



EMBASSY OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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NO. 1463

Habana, April 18, 1946

AIR MAIL

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LURIX

SUBJECT: Cultural Relations Activities in  
Cuba of Certain Foreign Governments.

The Honorable  
The Secretary of State,  
Washington.

DIVISION OF LIBRARIES AND INSTITUTES  
JUN 7 1946  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Sir:

837.42700/4-1845

I have the honor to refer to the Embassy's  
despatch no. 482 of November 8, 1945, and to pre-  
vious reports concerning the cultural relations  
activities in Cuba of the Soviet Union, Great  
Britain and other countries, and to report recent  
data with regard to those activities:

1. Soviet Union:

The principal function to date of the Instituto  
de Intercambio Cultural Cubano-Soviético has been  
the publication of the monthly illustrated magazine  
Cuba y la U.R.S.S.. This attractive review continues  
to offer a wide variety of articles concerning the  
artistic, scientific and technical achievements in  
the Soviet Union. In general the articles are  
translations of material prepared by Russians and  
carefully avoid controversial political themes.  
Copies of the numbers for November, 1945 - March,  
1946, inclusive, are herewith transmitted.

Other activities of the Instituto in recent months  
have included the following:

- (a) Speech by the Instituto's Press Section  
chairman at the Habana Book Fair, December,  
1945. Subject: "Freedom of the Press in  
Russia".
- (b) Exhibition of film, "Alexander Nevsky" with  
accompanying lecture on Soviet films by  
Cuban movie critic (January 23).
- (c) Lecture by Manuel Mesa of the Soviet-Mexican  
Cultural Institute; theme: "My Impressions  
of a Trip to the U.S.S.R." (March 11).

(d) Concert

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- (d) Concert of Russian chamber music with accompanying lecture by chairman of Music Section.
- (e) Homage ceremony offered to Dmitri ZAIKIN, Soviet Chargé d'Affaires, on the occasion of his departure for the Soviet Union (April 10).

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Approximately every fortnight the Soviet Legation still issues its Boletín de Información. The contents are for the most part undistinguished, now consisting largely of fulsome praise of the Soviet army and Russian heroes. Apparently the numerous cultural articles, which formerly were included, have now been transferred to Cuba y la U.R.S.S. Only in two articles during the past four or five months has direct reference been made to Russia's political situation with regard to the other great powers. One, entitled "El Bloque Occidental" ("The Western Bloque"), by E. Tarle (November 25, 1945), sharply criticizes those groups in France and in other European countries who advocate the formation of a Western European alliance, aimed presumably against "The Bolshevik menace". The leading article in the March 25, 1946 issue gives abundant space to Stalin's rebuttal of Churchill's Missouri speech.

Although the Embassy has made no exhaustive check on the matter, it would appear from casual observation that the Soviet Press Attaché is busily engaged in placing feature articles on various phases of Soviet life in Cuban magazines. A number of the smaller periodicals, and especially those published by labor unions, frequently contain articles written by gentlemen with Russian names.

## 2. Great Britain:

It seems that the local British Press Office has been relatively quiescent in recent months. The recipients of Isles, the Bulletin which has been the excellent cultural organ of the British in Cuba, have been informed that beginning in February the magazine will cost them one page a year. Candidates

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have been recruited for two medical scholarships offered by the British Council. Feature articles concerning British literature and art occasionally appear in Habana dailies and magazines. The Havana Post and El Mundo carry a daily press round-up received by cable from London and distributed by the British Press Attaché.

With reference to the British Cultural Institute and Information Library, mentioned as a possibility in the Embassy's last report, the Embassy understands that the project has been approved in principle by the British Council, but that actual realization is stymied by lack of funds.

3. Mexico:

Perhaps the most significant foreign cultural activities in Habana in recent weeks have been carried out by Mexico. Reference is made to the Embassy's despatch no. 1449 of April 16, 1946, "Report on Mexican Book Fair in Habana".

Respectfully yours,

For the Ambassador:

*H. Bartlett Wells*

H. Bartlett Wells,  
Second Secretary of Embassy.

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Enclosures: 1 *copy in storage file*

Five issues of Cuba y la U.R.S.S.

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*JK*  
To Department in Quintuplicate  
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