

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
OFFICE OF
AMERICAN REPUBLIC AFFAIRS

No. 284

APR 14 1948

Recd.
April 13

UNCLASSIFIED

American Embassy,

Habana, Cuba, April 7, 1948.

ACTION
ARA

INFO
OCD
FR
DCR
L
TRC
ITP

Subject: Cuban Decree Entrusts to Empresa Naviera de Cuba, S. A., the Operation of Four Merchant Vessels Recently Acquired From the United States.

ARMY
NAVY
CIA

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington.

1-0-11

Sir:

I have the honor to report that on April 2, 1948, there was published in the Official Gazette Cuban Decree No. 992 of March 22, 1948, by which Empresa Naviera de Cuba, S. A., is entrusted, on a provisional basis, with the operation of the four merchant vessels recently acquired by Cuba from the United States.

These four vessels, now known as the BAHIA DE MARIEL, BAHIA DE MATANZAS, BAHIA DE NUEVITAS, and BAHIA DE NIPE, were acquired by the Cuban Government to augment its National Merchant Marine, reduced by sinkings during the war, and, among other reasons, to give employment to the crews and other workers affected by such sinkings.

According to Decree No. 992, Empresa Naviera de Cuba has been delegated to operate these vessels temporarily under the terms of a contract to be drawn up by the Ministers of Labor and of the Treasury and the Chief of the General Staff of the Navy, until such time as other measures may be adopted. It is provided that the Minister of the Treasury shall represent the State and that he shall exercise care to assure that the conditions stipulated are always those which are most beneficial to the State.

The Ministers of National Defense, of Labor, and of the Treasury are charged with the fulfillment of Decree No. 992.

Respectfully yours,

For the Ambassador:

M. Connell
Commercial Attaché

Enclosures:

1. English translation of Decree No. 992.
2. Copy of Decree No. 992.

837.85/4-748

APR 20 1948

FILED

Enclosure No. 1 to despatch No. 211 dated April 7, 1948, from the Embassy at Habana, Cuba, on subject of "Cuban Decree Entrusts to Empresa Naviera de Cuba, S. A., the Operation of Four Merchant Vessels Recently Acquired From the United States".

(From the OFFICIAL GAZETTE of Cuba, No. 77 - First Section of April 2, 1948).

MINISTRY OF THE TREASURY

Decree No. 992.

WHEREAS: In order to foment the National Merchant Marine, this Government has acquired from the Government of the United States of America four vessels which, after being properly adapted and equipped, it is necessary to put in operation in order that they may fill the purpose for which they were acquired.

WHEREAS: It is the duty of the Government, for the purpose of preventing the unemployment caused in the maritime sector of labor, among other reasons, by the sinking of vessels torpedoed during the last war, to give the necessary work to the laborers in this field, taking the necessary measures to prevent the vessels from remaining idle by seeing to it that they commence to render service.

WHEREAS: Until such time as the definitive contract for the operation of the vessels is signed, it is necessary to entrust such operation, provisionally in character, to Empresa Naviera de Cuba, for which the Ministers of Labor and of the Treasury, and the Chief of the General Staff of the Navy, will be commissioned to draft the proper contract, and also to authorize the above-mentioned Minister of the Treasury to execute the documents which may be necessary in behalf of the Cuban Government.

THEREFORE: In use of the powers vested in me by the *Constitution of the Republic and the laws in force*, on proposal of the Minister of the Treasury, after hearing the opinion of the Minister of Labor, and with the concurrence of the Council of Ministers,

I RESOLVE:

FIRST: To entrust to Empresa Naviera de Cuba, in a provisional manner and until the definitive measures required are adopted, the operation in general terms, of the four vessels called: BAHIA DEL MARTEL, BAHIA DE MATANZAS, BAHIA DE NUEVITAS and BAHIA DE NIPE, acquired

by/

UNCLASSIFIED

by the Cuban Government for the development of the Merchant Marine, in accordance with the terms and conditions which will be stipulated in the contract to be executed for the purpose.

SECOND: To appoint the Ministers of Labor and of the Treasury, and the Chief of the General Staff of the Navy, to draw up the contract referred to in the preceding paragraph, the aforementioned Minister of the Treasury being authorized to execute in behalf of the Cuban Government all the documents that may be necessary in order to give compliance to what is herein ordered, seeing to it that the conditions which are stipulated be always the most beneficial to the interests of the State.

THIRD: The Ministers of National Defense, of Labor and of the Treasury, are entrusted with the fulfillment of what is ordered in this Decree.

RAMON GRAU SAN MARTIN
President

Raul Lopez Castillo,
Prime Minister

Isauro Valdes Moreno,
Minister of the Treasury.

Translated by: F. L. LEAL

UNCLASSIFIED