



SUMNER WELLES

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250 Via Bellaria  
Palm Beach, Florida

March 1, 1948

My dear Mr. Lovett:

I have received your letter of February 20 in which you tell me that the documentation in the Department files regarding the negotiation of the Treaty of May 29, 1934, between the United States and Cuba is very fragmentary, and you enquire whether I have among my own papers any documentation upon this subject that would be of value for publication in "Foreign Relations."

I may say, first of all, that when I left the Department in August, 1943, all papers that were official were, without exception, deposited in the Department files. The only papers that were removed for my own files were such memoranda or letters received from the President as were personal in their nature, copies of other memoranda of which the originals were in the Departmental files, and correspondence which was wholly personal in its character.

I shall be glad, however, to make a further investigation of my own files upon my return to Washington the latter part of this month. In the unlikely event that any papers of the character that you have in mind are found in my own files, I shall be glad to inform you accordingly.

It is, however, hardly a matter of surprize to me that the Departmental files should contain little documentation with regard to the Treaty of 1934. When the President sent me to Cuba as Ambassador in the spring of 1933, it was agreed between us that one of the major objectives of my mission should be to prepare the way for the negotiation of a new treaty between Cuba and the United States by which the Platt Amendment might be abrogated. During the months I was in Cuba I discussed this

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objective with certain Cuban leaders, among them Dr. Cosme de la Torriente, who later became Secretary of State in the Mendieta Government and under whose direction the negotiations on the part of the Cuban Government for the Treaty of 1934 were carried on. There was no difference of opinion between the Cuban Government and ourselves at that time as to what the Treaty should contain, and there was actually very little disagreement as to the provisions to be included therein. I have a very clear recollection that Dr. Marquez Sterling, then Cuban Ambassador in Washington, and I sat down together in my office in the Department of State and agreed upon a text which later, with slight amendment, became the definitive text. I recollect further that the President approved without change the text agreed upon by the Cuban Ambassador and myself.

Believe me,

Sincerely yours,

