



EMBASSY OF THE

AIR MAIL

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

No. 30

Havana, July 28, 1945

Subject: BATISTA'S Plans

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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

Sir:

Referring to the Embassy's despatch No. 9489 of June 13, 1945 reporting the substance of an interview granted by ex-President BATISTA in New York wherein he made it clear that he was not returning to Cuba for the time being, I have the honor to report that in a letter dated July 1 at New York, addressed to Liberal Senator Ramón VASCONCELOS and published in the July 27 issue of Prensa Libre, Batista in substance stated as follows with respect to his alleged current intentions:

"1) I will not join any political party. I will not take part in the forthcoming reorganization of the parties.

"2) I will not take part in the June 1946 elections for Mayors, Councilmen, and Representatives.

"3) Until the elections are over I will not support or oppose any presidential candidate, leaving my friends at liberty to declare themselves.

"4) After the reorganization of the parties I will take action with respect to the 1948 presidential election. I cannot be a candidate. I will join one of the present political parties. If by then none of the parties fulfills the popular yearnings I will call upon other compatriots to form a party."

There is enclosed herewith a translation of that part of the ex-General's letter in which, after a lengthy restatement of his version of his role in Cuban history, he "defines" his proposals. A clipping

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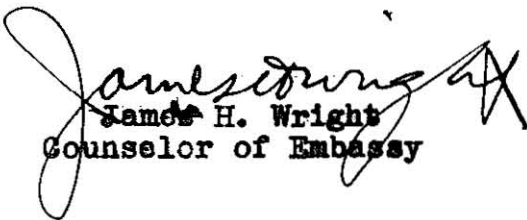


2/ of the published text of the letter, complete with all the verbose embellishments which are the delight of the Cuban political stylist, is likewise enclosed.

Whether these dulcet incantations constitute an accurate statement of the current intentions of ex-President Batista, or whether they are merely sounds to deceive his political enemies cannot, of course, be known. One fairly concrete consideration does emerge, however: Batista, whether for his own good purposes and because he wants it that way, or because he is constrained to do so, keeps pushing back the announced date of his return to Cuba.

Respectfully yours,

For the Ambassador:


James H. Wright
Counselor of Embassy

Enclosures:

1. Translation of part of letter from ex-General Batista to Senator Vasconcelos dated 7/1/45.
2. Clipping from Prensa Libre, 7/27/45.

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Original and Hectograph to Department

Translation of part of letter from ex-
General Batista to Senator Ramon Vasconcelos
dated July 1, 1945.

" . . . 1. For the time being I will not become affiliated with any political party, and consequently, will not take part in the coming reorganization.

2. As a consequence of the above I will not take part in the elections for mayors, councilmen and representatives to be held next year. Having been close to several political parties during my administration and having in all of them friends who aspire to elective office, my abstention will be complete in order to prevent anyone from being offended at my attitude.

3. For the duration of the activities I have above referred to, I will not support nor oppose any presidential candidate. My friends may, in the exercise of their will and interests, support or not support this or that aspirant, but I want to make it very clear that my will or thought must not be seen through this attitude of mine.

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4. Once the process of reorganization and the coming elections have passed, I believe it will be my duty to act with a view to the election of the new President. According to the Constitution I cannot be a candidate and no personal nor immediate purpose can be attributed to my conduct. As a citizen I wish and should contribute civically toward the welfare of the people, without further ambition than honestly to serve my country. I will become a member of one of the present political parties in order to take part in the reorganization preparatory of the presidential election, if my convictions and my ideologies concur with the conduct and platform of the party I choose to guide my activities, seeking to have these activities become beneficial to the people and to the happiness of the Republic.

If by then no political party meets the popular wishes; if the disillusionment and pessimism of the governmental failure -- once the task has been placed in the balance -- is not set off by the hope that that party can offer through its activities, its platform and the disinterestedness of its leaders, then I shall call upon other fellow citizens who feel more or less as I do, -- I wish that you would be one of the first to accept should the occasion arise -- to lead the formation of a new party which will inspire confidence, faith and sympathy in the majority groups of the nation.

That, my dear Ramon, is the idea that governs me . . . "

HHW file
Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

DATE: August 3, 1945

TO : CCA- Mr. Barber ✓
- ~~Mr. Cechran~~ *HHW*
FROM : CCA- *Mr. Warren* ✓
Mr. Wilson
SUBJECT: BATISTA.

Batista, writing from New York on July 1, says he will support someone as candidate for President in general elections of 1948--and if necessary will form a new party--but that he will stay out of Cuban politics entirely until after local elections of June, 1946.

He apparently doesn't yet know exactly what to do. Thus he warns his followers not to try to guess his plans. *He can not be a candidate himself.*

(Despatch no. 30, July 28, 1945 from Habana)

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
OFFICE OF
AMERICAN REPUBLIC AFFAIRS

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