

1959. The main exports were newsprint, malt, wheat flour, fish, agricultural machinery and steel products.

At the end of July, there was a Cuban request to cancel their purchase of CN(WI)S vessels, which have been strike-bound since before the sale, and of which the Cubans have, therefore, not been able to take delivery. It was agreed by the Canadian authorities concerned that this could not be done since it would involve a heavy loss for the Canadian Government. The Cubans have been informed of this decision, but we added that should there be any specific proposals from the Cuban authorities as to ways by which the Canadian Government could assist in getting these vessels in operation, we would be prepared to give them sympathetic consideration. Copies of all important inter-departmental correspondence on this subject have been referred to your mission and should be available in your files for your information.

The advancement of Canadian interests through the strengthening of friendly relations, the fostering of mutually advantageous economic undertakings, and the influencing of the policies of Cuba on international matters of common concern can be facilitated by your discriminating direction of information activities toward these ends.

I know you are familiar with the various publications which will be at your disposal, and that you are aware that, as in most Latin American countries, films are one of the most effective media for the dissemination of information on Canada. With the return of more settled conditions to Cuba, thought might be given to the development of film distribution in the provinces by means of long-term loans of blocks of films to government agencies or departments.

At the moment the Cuban radio stations are carrying a predominant proportion of local programmes, in contrast with their pre-revolutionary ready acceptance of Canadian programmes. It is hoped that shortly this situation will change.

You will, of course, take advantage of every opportunity to encourage the continuing development of cultural exchanges between Canada and Cuba.

The responsibility for ensuring security at your post will, as you know, be a matter of special concern to you. Since the chancery is located in an office building and does not have security guard protection, the problem of providing adequate security to sensitive offices and material is particularly difficult. Shared premises are, of course, especially vulnerable to penetration with the aid of intrusion devices. Although there is no evidence of such devices having been used against us at Havana, the possibility of their being so used cannot be discounted. Another and more potent threat to the security of your mission is that represented by members of the local staff seeing classified material, overhearing sensitive conversations, or having unsupervised access to sensitive offices. It is essential that all members of your Canadian staff be thoroughly familiar with, and strictly observe, the Departmental and Post Security Regulations.

An administrative letter which will provide you with particulars concerning your salary and allowances, leave position, superannuation, etc., has been prepared and will be forwarded to you at an early date.

I wish, in closing, to reiterate my congratulations upon your appointment as Ambassador to Cuba and to assure you that you will be welcome to seek further guidance where necessary.

Yours very truly,
H.C. GREEN