

THE FOREIGN SERVICE  
OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

4099

copy to Habana  
3/24/45  
CC4 GFS:DUH

AMERICAN CONSULATE

Mexicali, B.C., México, March 15, 1945.

SUBJECT: Visit of Ex-President Batista of Cuba to Mexicali.

For Distribution

yes no

*Am. Embassy, Habana*

THE HONORABLE

THE SECRETARY OF STATE,

WASHINGTON

SIR:

I have the honor to inform the Department of the recent visit of General Fulgencio Batista, ex-President of Cuba, to Mexicali. General Batista, whose party included Dr. Aurelio Fernandez Conchesso, former Cuban Ambassador to the United States, Sr. Leandro Garcia, former Cuban Consul General at Miami, Florida, and the General's valet, arrived at Mexicali by a Mexican military plane about noon on March 13 and were met at the airport by General Juan Felipe Rico, Governor of the Northern Territory of Baja California.

An elaborate program of entertainment was given for General Batista. Governor Rico was host at a luncheon party at Gambrinos Café at 1:30 P.M. on March 13, which was attended by about 60 guests; the same evening a dinner at the Taxco Café was given by the Chamber of Commerce and the Industrial Chamber of Commerce of Mexicali. Upwards of 120 people were present at this dinner, including many from the nearby California cities of Calexico and El Centro. On March 14 a barbecue was held for General Batista by the Club de Charros. General Rico and the higher officials of the Territory Government were present at all of these functions, as was the undersigned. General Batista's speeches at the two dinner parties were most enthusiastically received by the audience and it was plain to see that he was a very popular personage.

General Batista and his party with the exception of Sr. Leandro Garcia left this morning via San Diego for Santa Barbara, California, accompanied by Captain Manuel Fontes, General Rico's personal aide, in a car furnished by General Rico.

All of General Batista's party were in possession of diplomatic passports with diplomatic visas and through the co-operation of Mr. Press, the Inspector in charge of the United States Immigration Service at Calexico, California, I was able to have the passports checked and entered by the Immigration Service in advance so that there would be no delay when the party crossed into the United States. Captain

Anal. *Hebblethwaite*

Rev.

CS/D

FILED

APR 18 1945

837.001 BATISTA, FULGENCIO  
/3-1545

837.001 Batista,  
Fulgencio / 3-15

Hebblethwaite, of the El Centro, California office of the California Highway Patrol, offered to furnish General Batista with an escort car to San Diego, but the General although very appreciative declined the offer. At Captain Fonte's request I obtained reservations for General Batista's party by telephone at the Samarkand Hotel at Santa Barbara for the night of March 15.

General Batista and party have been traveling in South America, Central America and Mexico since last October and expect to spend several months in the United States before returning to Cuba in June. It is not believed that any political significance is attached to General Batista's visit here, but the reception accorded him and the enthusiasm with which he was received was noteworthy.

Respectfully yours,

*John B. Ketcham*

John B. Ketcham,  
American Consul.

030/800  
JBK/gef

Original & Ozalid to the Department.  
Two copies to the American Embassy, México, D.F.  
Copy to the American Consul General, Cd. Juárez, Chih., México.