

Ceylon of their respective Governments than for Trade Commissioners attached to diplomatic Missions.

2. In my above telegram I mentioned that it was proposed to appoint to Ceylon Mr. Arthur Evan Bryan. However, it has now been decided that Mr. Paul Sykes, until recently Trade Commissioner in Singapore, is to proceed within the next month or so to open a Trade Commissioner's Office in Colombo.¹

3. Your despatch No. 249 of August 10, 1950,† reached the Department shortly after the above arrangements had been made. You will note that the designation of the representative of the Department of Trade and Commerce is entirely in agreement with the conversation you had with Sir Kandiah Vaithianathan on this subject.

[ESCOTT REID]

SECTION B

CUBA

4.

DEA/7590-P-40

*Note du sous-secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures
pour le secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures*

*Memorandum from Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs
to Secretary of State for External Affairs*

CONFIDENTIAL

[Ottawa], February 14, 1950

ELEVATION OF LEGATIONS IN CANADA AND CUBA TO THE RANK OF EMBASSY

The Canadian Minister to Cuba² reported last October an informal approach by the Cuban Foreign Office with a view to raising the rank of the Canadian mission in Havana and the Cuban mission in Ottawa to the rank of embassy. This approach has followed approval by the Cuban Congress of the raising to the rank of embassy the Cuban missions in Canada, to the Holy See, and in Panama.

2. As you know, this proposal revives a suggestion made in 1947, when Mr. St. Laurent agreed that Mr. [Joseph Jacques Janvier Émile] Vaillancourt, then Canadian Minister to Cuba, might informally enquire whether the Cuban Government would agree to the raising of the missions to the rank of embassy. The two principal reasons in favour of our suggesting such a step were (a) our general policy to have diplomatic missions of uniform rank in the western hemisphere, and (b) the anomaly of having an embassy in a country like Peru, while we have a mission of lower status in Cuba where our commercial and other interests are more important. No definite response to our reciprocal proposal was received from the Cubans at that time, chiefly because of approaching presidential elections and because of the

¹ Paul Sykes a inauguré la délégation commerciale le 2 janvier 1951.

† Paul Sykes opened the Trade Commission on January 2, 1951.

² E.H. Coleman.