritual and formal obligations in defense of the legal order that guarantees democracy and freedom, along with the American nation with which we are historically allied." A copy of the message, which occupies a full page, is enclosed for ready reference.

The Department is aware that several times recently President Prío has warned the people of Cuba that the threatening international situation may further deteriorate and he has attempted on several occasions to emphasize the responsibility which Cuba must be prepared to assume in aiding the cause of the democratic nations of the world. In a country where the population over a period of many years has been lulled into an easy sense of security because of its proximity to, and its belief in the protective power of, the United States, this effort to place things in their proper perspective is encouraging. In various recent declarations of the President and responsible press utterances the point has been stressed that Cuba's assistance to the United Nations in any forthcoming conflict will be chiefly along economic lines. President Prío's message in the New York Times reiterates this conception of the part that Cuba should play in speaking of Cuba as "the sugar arsenal for the United States and for the defense of democracy" and a source of materials that kept many American factories going during the two World Wars. Aside from the company of troops which the Government recently offered the United Nations for

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service in Korea (Embassy's despatch 1191, December 1, 1950), it is doubtful that the Government will suggest further military assistance, at least for the present. At the present time the Government's opposition, spearheaded by Senator Eduardo CHIBAS, leader of the Ortodoxo Party, seems to be acting as a brake on any further involvement of this kind and the Government, which has been losing ground recently on the domestic political scene, is obviously reluctant at this time to propose further moves which might provide an additional target for criticism by the opposition.

C. Burke Elbrick  
Chargé d'Affaires ad interim

Enclosure: ~~1~~ <sup>2</sup>  
Clipping from New York Times