



THE FOREIGN SERVICE  
OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

1948

~~SECRET~~

837.001 Prío Socarras, Carlos/9-248

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Guatemala, September 2, 1948.

No. 447.

SUBJECT: Visit to Guatemala of Dr. Carlos Prío Socarrás,  
President-elect of Cuba.

RECEIVED  
SEP 11 1948  
[Handwritten signatures and initials]

THE HONORABLE

THE SECRETARY OF STATE,  
WASHINGTON/

(IXR)

SIR:

Supplementing the Embassy's Despatch no. 439 of August 26, 1948, and other reports covering the recent visit to Guatemala of Dr. Carlos PRIO Socarrás, President-elect of Cuba, I have the honor to enclose as of special interest a confidential report on the subject

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Respectfully yours,

Milton K. Wells  
Chargé d'Affaires ad interim

File no. 800  
MKWells/mch  
Parchment to Department

Enclosure: 177

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Copies to: Guatemalan Desk Officer  
American Embassies at: Habana, Ciudad  
Trujillo, Managua, San Salvador and San José.

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Enclosure to Despatch no. 447 of September 2, 1948, from American Embassy, Guatemala, on subject of: Visit to Guatemala of Dr. Carlos Prío Socarrás.

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Date: September 2, 1948.

1. It can be safely said that the prime purpose of Prío Socarras' recent visit to Guatemala (August 20-25, 1948) was to discuss with Arevalo the caribbean political question in general and the Caribbean revolutionary movement in particular; to advise Arevalo just how far the new Cuban administration is prepared to go in supporting revolutionary groups who are planning the overthrow of Trujillo, Carias and Somoza and to enter into some form of agreement for the coordination of their activities in support of such groups:

2. Juan BOSCH, Dominican opposition leader and close friend of Prío Socarras, arrived at Guatemala City as "advance agent" of the Cuban president-elect. Other Caribbean revolutionaries; including Eufemio FERNANDEZ, Miguel A. RAMIREZ, Rosendo ARGUELLO (representing Nicaraguan revolutionaries and President FIGUERES), Francisco MORAZAN (Honduran), accompanied on Guatemala City.

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3. The Guatemala visit of Prío Socarras appears to have been an extension of his Mexico City trip, for there he likewise conferred with Honduran and Nicaraguan revolutionaries.

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4. Arnulfo ARIAS stayed over one day on his trip from San Jose to Mexico City presumably to permit his friends to sound out Prío Socarras on possible support for a Panamanian revolutionary movement.

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Jose

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Juan Jose Meza, since his arrival here several days ago, has been in touch with President Arevalo, Enrique Munoz Meany (Minister of Foreign Affairs), Major ARBENZ (Minister of Defense) and Colonel ARANA (Chief of the Armed Forces). Consequently, the opinion expressed above is probably based on more than idle rumors.

5. The Prio Socarras visit did not sit well with organized labor or the leftist political parties, largely because of his present antagonism toward communist labor leaders in Cuba and the fact that he was opposed in the recent elections by the Partido Socialista Popular, which closely resembles the Partido Accion Revolucionaria (PAR) of Guatemala. SENSITIVE INFORMATION DELETED  
SENSITIVE INFORMATION DELETED his extemporaneous attack on United States policies and economic domination of other American Republics, in departing from a prepared speech which he was delivering to a select group locally, was for the purpose of counteracting Cuban communist charges (published locally) that he "is an instrument of Yankee imperialism" who "has nothing to do with revolution and less with revolutionary nationalism."

6. As has been reported on many occasions, Arevalo's foreign policy is aimed at the overthrow of the three Caribbean dictatorships: TRUJILLO, SOMOZA and GARCIA; and the eventual establishment of a Central American Union. To achieve these ends he apparently is not adverse to following a policy of expediency; for example, his aid to "rightist" FIGUERES as a means of getting at SOMOZA. Such tactics, however, are alienating to a certain extent his principal supporters at home - organized labor and the so-called "Arevalist" parties - PAR, and RN. These organizations do not like FIGUERES, nor do they like Prio Socarras. If Arevalo persists in forming such distasteful alliances, he may eventually find himself and his country involved in undertakings without his borders which have little or no popular support at home.

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is a known fact that PAR leaders are in close touch with exiled Costa Rican communists.

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