

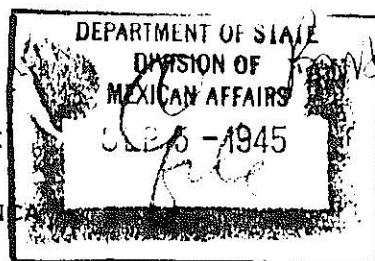
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THE FOREIGN SERVICE

OF THE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



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SECRET

AMERICAN EMBASSY

México, D.F., México,
August 28, 1945.

Dear Carrigan:

You will recall that we have instructions to keep the Department informed with regard to the movements and activities of General Batista, formerly President of Cuba. I am sending you with the original of this letter the original of a memorandum from the Civil Attaché of this Embassy, which you will note is very complete and which covers activities of General Batista adequately since his arrival in Merida. According to the appended memorandum, he is to arrive in Mexico City on August 28, and we will, of course, be able to follow his activities quite closely here.

As the appended memorandum from the Civil Attaché is quite complete, I am not going into any further detail at this time. We will keep the Department informed fully of developments.

With all good wishes,

Cordially and sincerely yours,

[Signature]
George S. Messersmith.

Enclosure:

With original of this letter only, copy of the August 28th memorandum to the Ambassador.

John Willard Carrigan, Esquire,
Department of State,
Washington, D. C.

(In duplicate)

DCR - ARA Unit
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ROBERT W. WALL, JR.
CIVIL ATTACHE

Embassy of the United States of America

Mexico, D. F.

August 28, 1945

MEMORANDUM FOR THE AMBASSADOR

Re: GENERAL FULGENCIO BATISTA
Y ZALDIVAR

For your information, a preliminary report has been received by a confidential source of this office relative to the activities of General FULGENCIO BATISTA Y ZALDIVAR since his arrival in Mexico on August 20, 1945. On this date General BATISTA, accompanied by his Secretary and Military Aide, Colonel ROLANDO M. RODRIGUEZ ALONSO, and two Secretaries, CARMEN GAMERO and MARTA FERNANDEZ, arrived at Merida, Yucatan, by plane from New Orleans, U. S. A. Awaiting them at the airport were Cuban Senator ANDRES DOMINGO MORALES DEL CASTILLO who had previously arrived from Cuba; Mexican Federal Deputy OCTAVIO REYES SPINDOLA who had been sent especially to Merida to meet BATISTA by General LAZARO CARDENAS, and who, you will recall, was Mexican Ambassador in Cuba during BATISTA'S regime; Mrs. REYES SPINDOLA; Inspector General of Police of Merida ENRIQUE MOLINA ZALASAR; Professor SAMUEL ESPADAS CENTENO, a representative of the Governor of the State of Yucatan; ALONSO TORRE, a Yucatecan who was a collaborator of General BATISTA in Cuba for some twelve years and is reportedly a close confidant of the former president, and HUMBERTO LARA, Director of the "Diario de Yucatan."

Upon his arrival, General BATISTA issued a press statement alleging that he was in Mexico for a rest and for the purpose of completing his notes prior to the publication of a book based upon his recent journey throughout Latin America. He made

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several other superfluous statements concerning "the will of democracy of the Americas" and "how unfortunate it was that all of the governments of the Americas were not truly democratic."

On August 21st, Senora MARIA LOPEZ DE PAMPIN arrived in Merida from Mexico City for the purpose of interviewing General BATISTA. It should be noted that this woman is ostensibly a reporter of the magazine "Hoy" but actually is a confidential employee of Licenciado MIGUEL ALEMAN and receives a salary from the Administrative Department of the Ministry of Gobernacion. Mrs. LOPEZ DE PAMPIN spent several hours talking to General BATISTA, dined with him and then departed on August 22nd for Mexico City.

On the afternoon of August 22nd, General BATISTA and party visited several henequen plantations as well as the Port of Progreso. On the same afternoon a special plane of the Mexican War Department arrived in Merida piloted by Colonel FELICIANO FLORES who was accompanied by the Deputy Chief of the General Staff of the Ministry of National Defense, Lieutenant Colonel ARTURO DAVILA CABALLERO. These officers, accompanied by several military aides, presented themselves to General BATISTA, advising him that on the orders of General CARDENAS, they were being placed at his complete disposition.

On August 22nd and 23rd, BATISTA and party visited the ruins of Chichen Itza.

On August 23rd, a Cuban newspaperwoman, ISA CARABALLO, arrived in Merida and awaited the General's return from the ruins.

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On the 24th there arrived from Mexico City SIGMUND RAISBAUM who presented himself to General BATISTA immediately after his arrival on the afternoon of this day. (The files of my office reflect that SIGMUND RAISBAUM is a Polish Jew who is associated with the firm "Comercial Transmar", which firm has been reported on numerous occasions to have had dealings with the Axis powers during the war and to have numerous Mexican officials in its pay by reason of its business interests in henequen plantations in Yucatan). RAISBAUM was apparently previously known to General BATISTA and was very well received by him, as well as being treated very cordially by the Deputy Chief of the General Staff, Colonel DAVILA CABALLERO.

The day of August 25th was spent in visiting the city and attending a banquet given by the Secretary General of the State Government in honor of BATISTA.

On August 26th, Cuban Senator MORALES DEL CASTILLO and Mexican Federal Deputy REYES SPINDOLA departed from Merida for Mexico City for the purpose of arranging for General BATISTA'S arrival in this city, as well as to converse with General CARDENAS relative to their interviews with the ex-Cuban President.

Shortly thereafter, Cuban Senator RAMON VASCONCELOS arrived by plane from Havana, it having been reported that he had been called by General BATISTA to discuss various political matters with him.

On the afternoon of this day, the entire party visited the offices of the "Union de Camioneros de Yucatan," one of the largest labor unions in the state and reportedly Communist dominated, where they

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were received by the President of the syndicate, Deputy FERNANDO VARGAS OCAMPO, Dr. MARCELINO PENICHE ALCOCER, and Licenciado ALFONSO GONZALES BRITO. General BATISTA spent several hours in discussion with these individuals and later in the evening, accompanied by these labor representatives, visited the tomb of deceased labor leader CARRILLO PUERTO, on which he placed a wreath.

Our sources state that General BATISTA has been highly discreet in any statements made by him in Merida and has confined his private discussions to the Cuban members of his party and representatives of General CARDENAS.

The present plans of BATISTA are to depart from Merida some time during the day of Wednesday, August 29, 1945, by Mexican military plane for Mexico City. It is known that arrangements have been made with the Hotel Reforma for rooms for the General, as well as Cuban Senator RAMON VASCONCELOS.

This matter is being followed currently and I will keep you informed of all details in the premises.

Respectfully submitted,


ROBERT W. WALL, Jr.
Civil Attache