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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

611-3713/5-2555
AR 611-37

FROM : AMEMBASSY, HABANA 1157
TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

REF : Embassy Despatch No. 1158 (Weeks . of 21), May 24, 1955.

24 For Dept. Use Only	ACTION	DEPT.	IN F O	OTHER
	REC'D			
5/30	ARA-4	RM/R-2	OLI-6	P-1
		CIA-7	US/A-10	OC-B-2
				NAVY-2

SUBJECT: Proposal that Cuba Be Admitted as 49th State of the Union.

On May 16, 1955, one Ramón SALAS Martínez, who described himself as the president of the Comité Nacional Acera del Louvre, approached the Public Affairs Officer with the request that the Embassy transmit to the Congress of the United States a petition by the Comité that Cuba be admitted to the Union as the 49th State. Mr. Salas was informed that the Embassy could not forward such a document. He was warned against giving it publicity which would have unfavorable repercussions, especially in view of the forthcoming celebration of Cuba's Independence Day on May 20th.

Despite the Embassy's cautioning, the Comité's petition reached the press and attracted considerable attention. The Deputy Chief of Mission immediately recognized that positive action was required in order to inform public opinion of the Embassy's rejection of Mr. Salas request and to prevent exploitation by anti-American elements of the publicity being accorded the Comité's petition. Accordingly, he directed the Public Affairs Officer to return the petition to Mr. Salas by means of a letter of May 17, 1955, and to release copies of that letter to the press. A copy of the letter is enclosed.

The petition was unanimously and severely condemned by Cuban communication media. Thanks, however, to the prompt action directed by the Deputy Chief of Mission, there was given simultaneous front-page treatment to the Embassy's letter to Mr. Salas. The Embassy's action was praised as eminently correct even by those usually critical of the United States, and anti-American exploitation of the incident was effectively spiked. Typical of the reaction of the latter was an editorial by El Mundo on May 19, 1955. The paper characterized the members of the Comité as either traitors or irresponsible. Regarding the Embassy, the paper said that "in refusing to transmit the humiliating petition of these gentlemen to their government, the Americans demonstrated that they feel the respect for our independence and our nationality that they deserve".

Also on the 19th, Mr. Salas was arrested and hauled into Urgency Court on charges of an attempt against Cuban sovereignty. The Court ordered him committed to the Mazorra mental hospital for observation for 30 days.

ECFormos, Jr.:mbw
REPORTER

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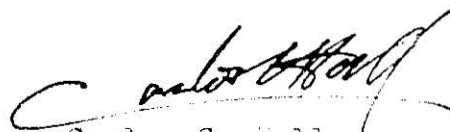
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According to its letterhead, the Comité Nacional del Louvre was founded in 1883. It was begun as a patriotic movement. It has been very anti-Communistic and has developed pro-Americanism to the point of confused thinking, as in the present case.

For the Ambassador:


Carlos C. Hall
Counselor of Embassy

Enclosure: *UT*
Copy of letter.

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THE FOREIGN SERVICE
of the
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Embajada de los Estados Unidos
Habana, Cuba, Mayo 27, 1961

Sr. Ramón Salas, Presidente,
Comité Nacional Acera del Louvre,
Calle Cienfuegos 163
La Habana.

Señor:

Por este medio informo a usted que la Embajada prefiere no transmitir a Washington el acuerdo tomado por el Comité que usted preside porque en él se encierra una sugerencia que es contraria básicamente a los mejores deseos e intereses de los Estados Unidos.

Los Estados Unidos no tienen ambiciones territoriales de ninguna clase y no desean, en forma alguna, anexarse como estado de la Unión a Cuba ni a ningún otro país soberano. Los Estados Unidos se encuentran muy satisfechos con que Cuba lograra su independencia política y consideran a la República de Cuba como a uno de sus buenos vecinos, amigo cooperativo, libre y dueño de sus propios destinos.

La Embajada de los Estados Unidos, como es natural, no tiene conexión alguna, ni ejerce influencia sobre los acuerdos del Comité que usted preside, pero preferiríamos por las razones antes mencionadas mantenernos completamente separados de cualquier participación en las resoluciones de esa índole que ustedes adopten en el futuro.

Sinceramente,

(signed) Richard G. Cushing
Richard G. Cushing
Agregado de Relaciones Publicas

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