

Air Pouch

PRIORITY

RESTRICTED SECURITY INFORMATION (Security Classification)

DO NOT TYPE IN THIS SPACE 837.06/3-453 XR 737.00

FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM : AMEMBASSY, HABANA 1366
TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.
REF : 000183 Labor Developments Embdespatch 1359 of March 3, 1953

MAR 5 1953
March 4, 1953 DATE

Table with columns: ACTION (ARA), DEPT. (REP OLI TCA UNA), and other administrative markings.

SUBJECT: CTC Leader Approves Postponement of Cuban Elections

The close working relationship between the Government of President BATISTA and the Cuban Confederation of Labor (CTC) is emphasized by a statement of CTC Secretary-General Eusebio MUJAL endorsing the postponement of national elections to June 1954.

Mujal described the Batista decision as "logical and essentially patriotic". He said that the Cuban political scene was too unsettled to hold elections as originally scheduled due to the fact that certain political elements were opposing participation in any elections under the present regime.

The labor leader made his remarks as head of the Partido Laborista. He indicated that this party would make use of the additional time before the balloting to bring labor's "progressive" program before the people.

In recent despatches the Embassy pointed out two other developments which underline Mujal's alliance with the Batista regime: (1) the fact that he was given the go-ahead to organize a labor party, and (2) a \$100,000 Government donation to the CTC which has been experiencing financial difficulties.

The present position of the CTC leader is all the more interesting when it is recalled that prior to the March 10 coup and during its early hours, Mujal and the other labor leaders were bitterly opposing Batista and appeared to be securely wedded to the PRIO party and government. An "understanding", however, was soon worked out and appears to have prospered ever since.

For the Chargé d'Affaires, a.i.:

Irvin S. Lippe
Attaché

ISLippe:rc REPORTER

RESTRICTED SECURITY INFORMATION

ACTION COPY - DEPARTMENT OF STATE

The action office must return this permanent record copy to DC/R files with an endorsement of action taken.

This Document Must Be Returned 837.06/3-453

FILED MAR 20 1953

RP