

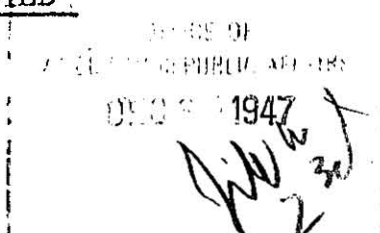
INCOMING AIRGRAM

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FROM: American Embassy,
Habana, Cuba.

Dated: December 3, 1947

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Dec. 8, 1947

8:24 AM

Secretary of State,

Washington.

A-1145, December 3, 1947.

Carlos PRIO Socarrás, Minister of Labor, and Germán ALVAREZ Fuentes, Minister of Agriculture, both tendered their resignations yesterday in order to devote time and attention to their political campaigns. Prio is a leading Autentico candidate for the presidency and Alvarez, whose earlier presidential aspirations have apparently been abandoned, will run for Senator from Camaguey.

Although the names of the new ministers who will replace Prio and Alvarez have not been announced, three persons have been prominently mentioned as Prio's successor: (1) Francisco BENITEZ Rodríguez, Undersecretary of Labor; (2) Tomás VEGA Zamora, Director of Labor; and (3) Francisco AGUIRRE, Autentico Representative, leader of the Restaurant and Hotel Workers Union, and Vice Secretary General of the Executive Committee of the CTC. Aguirre has recently announced that he would be willing to serve.

A logical substitute for Alvarez would be Francisco GRAU Alsina, Undersecretary of Agriculture and nephew of President Grau, who for some time has been considered as possible head of the Ministry of Agriculture. However, since Francisco Grau is a candidate for Senator from Habana, it is unlikely, in view of the coming campaign, that he would serve as Minister of Agriculture for any length of time.

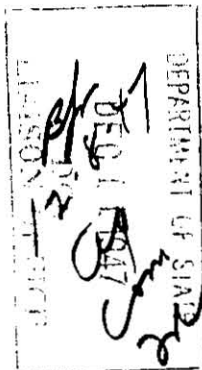
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