

RESTRICTED

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

MID-Mr. I.
DC/R

Memorandum of Conversation

DATE: August 6, 1951

SUBJECT: Senator Chibas shoots self

PARTICIPANTS: Dr. Espinosa - Cuban Embassy
Mr. Wellman - Cuba Desk Officer, MID

COPIES TO: ARA - Mr. Wann, Mr. Miller
MID - Mr. Nufer
American Embassy, Habana (informally)

1-1403

Dr. Espinosa stated that the Embassy has had confirmation that Senator Chibas pulled out a gun and shot himself in the chest in the course of a violent argument with colleagues in the Ortodoxo party following his weekly radio broadcast on Sunday, August 5.

Dr. Espinosa said that Chibas' condition was serious, but the wound was not fatal and he was expected to live.

Dr. Espinosa recalled that this was the second time that Chibas had shot himself. He said that some five or six years ago Chibas was shot under circumstances indicating that he had tried to simulate an attack upon himself.

Dr. Espinosa speculated that this incident would cause a great deal of political controversy and would not benefit Chibas.

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~~108~~ DC/R
H.P.W.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Memorandum of Conversation

DATE: August 16, 1951

SUBJECT: Death of Senator Chibas

PARTICIPANTS: Dr. Espinosa - Minister Counselor, Cuban Embassy
Mr. Wellman - Cuba Desk Officer, MID

COPIES TO: MID - Mr. Bennett ✓
Mr. Kufner
ARA - Mr. Mann, Mr. Miller

1-1493

Dr. Espinosa of the Cuban Embassy telephoned to state that Senator Chibas died this morning at 1:30 a.m. It had apparently been necessary to perform a further operation from which he succumbed.

I told Dr. Espinosa that whatever the political principles of Senator Chibas were, he was a distinguished Cuban and, therefore, we would like to extend our condolences. He said that he would inform the Ambassador. I think it would not be appropriate for us to do anything further.

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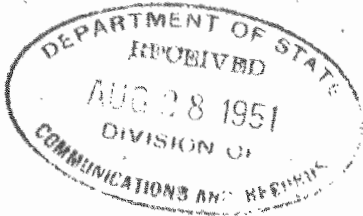
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ARA: MID: ~~Wellman~~: amw: 8-16-51

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MID-Mr. *[initials]*
DC/R



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Telephone

Memorandum of Conversation

DATE: August 16, 1951

SUBJECT: Attendance of Embassy representative at funeral of Chibas

PARTICIPANTS: DuWayne C. Clark, Chargé d'Affaires, a.i., American Embassy in Cuba
Harvey R. Wellman - Cuba Desk Officer, MID

COPIES TO: //

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1-1493

Mr. Wellman suggested to Mr. Clark that the Embassy have a representative present at the funeral, but that the Embassy not send a wreath or any message of condolence to the family. Mr. Clark said that the funeral would be a public and probably highly emotional and spectacular occasion. He said that he would probably ask Mr. Hoyt to attend on behalf of the Embassy rather than to attend himself or to ask Mr. Crain to do so. He concurred that it would be wise to do no more than this.

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ARA: MID: *[initials]* Wellman: anw: 8-24-51