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FROM : AMEMBASSY, HABANA

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

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SUBJECT: Cuban-Dominican Relations

As previously reported, the Embassy has suggested to Minister of State Gonzalo Guell that some sort of official statement might be issued by the Cuban government intended to offset the unfortunate effect of the interview with President Batista which appeared in the Spanish language magazine VISION for January 4, 1957. Apparently in response to those suggestions, Minister Guell issued a statement which was carried in the local press for January 10, 1957.

A translation of the statement follows:

(UNCLASSIFIED) (Cuba does not meddle in the affairs of other countries --- Guell.) (Comments on the article appearing in a magazine published in the United States.)

When leaving the palace after conferring with the President, Minister of State, Dr. Guell, was questioned by reporters in connection with the statements coming from Ciudad Trujillo made to the magazine VISION, commenting on others by President Batista published in that magazine on January 4. The Minister of State said:

(1) That the questionnaire submitted to President Batista was replied to weeks before the Dominican Government invited the Cuban Minister of Agriculture Dr. Fidel Barreto to attend the cattle fair which will take place shortly in that republic. In the invitation, which was accepted, phrases of high esteem are used, realizing that that attitude would contribute to strengthening the traditional bonds of friendship between the two countries.

(2) That the Government of Cuba in its foreign policy invariably follows the principle of non-intervention in the internal

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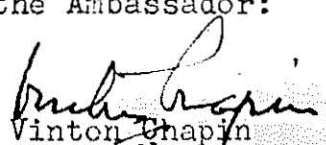
From Habana

affairs of other countries, as is proven, without room for doubt, in its relations with all governments and before inter-American public opinion.

(3) That the Government of Cuba has conducted its foreign policy in conformity with these customs and will follow these norms with all friendly countries, being alert lest factors foreign to its sovereignty intervene or interfere in matters of its exclusive concern. (UNCLASSIFIED)

(CONFIDENTIAL) The statement of the Foreign Minister is somewhat confused. Identical versions appeared in all papers carrying it, and it was obviously issued as a press release. Regret for the interview published by VISION is expressed only by indirection, and the third point mentioned by Dr. Guell contains a fairly clear warning. While not entirely satisfactory, the Minister's statement may nevertheless be useful in soothing any indignation which has been developed among leaders of the Dominican Republic as a result of the VISION interview. It would have been difficult for Dr. Guell to go further, since it is understood that Batista did not wish to grant an interview to VISION representatives and only replied to the questionnaire after repeated urging by Dr. Guell personally.

For the Ambassador:


Vinton Chapin
Counselor of Embassy

CC: Ciudad Trujillo

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