## VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES ASHTABULA, POST 943

4732 Valley View Blvd. Ashtabula, Chio September 2, 1947

Hon. Michael Kirwan House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Kirwan:

At the last session of Congress a resolution was passed pledging the government of the United States to participate in the celebration of the 50th anniversary of Cuban independence.

Now I don't know just what form the government participation will take but should the powers-that-be decide to send some of the men who helped to free Suba, I would like to have my name considered.

I was a member of Go. G, 2nd U.S. Infantry and participated in all the battles before Santiage, contracted yellow fever and was left behind when my regiment came north. I recovered enough to travel and came north on the whip that here the last of the 5th army corps. Records in Washington will verify the above statements.

At the present time I am quartermaster of Post 945 and commander of Ashtabula county council V. F. W. and any information or help that would assist me in returning to Guba during the celebration of Guban independence, would certainly be appreciated by me.

Thanking you in advance, I remain

Yours in comradeship,

As/ Harry & Wolfe

In reply refer to GRB 887.415/9-1547

My dear Mr. Kirwan:

I have your communication of September 15, 1947, emclosing a letter dated September 2, 1947 from Mr. Harry A.
Wolfe, 4732 Valley View Boulevard, Ashtabula, Chio, in
which he requests any information which would be helpful
to him in arranging a visit to Guba.

No passport or visa is required of American eitisens entering Guba for a temporary visit. Since Mr. Welfe is presumably an American citizen, he would require no decumentation other than evidence of his citizenship.

The Gengress, last July, passed a Geneurrent Resolution creating a joint committee to prepare an appropriate plan for the participation in the observance of the celebration of Guban independence during the summer of 1948, the fiftieth anniversary of the victories of the military and naval forces of the United States and their Guban allies in the war against Spain. I understand that this Resolution has been brought to the attention of the Guban Embasiy in Washington and that consideration is being given to plans for the forthcoming selebration. The Department will, of course, offer every possible assistance to the committee in making the necessary arrangements and preparations for participation in the celebration.

Mr. Wolfe's letter is returned herewith as requested.

Maserely rours

For the Counselor:

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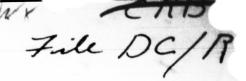
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CRB: WWWalker: eag

9/19/47

Cleared with PD- Mrs. Koberto ARA N

## UNCLASSIFIED DEPARTMENT OF STATE



## Memorandum of Conversation Telephone

DATE: October 24, 1947

SUBJECT:

Cuban invitation to Spanish-American War Veterans

to visit Cuba on 50th anniversary of Spanish-

American War.

PARTICIPANTS:

Mr. Ralph F. Crain

ARA - Mr. Woodward

COPIES TO:

CRB

American Embassy, Habana (Informally)

Mr. Crain informed Mr. Woodward that, during the annual encampment of the Spanish-American War veterans at Kansas City this past summer, an invitation was extended by the President of Cuba through the Cuban Consul at Kansas City for all Spanish-American War veterans to visit Cuba on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Spanish-American War next year.

Mr. Crain said that there are only a few American veterans of the Spanish-American War and that they are rather feeble. As far as I could make out from his rather rambling conversation, he wanted to know only whether the State Department thought it would be a good idea for these veterans to accept the invitation of the Cuban Government. I told him that I thought it would be very appropriate if the veterans should find it possible to do so.

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ARA: RFWoodward: has 10/24/47

Transmitted to Fie'd (Yorm DS: To: American Embassy, Habana.

For: Information

Div: ARA By: RFW Date:1

## Office Memorandum

WE - Mr. Horsey

ARA - Mr. Woodward; /Mr

A-A - Mr. Armour CRB - Mr. Walker

SUBJECT: Concern of Spanish Government Over Celebration by United States of Fiftieth Anniversary of Cuban Independence

Dur 6 - 1948

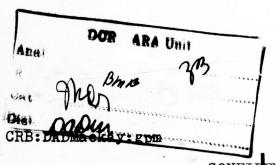
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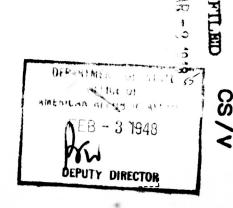
DATE: January

Mr. Horsey (WE) informed me this afternoon that the Spanish Government has informally expressed its concern of the undue emphasis which might be given in the President's message to the Joint Houses of Congress on April 19 to Cuban "liberation" from Spain. He inquired whether it might not be possible to have the date of April 19 changed to May 20 which, he pointed out, is the date celebrated by the Cubans to commemorate the establishment of the Cuban Republic.

Mr. Horsey was informed that the date had been selected by a Joint Congressional Committee, and that the President and the Ambassador of Cuba had already approved of it. It would, therefore, be difficult to effect a change at this point. Cuba, moreover, became a republic in 1902, and, therefore, May 20 would have no special significance this year. According to the wording of H. Con. Res. 108, the celebration will, in fact, commemorate "the fiftieth anniversary of the victories of the military and naval forces of the United States and their Cuban allies in the war with Spain, resulting in the liberation of Cuba". I agreed with Mr. Horsey, however, that the President's remarks would have to be carefully worded to avoid offense to Spain, and ventured the opinion that such a speech could be drafted.

cc: American Embassy, Habana.





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