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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

737.13/5-1252
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FROM : AMEMBASSY, HABANA 1917
DLSP. No.

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON. May 12, 1952
DATE

REF : Embassy despatch 1860, May 6, 1952 (1 Encl.)

41 For Dept.	ACTION ARA*	DEPT. 1 REP DCR OLI* E* L*
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SUBJECT: Ministry of Communications and Transport Established

President BATISTA, with the approval of the Cabinet, has signed a Decree-Law which appeared in the Official Gazette on May 5, 1952, abolishing the National Transport Commission and the Maritime Commission and setting up the new Ministry of Communications and Transport. In addition to the work formerly handled by the Ministry of Communications, the new organization will attend to the functions previously taken care of by the Transport and Maritime Commissions.

The Civil Aeronautics Board will continue to function but its chairman will be the Minister of Communications and Transport, instead of the Prime Minister who was previously the head of this agency. Other members of the Board are the Ministers of State and of Defense, the Subsecretary for Transport, and technical advisers.

The Decree provides for two subsecretaries-- one for communications and one for transport-- who report directly to the Minister. Under the Subsecretary for Transport there are five Director Generals: one for Railroads, one for Motorized Transport, one for Maritime Transport, one for Air Transport, and one for General Coordination.

Under the Director General of Air Transport, provision is made for an Inspector General of Airports. Captain Eduardo WHITEHOUSE, former pilot for Compañia Cubana de Aviacion, has been named to this post which was recently held by Captain Mario TORRES Menier. The Director General of Air Transport is Captain Guillermo MARTULL and the Subsecretary for Transport is Dr. Rafael J. DIAZ Balart, who formerly represented the prominent law firm of Lazo and Cubas in the Province of Oriente. Prior to 1933, Captain Martull served as a pilot in the Cuban Army which he left when President MACHADO was overthrown. He subsequently spent a couple of years teaching aviation in Venezuela, after which he entered private business in Cuba.

Six copies of the Official Gazette containing Decree-Law 41

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which establishes the new organization for communications and transport, are attached.

For the Ambassador:

Raymond L. Harrell
Raymond L. Harrell
Attaché

Enclosure:
Six copies of
Official Gazette dated
May 5, 1952.

SM
2/16
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BUREAU OF
INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS
OFFICE OF REGIONAL
AMERICAN AFFAIRS.

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