

October 16, 1959

Dear Senator Kefauver:

I refer to your letter of September 25, 1959 with which you enclosed a letter which you had received from Mr. Raymond A. Graham of Chattanooga, Tennessee, the attorney for Mr. Osiris Martinez, which contained several questions concerning the crash of a Cubana Airline plane in which Mr. Martinez was injured and his wife and children were killed.

The Civil Aeronautics Board informed the Department that it did not make an investigation of the accident since it did not feel it had jurisdiction in the investigation because the aircraft was of Cuban registry and the accident (reportedly) occurred in Cuba.

The State Department, because of the same reasons given by the Civil Aeronautics Board, i.e., lack of jurisdiction, did not make an investigation of the crash of the aircraft. It did, however, send a consular representative to the scene of the accident to protect the lives of American citizens who might have survived the crash and to assist in the proper disposition of the bodies as desired by the nearest relatives.

The American Embassy at Habana did send to the Department a copy of the statement made by Mr. Martinez. A copy of this statement is enclosed.

As you requested, I am returning the letter which you received from Mr. Graham.

I trust that the above information will be of help to you in answering your constituent's letter. If I can be of further assistance to you, do not hesitate to call upon me.

Sincerely yours,

William B. Macomber, Jr.
Assistant Secretary

Enclosures:

1. Copy of statement.
2. From Mr. Graham.

The Honorable
Estes Kefauver,
United States Senate.

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