

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT
BUREAU OF TRANSPORTATION
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

IN REPLY REFER TO:

I:H:A:W

125/97 - 125/8

August 9, 1955.

Mr. Francis Colt de Wolf
Chief, Telecommunications Division
Department of State
21st and C Streets, N. W.
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. de Wolf:

Reference is made to your letter TD dated August 2, 1955, with which you sent a copy of Despatch No. 27 dated July 12 concerning the possible awarding of exclusive air mail contracts by Cuba and asking for our comments.

Presently there are four Cuban airlines with permits to carry mail between the United States and Cuba. They are Cubana, Q. Airways, Cuba Aeropostal and Expresso. The last two transport freight principally. The U.S. Post Office Department dispatches most of its mail to Cuba via American carriers. Cubana is given small amounts only when their schedules will expedite the delivery of the mail.

There is no special agreement between the Postal Administrations of the United States and Cuba regarding the dispatch of air mails. Each country dispatches its own mail via the service of its choice. Regarding the arrangements for payments by Cuba for transportation of their mail by the American carriers, the airlines are permitted to contract directly with the Cuban Postal Administration. The contracts must be approved by our Department and as far as Pan American is concerned, the amount of \$1,250 per month is correct.

With respect to the Embassy's inquiry in the third paragraph of the despatch and as far as this Department is concerned from a mail transportation standpoint we would not ask that any representation be made. The Department desires only to have the right to use any or all of the air services available for the transportation of its mail to meet the needs of the Postal Service.

On the other hand we do not believe that the delivery of the mails should be delayed by holding them for one carrier when other schedules are available. We would try to influence the other Postal Administration from adopting such a policy especially when it affected an American carrier.

Sincerely yours,

George Siedle
George Siedle
Assistant Postmaster General

DC/R

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U.S. POST OFFICE POLICY STAFF (22)

File
Memo to Mr. Pennington
(AR) by H.K. 8/23/55
enclosing original - retaining
copy for TD File, RD

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