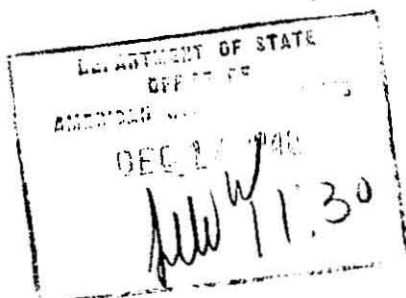


INCOMING AIRGRAM

DEPARTMENT OF STATE DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS TELEGRAPH BRANCH



From: Embassy Habana

Date: December 9, 1948

Rec'd:

Dec. 13, 1948 8:54a.m

Date of Mailing: Dec. 9, 1948

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Secretary of State,

Washington.

A-1416, December 9, 1948.

Prio's arrival in Washington was big story in today's press. Morning papers played up Truman's greeting words on Cuban-American friendship and carried play-by-play stories on ceremonies. Some included surprise award of Legion of Merit at evening banquet, others did not. Much speculation on possible replacement of Belt as Ambassador to Washington, naming as possible successors Gonzalo Giliell, now Cuban Ambassador to Mexico, and Luis J. Botifoll, Habana lawyer who accompanied Prio on trip. Description of press coverage follows:

Afternoon press, December 8.

El Pais (afternoon edition): Came out early, carried only one column saying Prio had embarked and describing plans for reception.

Alerta: Also came out early. Two photos of departure, one column on front page and 1 1/2 columns inside, describing departure and giving plans for reception.

Pueblo: Scarce half column on departure, with only the lead on front page. Features box on front page reporting that José Manuel Alenán took special airplane from Miami to Washington to interview Prio and Pérez Dánora at Cuban Embassy during stay.

Avance: Only afternoon paper which waited to report arrival. Two photos of departure on front page; two columns front page, one more inside. Headlines Truman's greeting, "There are no two countries in the hemisphere more united than Cuba and USA."

PERMANENT RECORD COPY.—This copy must be returned to DC/R central files with notation of action taken.

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From Embassy Havana
December 9, 1946.
A-3416.

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Morning press, December 9.

Diario de la Marina: gave biggest spread, broken into three different articles. Only paper to publish photos of Washington arrival, one on front page and one inside. Total $5\frac{1}{2}$ columns with $2\frac{1}{2}$ on front. Headlines Truman statement, "America and Cuba represent friendship and solidarity." Also published two photos of departure in photo section.

Información: Total $3\frac{1}{2}$ columns with one column front page. Photo of departure. Headlines feature Truman statement, "Never have two countries been more united," and Legion of Merit award.

El Mundo: Total $4\frac{1}{2}$ columns with two on front page, large photo of departure. Headline, "Truman points up an unbreakable union existing between U.S. and Cuba."

El País (morning edition): Total $2\frac{1}{2}$ columns with one column on front page. Two photos of departure on front page. Headlines Truman statement, "Never have two countries been more united..."

Prensa Libre: Total of two columns spread through tabloid layout, with lead and vignettes of Truman and Prío on front page. Large headlines feature Truman statement, "Cuba and U.S. are the best example of solidarity."

Havana Post: Five column spread dominates front page, with two photos of departure. Special article on award of Legion of Merit. Headline plays up arrival and Prío's praise of Truman as great statesman.

La Gaceta Cubana: Only five inches on Prío's arrival. A headline features the Prío-Alemán interview, with five-inch story. No photographs.

El Crisol (mid-morning): Total $3\frac{1}{2}$ columns, with one column on front page and photo of departure. Headline, "Truman and Prío hold conference--will discuss sugar--Truman desires to visit Habana."

Mañana (mid-morning): Total $2\frac{1}{2}$ columns, with $\frac{1}{2}$ column and two departure photos on front page. Headline, "President Prío attends numerous functions in his honor."

Hoy: Communist daily ran five inches of studiously factual reporting of the departure and arrival, without comment.

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