



THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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No. 840

RESTRICTED

American Embassy,
Habana, Cuba, October 19, 1948

837.001Prio Socarras Carlos/10-1948

Subject: Inauguration of Dr. Carlos Prio Socarras as
President of Cuba.

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to report that the ceremonies relating to the inauguration on October 10, 1948 of Dr. Carlos PRIO Socarras as President of Cuba all took place with proper decorum and without any untoward incidents.

Forty-five nations were represented with Special Embassies or Missions ranging in size from one to sixteen; Sweden, Saudi Arabia, Denmark, Portugal, South Africa, India, Belgium, Luxemburg, Czechoslovakia, Bolivia, Poland, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Finland, Turkey, Norway, Liberia and Iraq all sending one representative and Argentina beating the United States by one for top honors with sixteen. Haiti had the third largest Special Embassy with eleven.

Among the Special Ambassadors and Special Ministers attending the ceremonies there were the following prominent figures: José Felix de Lequerica, former Foreign Minister of Spain; Edené T. Manigat, Foreign Minister of Haiti; Benjamin Odio, Foreign Minister of Costa Rica; Victor M. Giordani, President of the Congress of Guatemala; Jorge B. Matheu, Minister of Agriculture of Guatemala; Salvador Urbina, President of the Supreme Court of Mexico; Domingo Montanaro, Foreign Minister of Paraguay; Diego L. Molinari, Senator of Argentina; Fernando Farina, Minister of Industry and Labor of Uruguay; Eligio Anzola Anzola, Minister of Interior of Venezuela; and Max P. Brannon of El Salvador. A great many of the Special Ambassadors or Special Ministers were their country's normally accredited representative either in Habana or in Washington. There are forwarded attached for the Department's records six copies of the Cuban Ministry of State's official list of all Special Embassies and Special Missions.

The program, which can best be described as grueling, began Saturday, October 9, at 11:00 a.m., with the presentation of credentials by each Special Ambassador and Special Minister to President Grau. On October 9 at 6:00 p.m., the outgoing First Lady, Paulina Alsina Vda. de Grau, received all the Special Ambassadors and Special Ministers and their wives. The next day, Sunday, October 10, the ceremonies got into full swing—at noon the inauguration, at 5:00 p.m. a reception by the newly inaugurated President Prio, and at 10:30 p.m. a gala concert by the Habana Philharmonic Orchestra. At 10:00 a.m. on October 11 there was held an impressive military review and that night at 10:00 p.m. a ball at the Palace. The cere-

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monies were concluded Tuesday evening, October 12, with a banquet at 9:00 p.m. at the Palace.

As the Department has been advised, the United States Special Embassy was composed of the following fifteen persons:

The Honorable Robert Butler, Special Ambassador
Lt. General Matthew B. Ridgway, C. in C. U.S.
Forces Carib.
Rear Admiral William K. Phillips, Commander, Naval
Operating Base, Guantanamo
Major General Willis H. Hale, Com. Gen. Carib.
Air Com.
Lester D. Mallory, Counselor of Embassy
Colonel Edgar E. Glenn, Air Attaché
Captain Thomas F. Cullen, Naval Attaché and Naval
Attaché for Air
Major Alfred E. Coffey, Acting Military Attaché
Carlos E. Warner, First Secretary of Embassy
Daniel V. Anderson, First Secretary of Embassy
John A. Hamilton, Cultural Attaché
Clarence W. Moore, Attaché
V. Lansing Collins, Jr., Second Secretary of Embassy
A. John Cope, Jr., Second Secretary of Embassy
W. Wendell Blancke, Second Secretary of Embassy

(At this point it should be noted that one of the reasons the Argentine Special Embassy was larger than the United States delegation was that the entire resources of the Embassy as regards morning coats and other required paraphernalia were utterly expended, some twenty and even twenty-five-year old morning coats and full dress having been precariously reactivated for the occasion.)

The weather throughout the four days of ceremonies was clear but hot, especially to the wearers of formal clothes not designed for the tropics. A carnival spirit invaded Habana with gay and cheering crowds lining the streets and comparsas (dancing in the streets) at night.

Although President Prío was reportedly suffering from an extremely painful intestinal disorder during the entire time, he and his very pretty First Lady cheerfully kept up to a schedule which, because of addresses to Congress, Cabinet meetings, and other required functions, was far more grueling than the pace to which the Special Embassies and Special Missions were subjected. He was received everywhere with cheers and applause and it must be recorded that his regime began most auspiciously.

Respectfully yours,

Enclosures:

Six copies of list.

File No. 800.1

L. D. Mallory
Lester D. Mallory,
Chargé d'Affaires ad interim