

In August 1957, Cabinet discussed the possibility of Canadian membership in the Organization of American States (OAS). At that time, they decided that Canada should be represented at their meetings by an observer. I feel that formal representation in ECLA has many of the same disadvantages as membership in OAS, and if our participation is placed on a higher level, might well result in increased pressure for Canada to participate on a fuller basis in OAS activities. I feel, therefore, that the recommendation that is now going to the Under-Secretary that Canada should be represented at meetings of ECLA at a junior level is wise and unlikely to cause complications.⁵⁰³

W.R. M[ARTIN]

2^E PARTIE/PART 2

CUBA

SECTION A

FIDEL CASTRO ET LE GOUVERNEMENT RÉVOLUTIONNAIRE
FIDEL CASTRO AND THE REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT

459.

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L'ambassadeur au Cuba
au secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures
Ambassador in Cuba
to Secretary of State for External Affairs

DESPATCH D-4

Havana, January 8, 1959

CONFIDENTIAL

BATISTA'S FALL

New Year's Day, 1959, was probably the most memorable New Year's Day for Cuba in this country's history. It marked the fall of a legend, the legend of Batista's invulnerability, and the rise of a new legend, that of the young Cuban guerilla leader who, in two years, starting with a force of a few dozen members, has risen to control a nation of six million people. Although it had become apparent during recent months that Batista's hold on Cuba was slipping, his sudden departure in the early morning hours of January 1 surprised most residents of Cuba. Many of the exact details of Batista's last hours, the reasons for his sudden decision and the events of January 1 and 2 will probably never be clarified, but the following summary may serve to supplement the spotty reports published by the international press.

2. Fidel Castro has issued his version of the events which forced Batista's flight from Cuba, although this version probably contains some inaccuracies designed to assist Castro in crushing any Batista sympathizers who may hope to retain some influence in the new Government. According to Castro's version, one of the senior army Generals in Havana, General Eulogio A.

⁵⁰³ Notes marginales :/Marginal notes:

I agree - file no need to act in this matter. R.B. B[ryce]

I know there are dangers about becoming too involved in South America but, on the other hand, there are markets there which for some time I have felt we've been cautious about trying to develop. [Auteur inconnu/author unknown]