



EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Air Mail

No. 9533

Habana, Cuba, June 22, 1945

Subject: Transmitting communication to Messrs.
SERGEANT and PEAKE of War Department.

*He has requested 7-5-45 from page Miss Riedel
Follow-up 7-13. Miss B. state this is "commercial"
Memo to Mr. Peake 7-14
He has had been 7-16-45
7-16-45
FC:RDL:LP*

UNRESTRICTED

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to enclose a memorandum on June 30, 1945 USOE
tion in Cuba addressed by the Cuban-American Cultural
Institute in Habana to Messrs. SERGEANT and PEAKE, of- 6-27-45
ficials of the War Department who recently visited
Habana. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Major Sergeant and Mr. M. M. Peake spent several
days in this city on an official mission for the pur-
pose of gathering information on education and techni-
cal training in Cuba, with a view to the formulation of
a program for the employment of Cuban civilian person-
nel in United States Army military establishments in
Cuba. The Embassy was able to assist them in arrang-
ing for visits to various public and private techni-
cal schools in Habana and its vicinity. Assistance
was also furnished by Dr. PORTELL Vilá, Secretary of
the Cuban-American Cultural Institute in this city.
The enclosed memorandum, which contains information
concerning schools in this country, was prepared by
Dr. Portell upon request by Messrs. Sergeant and Peake.

If the Department perceives no objection, it is
suggested that the attached communication be transmitted
to the addressee, as follows:

Mr. M. M. Peake
APO 845
Base Headquarters S 3
Care of Postmaster
Miami, Florida.

Respectfully yours,

James H. Wright
James H. Wright
Chargé d'Affaires ad interim

Enclosure:

Original, with copies of
memorandum dated Habana,
June 20, 1945.

ED/asc
824.5

LC

637.42/6-22-45

COPY

INSTITUTO CULTURAL CUBANO-NORTEAMERICANO

Paseo de Marti 112

Habana, June 20, 1945

MEMORANDUM FOR MESSRS SERGEANT AND PEAKE ABOUT EDUCATION
IN CUBA.

The General Census of Cuba of 1943, the last taken, and whose returns have been published in book form today (June 20, 1945), gives the country a total population of 4,778,583 inhabitants, seventy-nine percent of which can read and write, as compared to seventy-one percent in 1931.

Public schools in Cuba are organized in this way: kindergartens, escuelas primarias or grammar schools, escuelas primarias superiores, secondary schools and special schools that used to be grouped into the civil-military schools.

First listing the schools supported with government funds, the figures are as follows:

- 607 kindergarten schools, at times with two or more classrooms.
- 7516 escuelas primarias or grammar schools, up to the sixth grade.
- 65 escuelas primarias superiores, up to eighth grade, all having more than six classrooms.

The escuela primaria superior is a vocational school. In the 65 schools there are 104 classrooms for the teaching of English, 15 for "sloyd", 66 for dressmaking and sewing, 62 for home economics, 37 for the teaching of music, 5 for drawing and painting, 7 for physical education and only one for agriculture.

Among the secondary and special schools the following must be listed:

- 6 granjas agrícolas provinciales or farm schools, one for each province.
- 6 escuelas del hogar or schools of home economics whose certificate of graduation is enough to enter the School of Education at the University.
- 6 normal schools preparing teachers for the grammar schools; students spend four years at the normal school, after the primaria superior, and graduate when they are about eighteen years old.
- 1 normal rural school preparing teachers who are going to work in backwoods districts.

1 escuela

- 1 escuela superior de artes y oficios or school or arts and trades, located at Havana.
- 1 escuela técnica industrial for boys and
- 1 escuela técnica industrial for girls - both of them at the town of General Peraza, near Habana.
- 1 centro superior tecnológico, at Ceiba del Agua, and
- 1 centro superior tecnológico al Holguin. These two, as the escuelas técnicas industriales, are boarding schools. The centros are huge institutions housing 1250 students each until they are eighteen years old, when they have learned a trade.
- 15 hogares infantiles campesinos or boarding schools for peasant children, capable of housing some 60 children who made good in the rural schools and are considered bright and better than the average. These hogares are scattered throughout the island.
- 8 schools in the largest prisons.
- 866 rural schools, equipped with a small demonstration field and an elemental shop. Until these schools were merged into the regular system and ceased being the civic-military school they were very good and there was a service of visiting nurses and visiting teachers and social workers.
- 6 escuelas profesionales de comercio or business schools, one for each province
- 1 escuela nacional de bellas artes at Havana and two provincial ones, one in Matanzas and the other one at Santiago de Cuba.
- 1 forestry school or escuela nacional de selvicultura, at Havana.

There are schools of arts and trades supported by foundations, as the Escuela Villate, Havana, of the Sociedad Economica de Amigos del País, la Escuela Tirso Mesa, at Colón, Matanzas, la Escuela Técnica Industrial, Colegio de Belén, Marianao, and others.

Above the whole system there is the University of Havana, with fifteen thousand students and an income of more than two million dollars a year. It has thirteen faculties: Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary, Pharmacy, Law, Social Studies, Philosophy, Education, Sciences, Agriculture, Commerce, Engineering, Architecture. There are some five hundred professors. The equipment in Medicine, Sciences, Engineering, Veterinary, Pharmacy, Agriculture and Architecture is first-class.

As recorded in the registry of the Ministry of Education there are 597 private schools throughout the Island; but it can be safely asserted that the real number must be nearly one thousand. Private schools of the type of Havana Business Academy, Academia Baldor, Colegio de la Salle, Instituto Edison, Colegio Cubano Montori and Escuelas Pías, at Havana, have more than one thousand students each, and so is the case with La Progresiva, at Cárdenas, for instance.

There

There are non-denominational or lay private schools in great number; but many of them lean towards Catholicism. Catholic schools are influential, although not in the degree to which they are in other Latin American countries. There are Methodist, Presbyterian, Baptist and Episcopalian schools that are very important, and in Oriente even a "Friends" school can be found. A colegio Hebreo operates in Havana.

A university professor earns from three thousand to forty-eight hundred dollars a year; a teacher in the secondary schools, from eighteen hundred to twenty-four hundred dollars, and a teacher in the public schools a minimum of eleven hundred and forty-two dollars a year. These salaries are much higher than those paid by even the best private schools. A leading private school in Havana pays ten dollars a month per one class of one hour a day, five days of the week. The teacher has to have eight classes to make eighty dollars. The Catholic schools are no exception to this, not even with the savings that they can make and actually make by having a good number of priests and nuns who teach without salaries the subjects for which they do not have to have lay teachers.

Hoping that these facts will be of some use, I remain,

Sincerely,

(Signed) Herminio Portell Vilá

INSTITUTO CULTURAL CUBANO-
NORTEAMERICANO

Secretary

(Copied by : DSC)

In reply refer to
FC:837.42/6-2245

MEMORANDUM

July 16, 1945

UNRESTRICTED

TO: Lieutenant Colonel Edward H. Miller,
Liaison Officer with the State Department,
Military Intelligence Division,
War Department.

FROM: Frederick B. Lyon, Chief, Division of Foreign
Activity Correlation

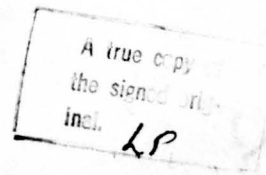
SUBJECT: Transmittal of Communication to Messrs.
Sergeant and Peake of War Department.

Copies in duplicate of a despatch from the
American Embassy at Habana on the above subject are
enclosed together with an original memorandum and
appropriately addressed, air mail envelope for such
action as the War Department may deem appropriate.

Enclosure:

Duplicate copies of
Despatch No. 9533 of
June 22, 1945, from Habana.
Original memorandum from
Habana of June 20, 1945
with addressed, air mail
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FC:RDLongyear:LP



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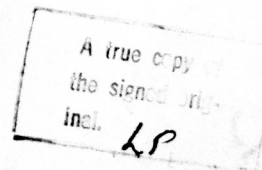
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Handwritten signature

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