

Oct 15 1948

## ACTION

is assigned to

Belvoir Farm  
The Plains, Va.  
July 6, 1948

July 6, 1948

837.001 *Pres Socarras*  
*Carlos* / 6-2548  
*ARA.*

DC/R

From: William D. Pawley

I was in Cuba for a few days beginning the eighteenth of June, and one of my friends telephoned me that President-elect Prio would like to have me call on him while in Havana. I spent an hour with him the following day. I will mention some of the highlights of the discussion.

Visit to U.S.: Prio is looking forward to an invitation to visit the United States in the immediate future. He has already received invitations from the Presidents of Venezuela and Mexico to visit those two countries prior to his inauguration.

For reasons which I thought to be important, I suggested that if his invitation to visit the United States came anytime in the near future, would be better if he visit the United States prior to his visits to Venezuela and Mexico. To this he agreed, and he has since confirmed this desire in a discussion with Mr. Burke Hedges, an important American industrialist who has resided in Havana since his childhood.

I discussed this matter at a luncheon at Secretary Snyder's office, which was attended by

DCB - CLAIMS UNIT Mr. Lovett  
Ancl. & P. (class. sheet made)  
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The Secretary of State

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July 6, 1948

Mr. Lovett and several members of the Cabinet.

Communism: Cuba has been one of the principal places where communism has made substantial headway, and Cuba must be listed among the three countries in Latin America which have been communist headquarters during the last three or four years. The other two, Venezuela and Mexico, run Cuba a good second.

President-elect Prio has been an ardent anti-communist and has done much in the last year to curb communist activities, particularly those within the Cuban Government. Prio has expressed a desire to work closely with the American Government through our Department of State, and he is looking forward with much anticipation to making the acquaintance of some of our leading government officials.

Labor: One of the most serious problems confronting Cuba today is the lack of adequate labor legislation. The communists and left-wing groups in Grau San Martin's government have created impossible conditions for business survival. These matters are well known to the Department of State, but it occurs to me that during Prio's visit to Washington a great deal can be done to influence him toward enacting labor legislation that will in no way deprive labor of the principal objectives gained in recent years, but will not completely kill all investment incentive and the survival of business, which has in the past made Cuba such a prosperous country.

(2) Military: It would be extremely desirable that the President-elect of Cuba be offered an opportunity, by invitation of the Chief of Staff, General Bradley, to make a brief visit to some of our military establishments.

General Impressions: From my conversation with Prio, I was favorably impressed with his

desire

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desire to work closely with the United States. He mentioned several members of Cuba's diplomatic corps and expressed his views frankly. These views, however, I can only give to you verbally.

It is my impression that Prio intends to have as good a government as possible. I believe that he realizes that he has surrounding him a large number of people in whom he cannot place too much confidence and who will exploit Prio's presidency.

There are a number of other things which he discussed but which I do not feel free to talk about, except with you personally or with Mr. Lovett and Mr. Armour.

Respectfully,

*William D. Starnes*

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July 15, 1948

Dear Pawley:

Thanks for your letter of July 6. I have shown it to Lovett and Armour and they are now looking into the matter of Pyle's possible visit to see what should be worked out.

I hope that you will come in to see me whenever you are in town. If something special comes up, please don't hesitate to let me know. This applies to anything, but specifically right now to the last paragraph of your letter.

Mrs. Marshall and I were delighted to get you to Leesburg and hope that now you know the way, and can get in without breaking down the back fence, you will come as often as you please.

Faithfully yours,

The Honorable  
William D. Pawley,  
Belvoir Farm,  
The Plains, Virginia.