



THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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No. 80

American Embassy
Habana, Cuba, February 4, 1949

RESTRICTED

Subject: Guatemalan Government Decorates President
Prío with Grand Cross of the Order of
the Quetzal.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
OFFICE OF
GENERAL REPUBLIC AFFAIRS

FEB 11 1949

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington.

W. file

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Sir:

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I have the honor to report that on January 28, 1949 President Carlos PRIO Socarrás was decorated with the Grand Cross of the Order of the Quetzal, its highest award, by the Government of Guatemala. A special mission, headed by Sr. Adolfo MONSANTO, was sent from Guatemala by President AREVALO to bestow this order.

The ceremony took place on the anniversary of the birthday of the Cuban patriot José Martí in the reception hall of the Presidential Palace. After the Guatemalan Ambassador had presented his credentials, he launched into a twenty-five minute eulogy of President Prío as a militant champion of democracy, of the Cuban people, of José Martí, and of almost all the other Latin American patriots and liberators, not forgetting to say a good word for Guatemala. He then presented the decoration and President Prío indicated his appreciation in a short but fulsome reply to Monsanto's words. As a close to the ceremony, Prío caused a lengthy telegram of thanks to be sent to President Arevalo.

No particular political significance is attached to this event. It is possible that Guatemala wanted to emulate the gesture made by the United States in presenting President Prío with the Legion of Merit in that the former country did not decorate Prío at the time of his pre-inaugural visit to that nation.

Respectfully yours,

Lester D. Mallory
Chargé d'Affaires ad interim

WWPhelps, Jr./dts

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