

PAPABRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

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1 FR
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SEP 10 1946

FROM: American Embassy, Habana
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: September 9, 1946
NUMBER: 672

CONFIDENTIAL

Friday night, close to Santa Clara, Lockheed Lodestar transport plane C-18, operated by expresso Aeroc Interamericano, crashed, and all aboard, including three crew and four passengers, were lost. Pilot was Captain Jose Bravo, former Cuban military pilot of considerable experience with Expresso, and the co-pilot was Marcelino Vazquez, a graduate of Randolph and Brookes Fields, having over 1800 hours flying to his credit. Flying from Santa Clara to Habana, the plane was forced to return to Santa Clara because of bad weather, but darkness and bad weather prevented its landing there. For a one-hour trip the plane had 2-1/2 hours fuel. It is understood, unofficially, although no official investigation has been made, that while looking for a landing place in the storm and darkness the plane ran out of fuel.

Apparently, this accident emphasizes, in connection with the Caribbean Regional Air Navigation meeting, the necessity for far more adequate and continuous weather information than is available now. This is particularly true since more American firms are expected to operate soon in this area and no commercial field in

Cuba

No. 672

Cuba has directional beam equipment.

NORWEB

EP
DO/L:ER 8/10/46