



EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Habana, January 9, 1946

No. 861

AIR MAIL

Subject: (Cuban newspaper resumes overtly
(hostile attitude toward the
(United States

CONFIDENTIAL

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

Sir:

I have the honor to enclose herewith the text and translation of an item which appeared in the column "Puntillas" in the January 8 issue of the Habana newspaper Alerta. The column in question is usually signed with the initials "A.I.", pertaining to Antonio IRAIZOZ, editor of the paper, but on the present occasion the initials did not appear. It is therefore not possible to assert that Iraizoz necessarily conceived the comment forwarded herewith, but in any case, as editor, he may be taken to have authorized it.

The article probably represents the definitive re-crystallization of the line followed by the newspapers Diario de la Marina and Alerta approximately through the year 1940. The papers in question were, as the Department will recall, at that time were sounding boards for the propaganda of the Nazis, the Italian Fascists, and the Spanish Falange. During the war years, although they preserved a reasonable discretion, it was frequently felt that there had been very little fundamental change in the opinions of at least a good part of their editorial staffs. The sober and friendly Ramiro GUERRA of the Diario de la Marina has been able to temper that paper's strongly conservative general tone to the degree of eliminating reactionary acerbities. The closely associated but more erratic Alerta evidently feels, however, that the moment has already arrived when the mask of wartime collaboration may safely be laid aside. From now on one may expect from this paper deliberate advocacy for a complete whitewashing of the conquered Axis nations and a renewed denigration of all aspects of the society and policy of the United States which were in the past customarily selected as targets by Falange propagandists.

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Until now Alerte has in general maintained at least a certain regard for the appearance of factual accuracy. The present article, however, casts such timidity to the winds and suppresses all mention of so elementary a fact as that it was Germany which declared war upon the United States, and not vice versa.

Respectfully yours,
For the Ambassador:

H. Bartlett Wells

H. Bartlett Wells
Second Secretary of Embassy

Enclosures: *att*

1. Clipping from Alerte, January 8 (copy)
2. Translation thereof

File No. 891

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To the Department in original and hectograph

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