

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

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TO : ARA - Mr. Rubottom
MID - Mr. Neal

ASSISTANT SECRETARY
FOR
INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

DATE: October 18, 1956

FROM : MID - Mr. Montllor

OCT 22 1956

R.A.C.
10/19

SUBJECT: Invasion of Cayo Sal (British) by Eleven Young Cubans

Ambassador Gardner called Mr. Leonhardy this afternoon to inform him that he had just received a call from the Cuban Minister of State, Dr. Guell, in which the latter stated that he had just been informed eleven young Cubans had landed on Cayo Sal this morning and had torn down the British flag. Minister Guell said that the Cuban Government was anxious to make it known that this incident did not have its backing and that it appeared to be an attempt to embarrass the Batista regime. He reiterated to the Ambassador that the move did not have the sympathy of the Cuban Government and that any claim that Cuba might have to Cayo Sal would have to be settled through normal diplomatic channels.

Ambassador Gardner said that the Embassy had attempted to get in touch with the British Charge in Habana to obtain his reaction to the incident, but that he was out of his office on a late luncheon date and had not returned. It seemed apparent from this that the British had not become aware of the event as yet.

NOTE: The Cuban Ministry of State approached our Embassy in Habana in August 1955, requesting support for its claim to Cayo Sal, indicating the British had not exercised sovereignty over the Island. We informed the Ministry that the Island had been leased to Mr. Clarence B. Moody of Miami by the Bahaman Government and the latter was constructing facilities for sports fishing, an airstrip and a small harbor. All this, it was explained, was known to the Cuban Navy. Subsequently, this fall the matter was subject to considerable publicity in the Habana press regarding Cuba's claim to the Island. A number of hotheads were clamoring for Cuban occupation. The British announced their sovereignty over the Island and the Cuban Government stated it was studying the matter to determine whether or not Cuba had a justifiable claim.

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FROM : AMEMBASSY, HAVANA
TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

COPY NO. 1

REF : --

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SUBJECT: Cuban designs on Cay Sal.

On July 14, 1955 the Foreign Minister called me to his house to discuss various matters, including the desire of Cuba for the cession of Cay Sal, an atoll North-North East of Cárdenas (23°43'N, 80°24'W). Giving him no encouragement, I returned to his house the following day to receive further details and the two enclosures to this despatch, evidently prepared by the Cuban Navy and which have been circulated by the Embassy.

Dr. Saladrigas stated that Cay Sal lies only 10 miles from Cuban territory, that there is no reason why it should be considered one of the Bahaman group since the British have never exercised an act of sovereignty over it, that it has at times been occupied by the Cubans but, to his knowledge, never by the British, nor the Spaniards and that it is uninhabited and completely abandoned.

The Cuban Government fears that Cay Sal may be used for revolutionary attempts hence, as borne out by the enclosures, Cuba recently requested of Great Britain the cession of this atoll. The Minister admits that these negotiations were seriously prejudiced by the injudicious request (Cuban note of March 23, 1955) for permission to install a meteorological station on the Cay. The British have replied to neither démarche.

Cuba now wishes to push the question of cession but feels that its demand cannot prosper without the backing of the United States. With this in view, Dr. Saladrigas now requests, as an act of the greatest possible friendship and assistance, that our Government conduct an historical and geographic study of the status of Cay Sal, in order to justify Cuban pretensions. If these were found valid, Cuba would press its claim, directly with Great Britain or through the International Court of Justice.

Expressing slight dubiousness regarding the wisdom of pursuing the matter, I promised to give it careful consideration before putting the case before the Department. After studying charts and photographs available to the Embassy, I returned to the Minister's house on July 16.

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REPORTER

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Desp. No. 51
From HASSIA

I told Dr. Saladrigo that we had evidence that the situation completely, first telling him that the charts that Cay Sal lies some 30 miles from Cuban territory, and not 16 or 19 as variously alleged by the Cuban Navy. I showed him US Navy photographs taken from the air at the request of the Cuban Navy on April 3, 1955 on which there appear a fairly large house, one or two vehicles and a light airplane parked on a dirt airstrip from 2,500 to 3,000 feet long, cut out of the coral. I said that the pictures were taken because the Cuban Navy had heard there was some strange activity on the Cay, and that they had been informed some time ago by our Naval Mission of the existence of the airstrip.

The Minister was staggered, yet extremely grateful for the information furnished him, since it put a very different complexion on the case. He is sending one of his Foreign Office advisors to see me tomorrow and to examine the evidence we have. Early tomorrow morning photographs of the atoll will again be taken, in order to determine whether additional construction has taken place.

No information regarding these consultations will be given to my British colleague since he, in turn, gave us no advice regarding the Cuban requests, despite our strategic interest in the Bahamas.

Danger incident to insurrectionary activity based on the Cay could probably be taken care of by a Cuban Navy patrol boat. Cuban interest in this possession may be due to a desire to distract the public.

Further developments will be promptly reported.


Carlos C. Hall
Chargé d'Affaires ad interim

✓ Enclosures

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Incl No 1
Disp No 51
File Habana

TRANSLATION

Memorandum
Regarding the Cayo Sal Bank

BACKGROUND

First: On July 1, 1954, Commander Guillermo York, on instructions from the Chief of the General Staff of the Navy, addressed a paper to the Minister of State enclosing two nautical charts and a memorandum regarding the cession to the Cuban State of the Cayo Sal Bank, which the memorandum thought at the present time (June of 1954) (sic) belongs to Great Britain.

Second: From the files of the Ministry of State (National Commission for the Codification of International Law) this communication appears to have been transmitted to the Ambassador of Great Britain, for in the file there is a record of the acknowledgment of the British Ambassador in Habana, W. H. Gallienne, dated August 18, 1954, reporting that he had sent the memorandum to London. It does not seem from the files that after that date anything was done in the direction of obtaining the desired result.

Third: Subsequently, on February 15, 1955, the Chief of the General Staff of the Navy wrote the Minister of State asking that the necessary steps be taken with the British Government in order to obtain permission for the installation by the Navy of a meteorological station on Elbow Cay, a small island located in the Cayo Sal Bank.

Fourth: This communication of the Navy appears to have been transmitted to the Ambassador of Great Britain in Habana and to our Ambassador in London on March 23, 1955.

The British Ambassador acknowledged receipt on April 6, giving assurances that he would use his good offices for the granting of this permission and offering to send a report to the Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of Her Britannic Majesty's Government.

For his part, Ambassador Mendoza (communication dated April 15) reported that he had begun action looking toward the cession of Cayo Sal and suggested that these negotiations might be trammelled by the request for permission for the establishment of a meteorological station in which the Navy was interested. The Cuban Ambassador asked for instructions in the premises.

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Desp. No. _____
From Habana

OBSERVATIONS

First: In the judgment of the writer this matter has been incorrectly handled from the beginning.

The Government of the Republic of Cuba should have claimed the group of little islands of Cayo Sal as an integral part of the national territory, starting an investigation beforehand into the title of sovereignty to this group that England affirms it has.

Not cession should have been sought, therefore, but recognition of Cuban sovereignty based:

- a) On the geographical position of the Sal Bank, located only sixteen nautical miles, at its closest point, from our coasts.
- b) On the fact that Great Britain has never exercised any act of dominion over Cayo Sal.
- c) On the fact that this place is now totally abandoned, constituting a danger to Cuban navigation and sovereignty.

Second: It does not appear from the file in the Office of the National Commission for the Codification of International Law that Her Britannic Majesty's Government has given any answer to the note that the English Ambassador in Habana stated he sent to London on August 8, 1954, that is to say, close to ten months ago, which demonstrates that Great Britain, following its long-term unchanging policy, never cedes an inch of territory that it has occupied, whatever means it may have used to occupy it. We have evident examples of this conduct of England in America in Belize and in the Falkland Islands; not to mention more than two of the places that have been the subject of uninterrupted international controversy.

Third: Before the preparation of the Chief of the General Staff of the Navy's communication of July 1, 1954, which served to open the file mentioned in the preceding paragraph, England's right to the occupation of the group of rocks that make up the so-called Cayo Sal Bank should have been carefully investigated. Many of these rocks still carry Spanish names: such as, Cayo Dama, la Isla Anguila, el Cayo Dos Bocas, el Cayo Muerto, the Rompidas group, the Lavanderas group, and the Bank itself, known as Cayo Sal.

Fourth: A formal claim to the sovereignty of these cays should have been made, the cays never having been officially occupied by England and being totally abandoned by it, consti-

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From

tuting a danger to navigation and a favorite place for the asylum of wrongdoers and for smuggling activities harmful to Cuba, as is demonstrated, without any kind of doubt, by the discovery made on July 19 of 1953 in Cayo Elbow of an important shipment of arms intended for Cuban revolutionaries, advantage having been taken of the complete abandonment of the said place so close to Cuban shores.

Fifth: The mistake made by the Cuban Ministry of State was aggravated by the request for permission to establish a meteorological station on Elbow Cay (Second File paper: communication of the Ministry of State of February 15, 1955) because then in an indisputable manner the dominion of Great Britain over the place in question was recognized and the steps earlier taken in direction of obtaining the cession of the group of rocks that make up the Cayo Sal Bank was contradicted.

PROPOSED SOLUTION

First: The Ministry of State should insist on the cession of the Cayo Sal Bank, requesting that the sovereignty of Cuba over the group of little islands that compose it be recognized.

Second: The claim should be presented with all firmness and accompanied by the documents necessary to demonstrate:

a) That the Cayo Sal Bank has been entirely abandoned since time immemorial.

b) That the British Government has not exercised any act of dominion over the rocks which make it up, nor established any kind of local administration that would insure the regular exercise of the authority of Great Britain in that place.

c) That Cuba had no need to engage in any such acts inasmuch as Cayo Sal Bank is within the jurisdiction of Cuban territorial waters.

d) That the absence of all authority and watch over the group of rocks that make up the Cayo Sal Bank constitutes a danger of constant character to navigation in the vicinity of the Cuban shores, especially in front of the Nicolás Canal, and because it further favors smuggling to Cuba's prejudice and the fomenting of revolutionary activities aimed at disturbing the peace of our country.

JdeZengotita/dw

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TRANSLATION

Highly Confidential

RE CAYO SAL

Report No. 2

- 1) The preceding report is reaffirmed.
- 2) With the present report there are transmitted the following additional data:
 - a) A complete index, taken from official British data, which comprises all the independent nations, colonies, territories, protectorates, mandates, etc. that make up the "Commonwealth of Nations" and constitute what is called the British Empire.
 - b) A detailed report, brought up to date, based exclusively on official British Government sources and on publications from Her Majesty's Stationery Office in London, in which there are set out all these nations, colonies, etc., arranged in accordance with their political status.
 - c) An unofficial sketch map, taken from the "Bahamas" article of the Encyclopedia Americana (page 45, volume 3), in which it is shown that the archipelago of the Bahamas takes in only the group (of islands) up to that called Cayo Verde, which is the closest to the coast of Cuba of those that are more than fifty miles away. In none of the maps that we have studied is the atoll of Cayo Sal included, and Cayo Sal even has a geological configuration different from that of the rest of the Archipelago of the Bahamas. This is recorded here in the hypothetical case of England's maintaining that the atoll of Cayo Sal belongs to the Bahamas group.
- 3) Not only has England not included the atoll of Cayo Sal in the Bahamas group, but it has never carried out any act of dominion over any of the cays that make up the group. In accordance with the unanimous opinion of all writers on international law, beginning with the well-known work of Professor F. de Martens of St. Petersburg University, Cuba could acquire it by right of occupation, since it would be the first occupant of the same.

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4) It could further be maintained that the atoll and particularly Cayo Sal is located within Cuba's territorial waters, only nineteen nautical miles from the nearest point, according to the report of the (Cuban) Navy.

5) It could also be maintained that the occupation of Cayo Sal is not only a legitimate act of sovereignty, but that the act of occupation is also necessary:

a) To prevent the smuggling of merchandise into Cuba.

b) For the national security, since on a recent date the Navy discovered on Cayo Sal itself a smuggled lot of arms intended for the fomenting of an uprising in Cuba (a civil war, a disturbance of the public order).

c) In order to prevent the introduction of undesirable or clandestine immigrants. It is easy to disembark on Cayo Sal and in a matter of two hours, in a launch of moderate speed, to travel to any number of points on the coast of Cuba.

d) For the safety of navigation in the narrow channel, of only 19 miles' width at the narrowest part, separating it from the Island of Cuba, to which end the occupation of the cay should be completed by the installation of a light of the requisite range.

e) For the establishment of a meteorological station staffed by Cuban technicians, which would be of great value not only to Cuba but also to the Florida coast.

f) To insure a guard in case of air attacks by enemy powers of the United States, which enemies could choose for a surprise attack on the coast of Florida this part of the waters of the Caribbean, which is unprovided with any guard.

6) At the present time the United States rents from England part of Exuma Island by virtue of an agreement signed between the United States and England on September 2, 1940. At that time England rented to the United States for a period of 99 years the waters of Abraham Bay at Mayaguana Island. But the Americans discovered that this island was not suited to the object they had in mind and they exchanged it for Exuma Island, which is marked in red on the attached sketch map. A United States Naval Air Base has been established there. The Base that Cuba would establish on Cayo Sal could furnish the

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American Naval Base on Exuma with reports of interest, both meteorological reports and reports in case of a war emergency. The Cuban base should be equipped with a radio transmitter, radar installations, etc.

7) The operation should be executed in the greatest secrecy and carried out when everything is ready to effect the occupation.

Habana, June 29, 1955.

JdeZengotita/dw

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INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

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RWR

FROM: HABANA

TO: Secretary of State

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NO: 19, JULY 21, 5 P.M.

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NAVY

PRIORITY

REPORT TO NAVAL INTELLIGENCE 214-55 FROM DIO 6TH NAVAL DISTRICT
DATED JUNE 15 BUT ONLY AVAILABLE TO ALUSNA EMBASSY TODAY PUTS
COMPLETELY DIFFERENT ASPECT ON CAY SAL PROBLEM (EMBASSY DESPATCH
51, JULY 18). FOLLOW-UP DESPATCH REPORTING LATEST DEVELOPMENTS
BEING PREPARED BUT MUST AWAIT COURIER. GIST IS SALADRIGAS
CONVINCED INCIDENT LIKELY UPSET GOOD RELATIONS WITH GREAT
BRITAIN NOT WARRANTED AND CUBA SHOULD LIMIT ITS ACTION TO
REPEATED REQUEST FOR METEOROLOGICAL FACILITIES ON CAY SAL BANK.

SUGGEST NAVY AUTHORITY BE SECURED MAKE KNOWN CONTENTS CITED
INTELLIGENCE REPORT TO SALADRIGAS AND BATISTA IN ORDER PRECLUDE
ANY POSSIBILITY PRECIPITATE CUBAN ACTION. CABLED INSTRUCTIONS
REQUESTED.

HALL

RWN

MR. GOODMAN - 4629

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AIR TOUCH
PRIORITY

JUL 22 1955

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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

637.41F13/7-2155
MITD

FROM : AMEMBASSY, NASSAU
TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

July 21, 1955

REF : Embdesp 51, July 18, 1955, Labeled 19, July 21, 1955

24 For Dept. Use Only	ACTION	DEPT.	RM/R	EUR
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	7/28			

SUBJECT: Cay Sal Bank

Personal observation and photographs taken by the Attaché airplane the morning of July 19 showed that an increase in construction activities had taken place on Cay Sal since the Navy photographs were taken on April 5, including a channel being dug connecting the lagoon with the sea.

Later in the morning Dr. José Martínez, Technical Advisor of the Foreign Office, called on me by instructions of the Foreign Minister. He revealed that the two enclosures to the cited despatch had been prepared by him (the second one in 1954) and not by the Cuban Navy as I had been informed. Dr. Martínez was of no particular help, being imbued with vague notions regarding the Bank, its "proximity" to Cuba, geological formation differing from that of the other Bahamas, etc. He felt that Cuba should insist on its cession, or should even proceed to occupy it and then justify such action.

Yesterday I called again at Dr. Saladrigas' house to tell him of what our plane had observed on the 19th. I gave him the US Navy photographs taken on April 5, which he was to show to President Batista last night. Saladrigas admitted that the Foreign Office had acted in error by first requesting cession (I do not know on what grounds) of the atoll, then permission to use it as a meteorological base. He agreed that it is not worthwhile creating an incident over this piece of territory with a Power enjoying happy relations with Cuba at this time. Pointing out that Cuba had already received meteorological rights over Great Cayman Island from Great Britain, south of Cuba, I suggested that, if pressed, Great Britain would likely grant similar rights on Cay Sal. Saladrigas expressed perfect accord and promised to make this recommendation to Batista.

Today the Naval Attaché received a KI report which is the subject of the telegram cited above. Dated June 15, had it been received a week sooner it would have obviated misconceptions and travail. It appears that the Cay is held on a 99-year lease from the Bahaman Government by an American entrepreneur who intends to establish a commercial and

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Date 8-12-55

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From HARRIS

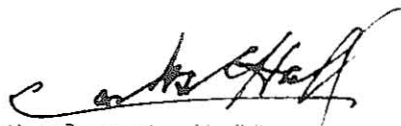
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Desp. No. 67
From HARRIS

sporting fisheries business there. It is the policy of the
informant that even a Cuban Minister of the Interior has been
visited and knows of this enterprise. It is the policy of the
our best interests to divulge the contents of this letter to
Dr. Saladrigas.

When leaving the Foreign Minister he said to me: "I am
president and I have been deceived completely. The car was
the car was abandoned and completely immobilized."

There is enclosed a set of photographs of the car
by the Air Attaché on July 15.



Carlos C. Hall
Chargé d'affaires à Madrid

✓ Enclosures 

Encl att RMR
8/15/55

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7/21/55

ALTAMENTE CONFIDENCIAL

RE: CAYO SAL.

Informe número 2

1. Se ratifica el informe anterior.
2. Se acompañan al presente los siguientes datos adicionales.

A.- Un índice completo, tomado de datos oficiales británicos, en el que se comprenden todas las Naciones Independientes, Colonias, Territorios, Protectorados, Mandatos, etc. que componen el "Commonwealth of Nations" integrantes del titulado imperio británico.

B.- Una información detallada, puesta al día, tomada en fuentes exclusivamente oficiales procedentes del Gobierno Británico y de publicaciones de la Imprenta Oficial de Su Majestad en Londres, en el que se detallan todas estas Naciones, Colonias, etc. distribuidas con arreglo al "status" político de los mismos.

C.- Un croquis informal, tomado del artículo "Bahamas" de la Enciclopedia Americana (pag. 45, vol.3) en el que demuestra que el archipiélago de las Bahamas solamente comprende en el grupo hasta el llamado "Cayo Verde", que es el más próximo a las costas de Cuba de las que se encuentra a más de cincuenta millas. En ninguno de los mapas que hemos estudiado se incluye o comprende el atolón de "Cayo Sal", el cual tiene incluso una configuración geológica distinta de la del resto del Archipiélago de las Bahamas. Esto, en el caso hipotético de que Inglaterra sostuviera que el atolón de Cayo "Sal" corresponde al Grupo de las Bahamas.

3.- No solamente no ha incluido Inglaterra en el grupo de las Bahamas el atolón de "Cayo Sal", sino que jamás ha ejercitado acto alguno de dominio sobre ninguno de los cayos que componen el grupo. De acuerdo con la opinión unánime de todos los tratadistas de Derecho Internacional, desde la obra bien conocida del profesor F. de Martens, de la Universidad de San Petersburgo, Cuba

podría adquirirlo por derecho de ocupación, ya que sería el primer ocupante del mismo.

4. Podría sostenerse, además, que el atolón, y particularmente "Cayo Sal" se encuentra dentro de las aguas territoriales de Cuba, a solo 19 millas náuticas del punto más cercano, según el informe de la Marina de Guerra.

5. Podría sostenerse, también, que la ocupación de "Cayo Sal" no solamente es un acto legítimo de soberanía, sino que este acto de ocupación es necesario:

(a) para impedir el contrabando de mercancías con destino a Cuba.

(b) Para la seguridad nacional, ya que en fecha reciente la Marina de Guerra descubrió, precisamente en "Cayo Sal", un alijo de armas destinadas a fomentar un levantamiento en Cuba, (una guerra civil, una perturbación del orden público).

(c) para impedir la introducción de inmigrantes indeseables o clandestinos. Es fácil desembarcar en "Cayo Sal" y en cosa de dos horas, en una lancha de moderado andar, trasladarse a un punto cualquiera de la costa de Cuba.

(d) para la seguridad de la navegación en el estrecho canal de solo 19 millas de ancho en su parte más angosta, que lo separa de la Isla de Cuba, a cuyo efecto la ocupación del cayo debe completarse con la instalación de un faro de suficiente alcance.

(e) Para el establecimiento de una estación metereológica servida por técnicos cubanos de gran utilidad no solamente para Cuba, sino también para las costas de la Florida.

(f) para asegurar la vigilancia en caso de incursiones aéreas de parte de potencias enemigas de los Estados Unidos, las que podrían escoger

para un ataque por sorpresa a las costas de la Florida, esta parte de las aguas del Caribe desprovistas de toda vigilancia.

6. En la actualidad los Estados Unidos tienen arrendada a Inglaterra una porción de tierra de la Isla Exuma por virtud del Convenio firmado entre los Estados Unidos e Inglaterra el 2 de Septiembre de 1940. En aquella oportunidad Inglaterra dió en arrendamiento a los Estados Unidos por un término de 99 años las aguas de la Bahía Abraham en la Isla Mayaguana. Pero los americanos descubrieron que esta isla era impropia para el objeto que se proponían y la canjearon por la Isla Exuma, marcada en rojo en el croquis adjunto. Allí ha sido establecida una base Aéro-Naval de los Estados Unidos (United States Naval Air Base). La base que Cuba estableciera en Cayo Sal, podría facilitar a la Base Naval Americana de Exuma informaciónes de interés tanto meteorológicas, como en casos de emergencia bélica. La Base Cubana debe equiparse con una estación trasmisora de radio, instalaciones de radar, etc.

7. La operación debe completarse con el mayor secreto y llevarse a cabo cuando todo estuviera listo para ultimar la ocupación.

La Habana, Junio 29 de 1955.

ANTECEDENTES

Primero:- Con fecha 1ro. de Julio de 1954 el Capitán de Fragata, Guillermo York, cumpliendo instrucciones del Jefe de Estado Mayor General de la Marina de Guerra, dirigió escrito al señor Ministro de Estado acompañando dos cartas náuticas y un Memorandum, sobre la cesión al Estado Cubano del Banco de Cayo Sal, que el Memorandum cree que pertenece en la actualidad (Junio de 1954) a la Gran Bretaña.

Segundo:- Del expediente existente en el Ministerio de Estado (Comisión Nacional de Codificación del Derecho Internacional) aparece haber sido trasladada esta Comunicación al señor Embajador de la Gran Bretaña, porque en el mismo consta el acuse de recibo del Embajador Británico en La Habana, W. H. Gallienne, informando haber trasladado a Londres el Memorandum correspondiente, con fecha 18 de agosto de 1954. No aparece en el expediente que con posterioridad a esta fecha se haya hecho ninguna gestión encaminada a obtener los resultados que se interesan.

Tercero:- Posteriormente, con fecha 15 de febrero de 1955, el Jefe de Estado Mayor General de la Marina de Guerra se dirigió al Ministro de Estado, solicitando se realicen las gestiones pertinentes cerca del Gobierno Británico a fin de obtener un permiso para la instalación por la Marina de Guerra de una Estación Meteorológica en Elbow Cay, islote situado en el Banco de Cayo Sal.

Cuarto:- Esta comunicación de la Marina de Guerra aparece haber sido trasladada al Embajador de la Gran Bretaña en la Habana y a nuestro Embajador en Londres con fecha 23 de marzo de 1955.

El Embajador Británico acusó recibo con fecha 6 de abril asegurando que utilizará sus buenos oficios para el otorgamiento de este permiso y ofreciendo enviar un informe al Secretario Principal de Estado para Asuntos Exteriores del Gobierno de Su Majestad Británica.

Por su parte el Embajador Mendoza (comunicación de fecha 15 de abril) informa que ya había iniciado gestiones para la cesión de Cayo Sal y sugiere que dichas negociaciones pueden ser entorpecidas por la solicitud de permiso para el establecimiento de la Estación Meteorológica que interesa la Marina de Guerra; el Embajador cubano solicita instrucciones a ese respecto.

OBSERVACIONES

Primera:- A juicio del que suscribe este asunto ha sido erróneamente tramitado desde el principio.

El Gobierno de la República de Cuba ha debido reclamar el grupo de islotes de Cayo Sal como parte integrante del territorio nacional abriendo una investigación previa sobre los títulos de dominio que sobre este grupo de islotes asegura tener la Gran Bretaña.

No ha debido pues, interesarse la cesión sino el reconocimiento de la soberanía de Cuba, basada,

a) En la posición geográfica del Banco de Sal, situado solamente a 16 millas náuticas en su punto más cercano a nuestras costas.

b) En que sobre Cayo Sal no ha ejercido jamás ningún acto dominico la Gran Bretaña.

c) En que este punto se encuentra totalmente abandonado, ofreciendo polígono para la navegación y la soberanía de Cuba.

Segunda:- No aparece del expediente existente en el Negociado de la Comisión Nacional de Codificación del Derecho Internacional que el Gobierno de Su Majestad Británica haya dado contestación alguna a la nota que el Embajador Inglés en la Habana asegura haber enviado a Londres con fecha 9 de Agosto de 1954, es decir, hace cerca de 10 meses, lo cual demuestra que la Gran Bretaña, siguiendo su política secular e invariable, no cede jamás una pulgada de territorio que haya ocupado, cualquiera que haya sido el procedimiento empleado para esta ocupación. Ejemplo evidente de esta conducta de Inglaterra en América lo tenemos en Belice y en las Islas Malvinas, para no mencionar mas que dos de los puntos que han sido objeto de controversia internacional, no interrumpida.

Tercera:- Antes de tramitar la comunicación del Estado Mayor General de la Marina de Guerra de Iro. de Julio de 1954, que sirve de inicio al expediente mencionado en el apartado anterior, ha debido investigarse cuidadosamente el derecho de Inglaterra a la ocupación del grupo de rocas que constituyen el llamado Banco de Cayo Sal, muchas de las cuales ostentan todavía nombres españoles como, el Cayo Bama, la Isla Anguila, el Cayo Dos Bocas, el Cayo Muerto, el grupo Rompidas, el Grupo Lavanderas, y el mismo Banco, conocido con el nombre de Cayo Sal.

Cuarta:- Ha debido plantearse una reclamación formal sobre el dominio de dichos cayos, los que nunca han sido ocupados oficialmente por Inglaterra y se encuentran abandonados totalmente por ella, constituyendo un peligro para la navegación y un lugar favorable para refugio de elementos maleantes y de actividades contrabandistas en perjuicio de Cuba, como lo demuestra, sin género alguno de dudas, el descubrimiento efectuado el 19 de Julio de 1953 en el Cayo Elbow, de un importante cargamento de armas destinado a los revolucionarios cubanos, aprovechándose el abandono completo de dicho lugar de tanta proximidad a las costas cubanas.

Quinta:- El error cometido por la Cancillería cubana se agrava cuando se solicita un permiso para el establecimiento de una Estación Meteorológica en Elbow Cay (2do. Expediente: comunicación del Ministerio de Estado de 15 de febrero de 1955) porque entonces, de una manera irrefutable se reconoce el dominio de la Gran Bretaña sobre el punto en cuestión y se contradice la gestión anteriormente realizada encaminada a obtener la cesión del grupo de rocas que constituye el Banco de Cayo Sal.

SOLUCION QUE SE PROPONE

Primero:- El Ministerio de Estado debe insistir en la cesión del Banco de Cayo Sal pidiendo que se reconozca la soberanía de Cuba sobre el grupo de islotes que lo componen.

Segundo:- Esta reclamación debe plantearse con toda firmeza y acompañarse a la misma la documentación necesaria encaminada a demostrar:

a) que el Banco de Cayo Sal se encuentra totalmente abandonado desde tiempo inmemorial.

b) Que el Gobierno Británico no ha ejercido acto alguno de dominio sobre las rocas que lo componen, ni establecido ningún tipo de administración local que asegure el ejercicio regular de la autoridad de la Gran Bretaña en aquel sitio.

c) Que Cuba no necesita haber ejercido estos mismos actos por cuanto el Banco de Cayo Sal se encuentra dentro de la jurisdicción de las aguas territoriales cubanas.

d) Que la ausencia de toda autoridad y vigilancia sobre el Grupo de rocas que integran el Banco de Cayo Sal, constituye un peligro, de carácter constante para la navegación, en las proximidades de las costas cubanas, especialmente frente al Canal de Nicotías y porque favorece además el contrabando en perjuicio de Cuba y el desarrollo de actividades revolucionarias encaminadas a perturbar la paz de nuestro país.

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1/21/55
67

COMMONWEALTH DE NACIONES

Bajo el título de Commonwealth de Naciones se designa un agregado de naciones independientes que aceptan al Rey de la Gran Bretaña como el símbolo de una asociación igualitaria y libre.

La expresión comenzó a usarse en 1949 cuando la segregación de la India del Imperio Británico y del Pakistán significó la segregación del Imperio Británico de más de cuatro millones de habitantes con más de un millón y medio de millas cuadradas de territorio.

La teoría en la que se basa el llamado Commonwealth es de debilidad manifiesta, ya que el Rey o la Reina de Inglaterra han pasado, simplemente, a ser símbolos sin autoridad ni fuerza material alguna sobre las decisiones de las naciones que integran el Commonwealth, las que todas han reclamado para sí ejercitar a plenitud una propia e independiente soberanía.

A continuación se reproduce una lista exhaustiva de todas las naciones, y dependencias con dominios, territorios y mandatos, tomada de datos oficiales del propio Gobierno Británico, entre las que se encuentran las siguientes fuentes:

The Commonwealth of Nations (Royal Institute of International Affairs, London, 1948); Statistical Abstract of the British Commonwealth; Colonial Office List; Colonial Development and Welfare Acts; Return of Schemes; publicaciones todas oficiales de His Majesty's Office de Londres.

COMMONWEALTH OF NATIONS

Sovereign States.

Country	Land Area (Sq.miles)	Population
Great Britain (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.....	93,667	49,759,000
Canadá.....	3,628,016	13,207,000
Australia.....	2,974,581	7,596,000
New Zealand.....	103,416	1,834,000

<u>Country</u>	<u>Land Area</u> (Sq.miles)	<u>Population</u>
South Africa.....	472,550	11,190,000
India.....	1,246,880	332,000,000
Pakistan.....	361,520	73,000,000
Ceylon.....	25,332	6,691,000
Southern Rhodesia (1).....	150,333	11,977,000
	<u>9,056,295</u>	<u>497,854,000</u>

(1) Great Britain controls its external affairs.

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DEPENDENCIES

(Administered by Great Britain unless otherwise indicated)

<u>TERRITORY</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>STATUS</u>	<u>Sq.miles</u>	<u>Population</u>
Aden	Indian Ocean	Colony and (Protectorate)(1)	115,000	733,880
Ascension	Atlantic Ocean	Dependency of Saint Helena	38	169
Australian Antarctic Territory	Antarctica	(Undeveloped	2,472,000)	
Bahamas	West Indies	Colony	4,466	80,000
Barbados	West Indies	Colony	166	199,000
Basutoland	South Africa	Colony	11,716	630,000
Bechuanaland	South Africa	Protectorate	275,000	300,000
Bermuda	Western Atlantic	Colony	21	35,560
British Guiana	South America	Colony	83,000	381,320
British Honduras	Central America	Colony	8,867	59,150
British Solomon Islands	Southwest Pacific	Protectorate	11,500	95,428
Brunei	Western Pacific	Protected State	2,226	48,000
Cyprus	Mediterranean	Colony	3,572	450,114
Falkland Islands	South Atlantic	Colony	4,618	2,272
Fiji	Central Pacific	Colony	7,083	269,274
Gambia	West Africa	Colony and (Protectorate)(1)	4,074	249,270
Gibraltar	Mediterranean	Colony	2	22,532
Gilbert and Ellice Is.	Western Pacific	Colony	345	36,000
Gold Coast	West Africa	Colony and Protecto- rate (1)	91,843	4,095,276
Hong Kong	Western Pacific	Colony	391	1,750,000
Jamaica	West Indies	Colony	4,765	1,340,395
Kenya	East Africa	Colony and Protecto- rate (1)	224,960	2,354,300
Leeward Islands	West Indies	Colony	423	108,850
Malay Federation of	Western Pacific	Protectorate	50,850	4,902,676
Maldives Islands	Indian Ocean	Protected State	115	79,281
Malta	Mediterranean	Colony	122	305,991
Mauritius	Indian Ocean	Colony	807	438,703
Nigeria	West Africa	Colony and Protecto- rate (1)	372,674	21,009,000

<u>TERRITORY</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>STATUS</u>	<u>Sq.miles</u>	<u>Population</u>
Norfolk Island	South Pacific	Colony (3)	13	1,000
Northern Rhodesia	Central Africa	Colony	290,323	1,729,000
North Borneo	Western Pacific	Colony	29,533	331,361
Nyasaland	Central Africa	Protectorate	37,596	2,230,000
Papua, Territory of	Southwest Pacific	Colony (2)	90,540	340,000
Pitcairn Island	Western Pacific	Colony	2	200
Ross Dependency	Antarctica	(Undeveloped) (3)	175,000	
Saint Helena	South Atlantic	Colony	47	5,000
Sarawak	Western Pacific	Colony	47,071	346,385
Seychelles	Indian Ocean	Colony	156	35,232
Sierra Leone	West Africa	Colony and Protectorate (1)	27,925	1,797,292
Singapore	Western Pacific	Colony (4)	32	940,756
Somaliland, British	East Africa	Protectorate	67,936	700,000
Swaziland	South Africa	Protectorate	6,705	190,000
Tonga	Western Pacific	Protectorate	269	44,000
Trinidad	West Indies	Colony	1,986	568,619
Tristan da Cunha	South Atlantic	Dependency of Saint Helena	34	224
Uganda	East Africa	Protectorate	93,981	4,000,000
Union (Tokelau Islands)	South Pacific	Colony (3)	4	1,380
Windward Islands	West Indies	Four colonies	821	281,465
Zanzibar	East Africa	Protectorate	1,020	250,000
			<u>1,974,964</u>	<u>55,966,018</u>

(1) Adjoining areas administered by the same government.

(2) Administered by Australia.

(3) Administered by New Zealand.

(4) Including Christmas Island and Cocois-Keeling Group.

TRUST TERRITORIES

<u>Territory</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Administrator</u>	<u>Sq.miles</u>	<u>Population</u>
Cameroons	West Africa	Great Britain	34,081	991,000
Nauru	Central Pacific	Australia	8	3,000
New Guinea, Territory of	Southwest Pacific	Australia	93,000	900,000
South West Africa (1)	South West Africa	South Africa	317,725	370,000
Tanganyika Territory	East Africa	Great Britain	342,700	5,652,000
Togoland	West Africa	Great Britain	13,041	382,000
Western Samoa	Western Pacific	New Zealand	1,133	73,000
		<u>Totals</u>	<u>801,694</u>	<u>8,371,000</u>

(1) Former mandate not constituted a trust territory.

CONDOMINIUMS

<u>Territory</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Co administrator</u>	<u>sq. miles</u>	<u>Population</u>
Anglo-Egyptian Sudan	Northeast Africa	Egypt	967,500	6,050,000
Canton and Enderbury Is.	Western Pacific	United States	20	100
New Hebrides	Southwest Pacific	France	<u>5,700</u>	<u>48,900</u>
			973,220	6,098,000

THE BRITISH COMMONWEALTH OF NATIONS

Area y población

Observación: Las áreas son cifras suministradas por el Gobierno Británico y la población tomada de los últimos números dados por los censos oficiales del Imperio Británico.

	<u>Area, Sq. M.</u>	<u>Population</u>
<u>UNITED KINGDOM</u>	<u>94,279</u>	<u>50,338,455</u>
England	50,974	41,147,938
Wales	7,466	2,596,966
Scotland	20,005	5,095,969
Northern Ireland	5,232	1,369,579
Isle of Man	221	55,213
Channel Islands	75	102,770
 <u>EUROPE (other)</u>		
Gibraltar (colony)	3	23,232
Malta (Self-gov. Colony)	95	316,619
Gozo	26	
 <u>ASIA</u>	<u>1,865,453</u>	<u>452,544,179</u>
India (Republic)	1,221,830	356,829,485
Pakistan (Dominion)	354,737	75,842,165
Aden (Col. & Protée)	115,090	800,000
Socotra (Prot.)	1,400	12,000
Bahrain Islands (Prot.)	250	120,000
Cyprus (Colony)	3,572	498,000
Ceylon (Dominion)	25,332	8,269,000
Maldivé Islands	115	93,000
Federation of Malaya (Prot.)	50,690	5,750,000
Singapore (Colony), incl.		
Christmas (Keenland)		
Island	280	1,120,777
North Borneo (Col.)	28,500	333,752
Brunei (Prot.)	2,226	46,000
Sarawak (Colony)	50,000	570,000
Hong Kong, Incl. Kow		
loon (Colony)	391	2,260,000
 <u>AFRICA</u>	<u>3,750,572</u>	<u>85,970,740</u>
 South Central Africa:		
Northern Rhodesia		
(Prot)	290,323	1,977,000
Southern Rhodesia		
(Self-gov. Colony)	150,335	2,150,350
Nyasaland (Proté)	47,404	2,401,000

EASTERN AFRICA:

Anglo Egiptian Sudan (Condominium).....	967,500	5,764,000
Kenya (Col. & Prot.)	224,960	5,750,000
Uganda (Prot.)	93,981	5,187,000
Zanzibar & Pomba (Prot)	655	272,000
Tanganyka (Trust.)	362,688	7,827,000
Somaliland (Prot.)	68,000	640,000
Unión of South Africa (Dominion)	472,550	13,153,000
Basutoland (Colony)	11,716	555,000
Bechuanaland (Prot).	275,000	294,000
Swaziland (Prot.)	6,704	184,000

WESTERN AFRICA:

Nigeria (Col. & Prot)	339,169	28,700,000
Gambia (Col. & Prot)	4,005	279,000
Gold Coast (Col. & Prot)	78,802	3,989,000
Sierra Leone (Col. & Prot.	27,925	2,000,000
Cameroons (Trust)	54,081	1,430,000
Togoland, Br.(Trust)	13,041	410,000

<u>INDIAN OCEAN</u>	876	538,515
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MauritiuIsland (col.)	720	501,415
Seychelles Island and Depend. (Colony)	156	37,100

<u>AUSTRALIA</u>	3,262,696	12,544,518
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<u>Auxtralia (Commonw)</u>	2,974,581	8,917,763
New South Wales	309,433	3,472,294
Victoria	87,884	2,405,296
Queensland	670,500	1,270,381
South Australia	380,070	765,520
West Australia	975,920	633,531
Tasmania	26,215	322,812
Northern Territory	523,620	16,946
Capital Territory	939	30,983
Norfolk Island (Col).	14	1,176
Papua (Territory)	90,540	369,975
New Guinea (Trust)	93,000	1,090,332
Nauru (Trust)	8	3,404
New Zealand (Self gov)	103,416	2,074,781
Tokelau (Nión Island (Colony)	4	1,671
Western Samoa (Trust)	1,133	85,416

<u>OCEANIA</u>	25,281	552,980
Fiji Islands (Colony)	4,724	1,100

Tonga Island (Prot)	250	49,000
Gilbert & Ellice Isl. (colony)	585	39,000
Brit. Solomon Isl. (Prot)	12,400	100,000
New Hebrides (Cond.)	5,700	52,000
Other Pacific Islands	60	300

ATLANTIC OCEAN

St. Helena Island (Col.)	47	4,9000
Ascension Isl. (Dept.)	34	170
Tritan da Cunha (Dept)	12	230

NORTH AMERICA 3,845,774 25,195,000

Canada (Dominion)		
Alberta	255,285	939,501
British Columbia	366,255	1,165,210
Manitoba	246,512	776,541
New Brunswick	27,985	515,697
Nova Scotia	21,068	642,584
Ontario	412,582	4,597,542
Prince Edward Isl.	2,184	98,429
Quebec	594,860	4,055,681
Saskatchewan	251,700	831,728
Yukon	207,076	9,096
Northwest Terr.	1,304,190	16,004
Newfoundland.	154,734	361,416

CENTRAL AMERICA 8,867 70,000

British Honduras (Colony)	8,867	70,000
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WEST INDIES 12,480 2,850,785

Bermuda (Colony)	21	38,000
Bahamas (Colony)	4,404	84,390
Barbados (Colony)	166	212,000
Jamaica (Colony)	4,411	1,430,000
Turks & Caicos Isl. (Col.)	166	6,600
Cayman Islands (Col)	100	7,000
Leeward Islands (Col)	422	120,145
Windward Is. (Col)	1,810	283,000
Trinidad, (Colony)	1,864	669,650
Tobago (Colony)	116	

SOUT AMERICA 86,068 454,830

British Guiana (Col)	83,000	452,600
Falkland Islands and		
South Georgia (Col)	6,068	2,200
GRAN TOTAL	12,992	621,435,203

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

ACTION COPY

3-6

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Action

ARA

Control: 11750

Rec'd: July 23, 1955

DEPARTMENT 8:16 p.m.

Info

FROM: ALUSNA Havana

RMR

TO: Secretary of State

BUREAU OF
INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

EUR

NO: 221736 July (Navy Message)

JUL 25 1955

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DCLC

SENT FOR ACTION DNI, REPEATED FOR INFORMATION CINCLANTFLT,
COMCARIBSEAFRON, DIO 6 ND, STATE DEPARTMENT

DIO 6 NDIR 214-55 refers.

Recent knowledge of Cuban Government request of Great Britain to cede Cay Sal to Cuba and request to establish meteorological station on Elbow Cay reported by Ambassador Havana to State in despatch No. 51 of 18 July, control priority 19 of 21 July, and despatch No. 67 of 21 July. Information of activity on Cay Sal first available to ALUSNA in April. Cuban Navy was informally advised at that time and replied that it had full knowledge of operations there. ALUSNA accompanied USAIRA in flight over Cay Sal on 19 July and observed increase in construction activity. Present indications are that request for cession will be withdrawn or not pressed. If Form 1193 not already available to DNI request permission land on Cay Sal for purpose obtaining data.

SMD/5

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AIR POUCH
PRIORITY

AUG 2 1955

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(Security Classification)

FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

637.41F13/7-2955

FROM

AMEMBASSY, HABANA

COPY NO. 1

95

TO

THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON

July 29, 1955

REF

Embassy's despatch 67 of July 21, 1955

637.41F13

ANA AKA

5- For Dept. Use Only	ACTION ARRA REC'D 8/3	DEPT. IN OTHER RM/R	E. L. R.
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SUBJECT:

Cay Sal

See
27/1

The clearance of Navy's report DIO-6ND referred to in the Department's telegram 20 of July 22 is no longer required. The information contained therein has been secured direct from Messrs. Clarence B. and C. Osment Moody, who have Cay Sal Bank under a long-term lease from the Bahaman Government.

Yesterday I called on Foreign Minister Saladrigas passing on to him the data given by the Moodys. I told him that they secured the lease 1-1/2 years ago and started constructing their installations last December. They intend to establish a commercial fishing station on Cay Sal and later another on Anguilla Island, with a total investment of over \$250,000. Sport fishing facilities will be a side-line.

I told him that three months ago an armed party was landed by the Cuban Navy vessel "Caribe" which made a thorough search of everything on the atoll, over the protest of young Mr. Moody, and that, fortunately the British authorities have not been informed of this action. Moreover, the Bahaman flag flies over Cay Sal and the British authorities intend to appoint two Bahaman employees of Moody as constables. Dr. Saladrigas remarked: "British sovereignty over the Bank seems to be established definitely."

As further evidence of poor lines of communication within the Cuban Government, I repeated Moody's statements that (1) he had taken former Defense Minister Pérez Hernández on a visit to the Island; (2) that Lieutenant Colonel Catasús Pazos of the Cuban Air Force had asked whether President Batista's plane could use the landing strip at Cay Sal in order to return therefrom after a fishing cruise on his yacht. Catasús claimed he was acting on Batista's instructions, but this may not be the case. Saladrigas said: "We have been led far astray by the Foreign Office's Technical Advisor (Dr. José Agustín Martínez), but at any rate you and I have learned a good bit of geography."

I repeated to the Foreign Minister that Moody is very anxious that the Cuban Government be fully informed of his activities on

CCHall/mgw

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Page ² of
Desp. No. 95
From HABANA

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Page
Incl. No.
Desp. No.
From

the Cay, that he is a personal friend of Batista (this has been confirmed), and that he would welcome the establishment of a Cuban meteorological station on L'bow Cay if authorized by the British.

Dr. Saladrigas intimated that Cuba would press its request to Great Britain for rights to establish such a station, forgetting all thoughts of cession of the Bank.



Carlos C. Hall
Chargé d'Affaires ad interim

SECRET

OUTGOING
TELEGRAM

INDICATE ☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

Department of State

01351

SECRET

Classification

SENT TO: Amembassy HABANA 33

Origin

Info:

Department's 20 clearance obtained for release information
ONI report on Cay Sal to Cubans except for Section seven, source,
and Officers' comments.

Dulles (125)

637.41F13/8-355

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CS/M

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classification approved by:

Robert Newbegin

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AIR POUCH
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(Security Classification)
FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM AMEMBASSY, HABANA

160

COPY NO 1

TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

August 25, 1955

REF Embassy's despatch 95 of July 29, 1955

AUG 26 1955

13	ACTION	DEPT.
For Dept.	ARA	1 N RAN/R EUR
Use Only	REC'D 5-31	0 OTHER

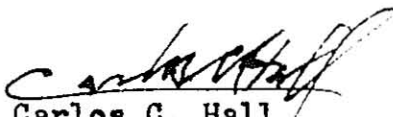
SUBJECT: Cay Sal

The British Ambassador informs me that he has been instructed by his government to advise the Cuban Government that it must refuse its requests for the cession of Sal Cay, and for permission to establish a meteorological station thereon.

The British Government feels that these requests were prompted by fears of revolutionary activity based on Cay Sal Bank and that, since concessions have been or will be granted for these islands to responsible persons and the Bank henceforth will be patrolled periodically by British Naval vessels of the West Indies Naval Station, Cuba will have no cause for alarm.

Downing Street feels that there is no need at present to reactivate the existing lighthouse on Elbow Cay, but the British Government will consider doing so itself should future developments warrant this move.

Ambassador Gallienne says that he will apprise Dr. Saladrigas of the above during the course of this week.


Carlos C. Hall
Chargé d'Affaires ad interim

CCHall/mgw

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