



THE FOREIGN SERVICE  
OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

*[Handwritten signature]*

No. 51

American Embassy  
Habana, Cuba, January 25, 1949

CONFIDENTIAL

Subject: Virulent Radio Attacks Against the United  
States by Owner of RHC Radio Chain;  
Suggested Policy

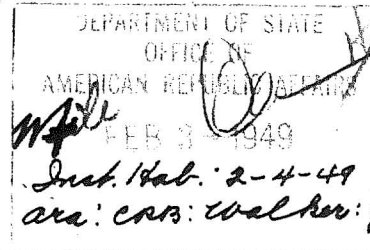
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The Honorable  
The Secretary of State,  
Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to refer to the Embassy's despatch No. 869 of October 29, 1948, concerning the pro-Argentine and anti-United States utterances of Amado TRINIDAD Velasco, director of the radio network RHC (Cadena Azul), and to report a virulent recrudescence of the latter's attacks on "Yankee Imperialism".

By way of background it may be stated that Trinidad has been at odds with ex-Senator Eduardo CHIBAS and Goar MESTRE, director of the CMQ radio network, for some months. Open enmity between Trinidad and Chibás dates back to October 24, 1948 when the latter insinuated in a radio address that Trinidad was being paid by the Argentine Government to campaign in favor of General PERON and to combat "Yankee Imperialism" at his behest. Unfriendliness between Trinidad and Mestre, originally due to business competition, developed into open hostility when Trinidad suddenly and without apparent reason began to attack Mestre over the air as an instrument of Yankee interests. The ill-feeling between the two men was intensified when Mestre retaliated by announcing in a broadcast on November 12, 1948 that Trinidad had failed to reply to charges that he was accepting Argentine gold to campaign for General Perón and that his puzzling silence was indicative of his embarrassing position.

Trinidad's new offensive was motivated by statements of ex-Senator Chibás in his Sunday evening radio hour on January 16. In a large part of his talk Chibás renewed his accusations that Trinidad was taking Argentine money to support the cause of General Perón in Cuba and the Caribbean area. These jibes goaded Trinidad to a series of bull-like charges in which he took the offensive and

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lashed out frantically at those whom he considered his tormentors. Basing his accusations on certain half truths liberally sprinkled with the usual anti-imperialist shibboleths, Trinidad presented himself as the victim of a monstrous plot to force his radio station out of business because he would not kowtow to Wall Street interests. As will be seen below, certain of his charges were rather extreme, so much so that it has been considered advisable for the Embassy to adopt a policy towards his person and his activities.

Although Trinidad never mentioned the American Embassy by name -- always referring to it as "a certain embassy" in a manner which left no possible doubt as to what he meant, he did make frequent references to "Yankee imperialism", "Wall Street", et cetera. His attacks were directed personally against Chibás and Goar Mestre; he did not name these two gentlemen in any passage, referring to them also in descriptive but unmistakable terms.

As mentioned in the despatch referred to above, Trinidad's attacks took the form of editorials broadcast by his radio station from 6:00 to 6:10 p.m. as part of a half-hour newscast called "The Writings of Amado Trinidad". (The sub-director of RHC, who also has much to do with policy, is Armando CANALEJO Gil.) The more vitriolic of the two attacks was first broadcast on January 17, the day after Chibás' charges, and repeated on January 19. The other was given on January 18.

#### Remarks of Eduardo Chibás

There follows a brief summary of the Chibás statements of January 16 which brought on the Trinidad attacks:

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In October I accused Perón of trying to gain control of RHC for the sum of \$250,000.00 a year(#) for four years, for a Caribbean and Central American propaganda campaign which was also to deal with me and Goar Mestre. In spite of my demands that Trinidad explain his position, demands seconded by Mestre and Manolo FERNANDEZ, he remained silent. And only a few weeks ago he went on the air with three editorials, entitled: "Present, Dr. Carlos PRIO Socarrás", "The Lackeys of Yankee Imperialism", and "Perón and I."

Documents have now come into my hands which confirm all my accusations. In August Dr. Casto MIER, Trinidad's legal adviser, publicly defended Perón; and shortly thereafter he was visited by a

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(#) As mentioned in the previous despatch, it is assumed that it is Cuban, not Argentine pesos which are meant. One Cuban peso equals one American dollar.

Mr. William G. AITKMAN and his newspaper-woman wife Tuka ALVARADO, both Argentines and agents of Jaime YANKELEVICH, Perón's principal stooge in gaining control of Argentine radio. These two proposed an arrangement between Trinidad and Perón through the intermediary of Yankelevich.

Aikman and Tuka Alvarado, two of Perón's cleverest agents, came to Cuba specifically to initiate negotiations with RHC, since Cuba is in a key spot to cover this part of the world. Their correspondence in my possession, letters and cables, show clearly the extraordinary aggressiveness of the Peronist movement in Latin America. These communications were furnished to me by democratic Argentines living in Cuba, who also gave me the key to decipher their code.

(There follows a long exposition of the contents of numerous cables and letters purporting to be between the agents and their Buenos Aires principals regarding negotiations with Trinidad. The most interesting is one in which it is stated that unless Trinidad soon receives a satisfactory answer to his proposals [ \$250,000 a year for four years ] he will make his peace with the opposition and give up the propaganda project.)

#### Trinidad's First Attack.

Although, as Chibás said, Trinidad had remained silent in the face of the October accusations, he did not do so now. On January 17, the day after Chibás' talk, he broadcast the most scathingly anti-American, anti-Chibás, anti-Mestre tirade heard to date in this name-calling contest; it was called "Sowers of Hate". There follows a summary of this "editorial" which was repeated on January 19:

I accuse: I denounce before my countrymen the tortuous plot which is being hatched in the darkness by the agents of Yankee imperialism. I accuse my detractors of being the lackeys of that imperialism in Cuba, working to prepare the ground for a dictatorship or a coup d'etat. I accuse those who accuse me of being a Perón agent, of being themselves the agents of an imperialism which is spending millions in Cuba through the intermediary of a certain embassy...

I accuse that group of adventurers whose visible representatives are: an aspirant to the presidency of the Republic [Chibás], and the other an ambitious man who wants to control Cuban radio [Mestre]. For their goal it is

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necessary to maintain a state of civic perturbation designed to break Cuban morale and provide a pretext for dictatorship. And they must gain control, for their ends, of the two basic elements of a coup: the press and the radio...

I accuse one of these men, raised and educated in the United States, and whose frequent visits to Washington and to a certain embassy could bear some scrutiny, of being the agent entrusted with buying up the majority of the radio stations of Cuba; and who has made buying proposals to many members of the Federation of Cuban Broadcasters, agreeable in principle to taking money for their stations. The only man who has withstood these onslaughts is Amado Trinidad Velasco of RHC, who has been offered as high as three million pesos and has flatly refused to sell. I accuse certain powerful foreign companies of exerting pressure on RHC to this end, that they might create a radio monopoly in Cuba with a three-fold aim: 1) Political control, so that the ideology would be that of the plotting group; 2) To create a radio trust so that advertisers would be forced to pay whatever rates the monopoly considered convenient; 3) To cheapen radio talent so that artists, musicians, writers and commentators would be at the mercy of the trust for their wages. I have stood out against this trust with all my powers, and consider that to sell my business would be to sell out my country. I accuse my enemies of having blocked my efforts to bring television to Cuba, the negotiations for which were already completed.

I accuse a group of stockholders in another Cuban radio company of having exerted pressure on a certain foreign embassy to bring about the suppression of my wave-length of 590 kilocycles, through the insolent intermediary of a commercial attaché, the proof of whose activities is in my possession. (Comment: This reference, as well as the later one to a "radio company in the south of the United States" apparently alludes to the

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attempts of the Atlanta station WAGA to move Trinidad's station CMCY to prevent interference with WAGA's broadcasts. The trouble arose through operation of a non-directional antenna as the result of hurricane destruction to CMCY, and was last discussed in the Embassy's telegram No. 791 of December 8, 1948; an earlier pertinent reference was the Embassy's despatch No. 99 of February 10, 1948. According to the Commercial Attaché, who visited Trinidad concerning the matter, the latter was very cordial at that time and even proposed that WAGA send representatives to Habana to discuss the situation. It might be that Trinidad, pondering these above-board proposals in the light of his later grievances, subsequently decided or was convinced that they were in reality part of a deep and subtle plot to remove him from the radio scene.)

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XR

I accuse that foreign embassy of putting pressure on certain groups of RHC's advertisers to take their business away from me, as a result of which we have lost several foreign accounts (N.B.: SEARS and ROEBUCK, as mentioned in despatch 869 of October 29, 1948; and other possibilities as outlined at the end of the present despatch.) I point with pride to the fact that many Cuban and Spanish firms immediately filled this breach by doubling their radio time.

I accuse a radio company in the south of the United States of conniving with the group of conspirators to force me to remove my transmitting equipment from the Finca del Guarapo and take it to the northern part of Cojimar, where there is neither electricity nor telephone service; whereas the rival company, at the bottom of these sinister plans, is allowed to function in the heart of the city of Habana on municipally-owned land.

I accuse this group of conspirators of being in direct contact with American imperialist interests with the aim of getting control of a number of Habana newspapers; this with the same goal as in the radio field: to gain control of all informational sources. They want a setup like that they have installed in Santo Domingo--dictatorship of all radio, press and principal businesses.

I accuse two well known public service

companies

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companies in Cuba of not being unaware of all this plotting, since their concessions are about to expire and they need a puppet government directed by stooges in order to be able to renew those contracts so inimical to the interests of Cuba.

I accuse two Argentines, a man and a woman, agents provocateurs whose names I learned last night /he evidently means in Chibás' speech/, who pretended to be agents of Perón in Cuba and who in reality are the agents of that group of conspirators; who forged signatures, documents, and telegrams to make them appear as evidence against me.

I accuse a certain Argentine woman of having tried to blackmail me several days ago for 50,000 pesos, attempting to sell me documents compromising my person. This woman is directed by a Cuban lawyer who is in the pay of the conspirators. I declare publicly that I refused to be blackmailed and kicked out that blackmailer whose proofs were cackled abroad last night.

I accuse that group of conspirators of having been implicated in the series of lamentable occurrences which have happened recently in Cuba... placing bombs and making attentats, then blaming the Cuban revolutionary groups in order to discredit the Government and help soften up the country for a coup. I accuse them of handling huge sums of money, since they offered me three million for RHC, and I demand an investigation of their nefarious doings... I call upon the security services, the police, the intelligence services, et cetera, and even the Cuban Army, to be on guard against these activities; for if they are not, we in Cuba shall very soon be sorry.

### The Second Attack

The following night, on January 18, came the follow-up talk, entitled: "The Conspirators in Argentina". It was not quite as venomous as its predecessor, and resolved itself principally into a personal attack against Chibás, with Mestre coming in for his share. A summary of pertinent parts follows:

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There is an intercontinental conspiracy, paid for by dollar imperialism, against the nationalistic policies of Argentina. The heads are in the United States, in New York and Wall Street, but there are ramifications throughout Latin America -- they have enlisted a regular fifth column of intellectuals, writers, newspapermen, politicians, businessmen, et cetera. Their goal is to stir things up and prepare the way for dictatorship.

In Cuba this group works in every phase of public and private life, in the press, in politics, in parliament, in the sugar industry, and, above all, in the radio. Two chief saboteurs are an ex-senator who talks on the radio and an industrialist who is the Cuban stooge of RCA and the National Broadcasting Company. Both these men were expelled from Argentina as undesirable elements interfering with the internal policies of the nation...

It is to the interest of these two to poison Cuba's mind against Argentina for their international monopolist masters. But Cuba and Argentina remain friends in spite of their machinations. They are sowers of hate.

Argentina has the right to have the government it wishes, and 80% of the people voted for Perón. But since this ex-senator made himself ridiculous on his trip to Buenos Aires, in which activity he was the pawn of Mr. BRADEN and Wall Street, he lives with his hate of everything Argentine and never misses a chance to give it vent.

I shall not go into the real reason for this man's phobia. The truth is that relatives of his in Argentina, in Mendoza, were forced by the present Argentine Government to disgorge the lands they had robbed from the Argentine farmer.

This man speaks of documents. I will show the photostatic copies of my documents to him, to anyone who wishes to see them. They prove he is an agent of Wall Street. And I did not get

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them through any double agents; they were obtained for me in Buenos Aires by Evelio PEREZ /one of Trinidad's henchmen/, and I kept them for just such a contingency as this. And I know what really happened at the Buenos Aires radio conference. The Yankee agents of NBS and CBS went there solely to provoke, poison and perturb the proceedings, but they failed signally...

We repudiate foreign interference in our internal affairs. This is a long theme which I will take up later. To sum up for the present, I want to make the following declarations:

- I have never visited a certain embassy in Cuba.
- I have never gone to Washington on a mission.
- I have never been the lackey of any North American radio interests.
- I have always been anti-imperialist.
- I was born in Cuba and educated in Cuba, and owe nothing to any imperialism or any monopoly.
- The books of RHC are open to anyone who cares to examine them. The company is affiliated with no U. S. chain.
- My RHC is 100 percent Cuban.
- I have never visited Argentina, nor gone there to plot.
- I am not a politician. All I want is the aggrandizement of my country, and to make my radio station a worthy contributor to that aggrandizement.

#### Suggested Policy Toward RHC

This Embassy believes that Trinidad's attacks against the United States have now reached such a point of bitterness that we should formulate a definite policy toward the RHC chain, with particular reference to the advice to be given American firms which are using or considering the use of this network for their advertising. In addition to the withdrawal by Sears Roebuck and Company of their advertising program (as reported in the Embassy's despatch No. 869 of October 29, 1948), an officer of the Ford Motor Company very recently consulted the Embassy

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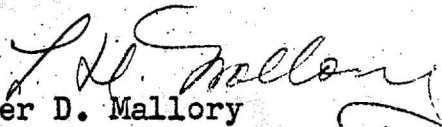
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pointing out that, in view of reports of RHC's anti-American broadcasts, he would appreciate the Embassy's advice whether he should sign a contract with that station.

The Embassy feels the Department will agree that Trinidad's outbursts are unwarranted and that, because of the importance of his station, may prove to be effective anti-United States propaganda. As a matter of record, the Embassy has transcribed from a recording the broadcast of January 17, the Spanish text of which is enclosed. The senior officers of this mission agree that there should be no objection to our furnishing American inquirers with copies of this address so that they can reach their own conclusions. At present, however, it is not felt that the Embassy is in a position to make recommendations to American business concerns with respect to their advertising over RHC. In view of the importance of this matter, the Department's comments would be welcome.

Respectfully yours,

  
Lester D. Mallory  
Chargé d'Affaires ad interim

Enclosure:   
Spanish text of broadcast  
by Amado Trinidad on January 17.

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