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THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

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D-193 (Weeka No. 31), July 31, 1953 DEPARTMENT OF STATE

BUREAU OF INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS I T. T I OTHER

DESP. NO.

SUBJECT:

Changes in Cuban Cabinet and Subcabinet

Various decrees, all of which were dated July 30, 1953, and published in Official Gazette of July 31, 1953, effected a number of changes in the Cuban Cabinet and subcabinet.

The resignation of Marino LOPEZ Blanco as Minister of the Treasury was accepted (Decree No. 2077) and Gustavo GUTIERREZ Sánchez was designated Minister of the Treasury in his stead (Decree No. 2078). Gutiérrez Sánchez took oath on July 31 and assumed office on August 3.

The resignation of Enrique SALADRIGAS Zayas as Minister of Health and Social Welfare was accepted (Decree No. 2081) and José Elías OLIVELLA Lastra was named to succeed him (Decree No. 2082). Olivella Lastra took oath on July 31 and assumed office on August 1. The press reported that Saladrigas was made president of the National Tuberculosis Council.

The resignation of Pablo CARRERA Jústiz y Fernández de Velasco as Minister of Communications and Transport was accepted (Decree No. 2083). Rafael GUAS Inclan, president of the Liberal Party, was appointed Minister of Communications (Decree No. Guas Inclan took oath on July 31 and assumed office on August 3.

Law-Decree No. 967 of July 9, 1953, as amended by Law-Decree No. 1000 of July 26, 1953, changed the name of the Ministry of Communications and Transport to Ministry of Communications, abolished the old Ministry's Subsecretariat of Transport, and transferred jurisdiction over all transportation matters to the newly-created and autonomous National Transport Corporation. Rafael DIAZ Balart (not to be confused with his son of the same name who is Subsecretary of the Interior) was appointed Minister In Charge of Transport (Decree No. 2085), an office he assumed on August 3. Diaz Balart had been Subsecretary of Transport acting as Minister of Communications and Transport during the sick leave granted to Carrera Justiz.

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In order to permit his appointment as Minister of the Treasury, the resignation was accepted of Gutiérrez Sánchez as president of the National Economic Council and Minister Without Portfolio (Decree No. 2087). Santiago C. REY Perna, already a Minister Without Portfolio, was made president of the National Economic Council (Decree No. 2087).

Ex-Minister of the Treasury López Blanco was made an Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary (Decree No. 2089), in the vacancy created by the acceptance of the resignation of Rafael PEREZ y González Muñoz (Decree No. 2088), who had been on assignment in the Ministry of State. Decree No. 2091 appointed López Blanco chairman of the commission to study the reorganization of the United Railways of Habana.

Decree No. 2086 accepted the resignation of Carlos A. FERNANDEZ Campos as president of the Commission for the Study and Inspection of Social Security Institutions and Minister Without Portfolio, and named César E. CAMACHO Covani, a member of the Liberal Party, to succeed him. Fernández Campos was made a member of the Consultative Council (Decree No. 2080).

Upon his being made Minister of Health and Social Welfare, Olivella Lastra's resignation as secretary of the Consultative Council was accepted (Decree No. 2079) and Radio CREMATA Valdés was appointed the Council's new secretary (Decree No. 2079)

Decree No. 2092 accepted the resignation of Alfredo BOTET y Dubois as Subsecretary of Communications and assigned to that post Raúl ACOSTA Rubio who from the language of the Decree apparently still retains his appointment as Cuban Minister to Honduras. Botet y Dubois was named Subsecretary of Commerce (Decree No. 2090), replacing Carlos J. SMITH Leal who resigned in order to become Subsecretary of the National Transport Corporation.

For the Ambassador:

Earl T. Crain

Acting Counselor of Embassy