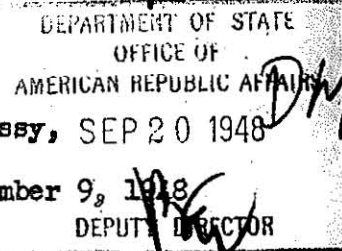




THE FOREIGN SERVICE

837.001 Prio, Socarras, OF THE  
Louis/9-948 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

No. 696



American Embassy, SEP 20 1948

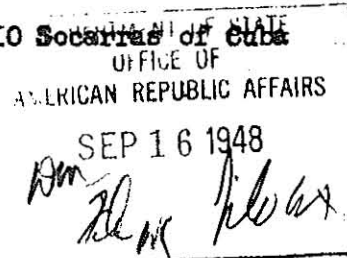
RESTRICTED

Caracas, Venezuela, September 9, 1948

DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Rec'd  
Sept. 14

Subject: Visit of President-Elect Carlos PRIO Socarras of Cuba  
to Venezuela



ACTION  
ARA

INFO  
DCR  
OLA  
POS

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

Sir:

I have the honor to report that the visit of the President-elect of Cuba, Carlos PRIO Socarras, to Venezuela August 30 to September 4, 1948 was characterized by a series of receptions and speeches emphasizing the cordial relations between the two countries and the intention to approach their international problems of both a political and economic nature on the basis of mutual cooperation. The only discordant note during the visit came from the Communist Party of Venezuela, which branded Prio as the "ambassador of the 'stupid ones' and the sugar trusts in Cuba", and which refused to permit its members in Congress to participate in the special session held to receive the president-elect.

The various events held in honor of Prio included military honors upon his arrival and departure, visits to the national monuments of Venezuela and Cuba in Caracas, a special interview with President Gallegos of Venezuela and a reception at the Presidential Palace, a special session of the National Congress, a banquet offered by Dr. Andres Eloy BLANCO, Minister of Foreign Relations, special meetings of the National Confederation of Workers and Accion Democratica, a concert offered by the Governor of the Federal District, Alberto LOPEZ Gallegos, and a reception at the Cuban Embassy. In general, the speeches of welcome and the replies of Prio at these events were similar to those delivered in the National Congress, as reported in the Embassy's telegram No. 644 of September 2, 1948. Both the Venezuelan official and the Cuban president-elect pointed out the similarity of the regimes in the two countries which have achieved liberty for their peoples after a period of tyranny, and which are now interested in achieving the economic well-being of their peoples, both dependent upon a one-product economy. The speeches also emphasized that both countries are faced with a common danger in the existence in the Western Hemisphere of certain dictatorships. They called for assistance by the United States in diversifying and industrializing the economies of the two countries, and for solidarity against the common danger.

Prio also granted an interview with the Caracas press, which was reported in the Embassy's telegram no. 640 of September 1, 1948, and the Embassy's despatch No. 689 of September 3, 1948.

Editorial comment on his visit appeared only in the semi-official EL PAIS, the Communist TRIBUNA POPULAR and the anti-Accion Democratica.

837.001 PRIO SOCARRAS, CARLOS-948

SEP 23 1948

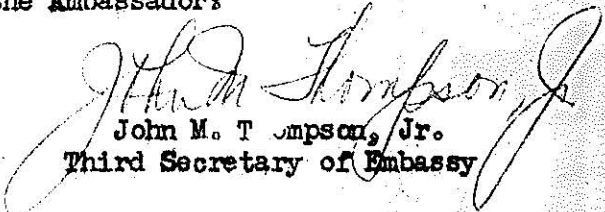
FILED

RESTRICTED

EL HERALDO. EL PAIS, reflecting the general tenor of the official speeches of welcome, emphasized the democratic nature of the recent elections in Cuba and the popular basis of the welcome extended here to the Cuban president-elect. TRIBUNA POPULAR on the other hand, commented that since Prio represented a continuation of the gangsterism and administrative corruption of the Grau regime and was a lackey of the sugar imperialists, his presence in Venezuela was not interpreted by the Venezuelan people as an expression of the popular will in Cuba. EL HERALDO used Prio's statement in his press interview that political gangsterism was the gravest danger in Cuba as a point of departure to condemn the failure to bring to justice in Venezuela those responsible for political violence there.

Respectfully yours,

For the Ambassador:

  
John M. Thompson, Jr.  
Third Secretary of Embassy

cc: Amembassy, Habana

030  
JMThompson:mct

RESTRICTED