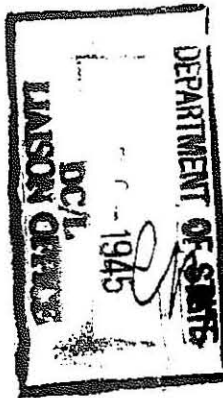


## AMERICAN CONSULATE

Guadalajara, Mexico, March 3, 1945.



SUBJECT:

Visit of ex-President of Cuba, General Batista, to Guadalajara.

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THE HONORABLE

THE SECRETARY OF STATE,

WASHINGTON.

SIR:

I have the honor to report that the ex-President of Cuba, Major General Fulgencio Batista, arrived at Guadalajara on March 1, 1945, for a visit and expects to remain at Guadalajara until about March 6.

Transmitted herewith are newspaper clippings concerning the principal events of his visit. For lack of personnel at this office, it has not been possible to prepare translations.

General Batista has been warmly received at Guadalajara. At the luncheon given in his honor on March 2 by General Miguel Henriques Guzmán, Commandant of the 15th Military Zone, General Batista remarked that when he was President of Cuba he had been called "Jalisco" because of the old saying, "Jalisco nunca pierde, y cuando pierde arrebatá" ("Jalisco never loses, and when it loses it snatches back what it has lost"). Batista went on to say that in relinquishing office to his successful opponent in the Cuban presidential elections, he had demonstrated that his critics were wrong. He added, "Gané perdiendo ... perdí y no arrebaté." ("In losing I won ... I lost but I did not snatch back"), which brought forth tremendous applause from his listeners.

In commenting upon the speech, the Guadalajara newspaper El Occidental, in an editorial marked by even more than that Catholic and reactionary paper's usual censure of the present Mexican regime (see enclosure no.1), stated that Batista had set an extraordinary example for Spanish America, in marked contrast to Mexican politicians who, despite their

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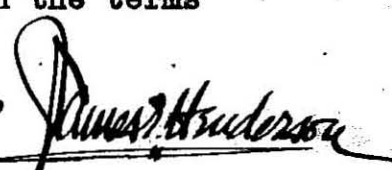
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slogan "Sufragio efectivo y no reelección" ("Effective suffrage and no reelection") have made the vote in Mexico a farce and have perpetuated reelections for a longer period than has ever been known before.

Considerable interest was also shown in General Batista's reply to a journalist's question whether he would accept reelection to the Presidency of Cuba. General Batista stated, in effect (see enclosure no.3): "If the people of Cuba summon me and I consider that my presence is necessary to save the principles of democracy in my country, I shall have no objection to accepting reelection as President within the terms fixed by our Constitution."

Respectfully yours,

  
James E. Henderson  
American Consul

Enclosures (In quintuplicate, with original):

1. From El Occidental  
March 3, 1945.
2. From El Occidental  
March 3, 1945.
3. From El Informador,  
March 3, 1945.
4. From El Informador,  
March 3, 1945.

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