

COPY

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

4732 Valley View Blvd.  
Ashtabula, Ohio  
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 Cuba, I would like to have my name considered.

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

At the present time I am quartermaster of Post 943 and commander of Ashtabula county council V. F. W. and any information or help that would assist me in returning to Cuba during the celebration of Cuban independence, would certainly be appreciated by me.

Thanking you in advance, I remain

Yours in comradeship,

/s/ Harry A. Wolfe

SEP 22 1947

In reply refer to  
CRB 837.415/9-1547

837.415/9-1547

My dear Mr. Kirwan:

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

No passport or visa is required of American citizens entering Cuba for a temporary visit. Since Mr. Wolfe is presumably an American citizen, he would require no documentation other than evidence of his citizenship.

The Congress, last July, passed a Concurrent Resolution creating a joint committee to prepare an appropriate plan for the participation in the observance of the celebration of Cuban independence during the summer of 1948, the fiftieth anniversary of the victories of the military and naval forces of the United States and their Cuban allies in the war against Spain. I understand that this Resolution has been brought to the attention of the Cuban Embassy in Washington and that consideration is being given to plans for the forthcoming celebration. 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.

Sincerely yours,

For the Counselor:

~~Enclosure:  
Mr. Wolfe's letter.~~

~~Florence Kirin  
Special Assistant~~

The Honorable  
Michael J. Kirwan,  
House of Representatives.

SEP 22 1947

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9/19/47

Cleared with  
PD - Mrs. Roberts

ARA  
[Signature]

WV  
CRB  
File DC/R

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)

837.415/10-2447

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.

CSM

DCR ARA 1000  
b m Bryan  
MKS

NOV - 1947  
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ARA:RF Woodward:has  
10/24/47

Transmitted to Field (Form DS-4)  
To: American Embassy, Habana.  
For: Information  
Div: ARA By: RFW Date: 10/24/47

001.714/10-2447

# Office Memorandum

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE  
 MR. ARMOUR  
 CONFIDENTIAL  
 FEB 4 1948

*CRB*

PROTOCOL  
 UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT  
 JAN 30 1948  
 DATE: January 29, 1948  
 DEPARTMENT OF STATE

TO : S/S - Mr. Spruiks  
 WE - Mr. Horsey  
 ARA - Mr. Woodward; Mr. Daniele  
 A-A - Mr. Armour  
 FROM : CRB - Mr. Walker

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

*Don-File* 1948

837.415/1-2748

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.

MAR - 9 1948

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CS/V

**DOR ARA Unit**

Anal: *zB*

R: *Bm*

Dist: *ADP*

CRB: DRD: *gdm*

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
 OFFICE OF  
 AMERICAN AFFAIRS  
 FEB - 3 1948  
*pm*  
 DEPUTY DIRECTOR

1-2748