

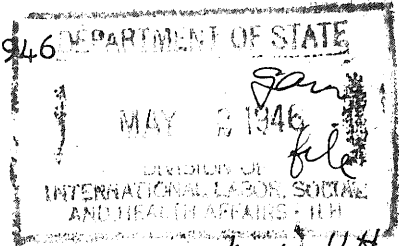


EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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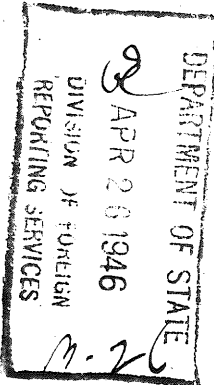
NO. 1466

Habana, April 18, 1946



*with the copy
enclosure sent to Mr.
H.A. Anslinger, 1946
May 2 1946
JAM*

Subject: Transmission of letter and enclosure
to Mr. H. J. Anslinger, Commissioner
of Narcotics, Washington, D. C.



*This matter is handled
By J L H + transmitted by them
des in Hectate only - 4 copies
of memo left on original
I added to Mr Morlok
J L H: 7R-93*

The Honorable,
The Secretary of State,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to enclose a letter with
one enclosure dated April 18, 1946, addressed to
Mr. H. J. Anslinger, Commissioner of Narcotics,
Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., from
Junior Economic Analyst James Bennett of this
Embassy, with the request that it be transmitted,
provided the Department entertains no objection
thereto.

Respectfully yours,

For the Ambassador:

[Signature]
George C. Howard
Commercial Attaché

Enclosure

Memorandum dated April 16, 1946

JBennett/GCH/bs

File No. 811.4

Original and Hectograph to Department

of file only

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By *87* NARS, Date DEC 12 1977

Confidential File

CS/VJ

837.114 NARCOTICS/4-1846

837.114 Narcotics/4

Habana, April 18, 1946

Mr. H. J. Anslinger
Commissioner of Narcotics
Treasury Department
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Anslinger:

The details of the attached memorandum, which are self-explanatory, will I am sure be of interest to you.

The booklet referred to and two clippings from the Havana press were sent to you under separate cover by regular mail.

Very truly yours,

James Bennett
Junior Economic Analyst

Enclosure:
Confidential Memorandum

JB/GCH/bs

Habana, April 16, 1946

MEMORANDUM

Mr. Antonio Gil Carballo came in to see me yesterday to ask me to forward to Mr. Anslinger, the Commissioner of Narcotics, Washington, a copy of his booklet "The Tragedy of Marihuana in Cuba" (1945).

Mr. Gil Carballo, who for years up to 1936 was sub-inspector of the secret police specializing in drug control, was dismissed, it is alleged, at the instance of Eugenio Menendez Martinez, a then henchman of President Batista and whose name has been coupled with cases of narcotic contraband. Since 1936 Mr. Gil Carballo has been engaged in newspaper work, including articles on narcotics. At present he is also acting as Captain of Police, as the instructor of a corps of twenty-five, for the handling of narcotics cases. Although he has been serving for months, he is as yet to receive his pay -- so he states. He does not speak very enthusiastically of the situation and outlook.

He stated that the traffic in marihuana was on the increase despite the number of arrests of the small fry. He also stated that apparently there was a "good supply" of cocaine in the black market, evidently smuggled in on the Chilean steamers and possibly on those from the Argentine (Buenos Aires). He stated that the actual top man was a certain Angelito Cañal, who lives somewhere on Zanja Street (Chinese quarter of Habana); that he (Cañal) enjoys the protection of Dr. Innocente Alvarez, the present Minister of State (whom he stated was a "coke" addict). His deduction that cocaine was in easy supply was based on the fact that while it sold quite recently at \$50.00 per gram, it was now readily procurable at \$20.00.

Speaking of Fernandez (the former narcotic top man), he stated he was now serving out his sentence of one year not in jail but accompanied by a police guard at the Quinta de la Covadonga (the hospital of the so-called Centro de Dependientes). It having been decided for some "supposedly valid reason", he was transferred to the pleasant surroundings of the Quinta Covadonga so as not to jeopardize his "precarious" health, which "would be the case if served in the regular penal establishment".

Referring to Sobrado, the Inspector of the Narcotic Squad of the Secret Police (consisting of five agents), he (Gil Carballo) stated that he was making

arrests**SECRET**

arrests of minor offenders; that he (Sobrado) was about sixty years old, depended on his job, and was not in a position to fight certain influences higher up; that while he continued to be the honest man he always was, he was now under certain conditions likely to prove himself "adaptable".

While not questioning the veracity of the foregoing statements of Mr. Gil Carballo, they are set down here as they were told to me.

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