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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

737.13/5-2252

FROM : AMEMBASSY, HABANA

1979

DESP. NO.

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

May 22, 1952

DATE

REF : Habana Despatch No. 1882, May 7, 1952

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| | REC'D MAY 26 | IN FO OTHER | | | | | | |

SUBJECT: Promulgation of the Rules of Procedure of the Consultative Council.

The Rules of the Consultative Council, as approved by the Council of Ministers, were published in the Official Gazette of May 14, as Decree No. 1299 of the Ministry of State. They became effective upon publication.

Some of the highlights of the Rules are as follows: the first three sections relate to the rights and duties of the President, Vice-President, the Secretaries and the Councilors. The President is given fairly stringent control over the functioning of the Council. There are some interesting provisions relating to the attendance of Council members, such as Article 7, which says that the duty of Councilors is to be punctual at Council and committee sessions, and Article 8, which says that Councilors must request leave for an absence from home of over eight days and that not more than ten Councilors may be absent at any one time. The quorum of the Council is defined as half the total membership plus one. Sessions of the Council are given a three hour limit with provisions for prolonging them or declaring them permanent. Provision is also made for secret sessions. Voting may be by hand-count, roll-call or ballot and there may be no abstentions except on a vote on the minutes. The rules provide that all matters treated by the Council must have been approved by committees (called commissions) before being heard by the full session of the Council.

The permanent commissions are as follows:

- Social Matters - 21 members
- Agricultural and Livestock Production - 21 members
- Industrial Production and Commerce - 21 members
- Public Finance - 21 members
- Administration, Services and Public Works - 21 members
- Agrarian Reform - 16 members
- Justice and Codes - 15 members
- Culture and Public Education - 15 members
- Style - 4 members

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A project for initiating legislation must be signed by at least five Councilors before it will be heard by the Council. Provision is made for the amendment of the Rules if such an amendment is initiated by one-third of the members and approved by two-thirds. The remainder of the Rules covers the parliamentary functions of the Council.

Five copies of the Rules as they appeared in the Official Gazette are enclosed.

For the Ambassador:



Earl T. Crain
Acting Counselor of Embassy

Enclosures:

1. Five copies of Rules as they appeared in the Official Gazette.

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