

DOCUMENT

**Cuban information on the visit of President of the Republic Dorticos to the UN GA
session in New York
(October 16, 1962)**

The Embassy of the Hungarian People's Republic
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Subject: The New York trip
of Cuban President
of the Republic Dorticos

As I have already reported in another form, Foreign Minister Roa informed the heads of the missions of socialist countries about the New York trip of President of the Republic Dorticos and his speech in the UN in advance before the announcement in the Cuban press.

All the heads of missions of diplomatic corps were present without exception at Dorticos' and Roa's departure. It was conspicuous that Fidel Castro was not present. As we learnt it from the press the day after, half an hour after the take off of the plane, the plane carrying the president of the republic, the foreign minister and their suite turned back so that some technical defects could be repaired, and the defect in the engine was fixed at the Havana airport. Prime Minister Fidel Castro arrived in the meantime and he had a long conversation with President Dorticos and Roa and the plane left only afterwards, now definitively, for New York.

Of course, the above aroused great sensation and provided an opportunity for further guessing within the diplomatic corps too.

During my visit to him, the Comrade Polish Ambassador expressed his deep disapproval about the case, bringing it as an example for the carelessness and hot-headedness of Cuban leaders. According to him, what happened was the following: as usual, Fidel Castro arrived late, the plane could not be withheld because of the presence of the diplomatic corps, so he ordered the plane already on its way to New York to return so that he might give his final instructions to the delegation.

According to the mentioned comrade, Fidel Castro did not pay attention to the danger that the plane should pass certain points at given times, nor did he consider that it was dangerous for the plane, which was loaded with the fuel needed to reach New York, to land with a tank almost full. He considered the return order to have been taken at random and without responsibility.

I inquired of some leading functionaries of the Cuban Ministry of Foreign Affairs about the causes of the return of the plane, they all referred to the minor technical defects also published in the press, which could not be fixed in the air and the plane did not want to make a forced landing before New York on the territory of the USA.

On the basis of the different opinions, I consider it likely that Prime Minister Castro wanted to have some talks with the delegation after the official farewell and it is possible that the recall took place on purpose and knowingly, - but not because of the delay and out of hot-headedness.

The speech of 8 October of President Dorticos in the UN was transmitted on the Cuban radio and television. The television grasped very skillfully those moments when American delegate Stevenson was producing his notebook and taking notes.

When returning to Cuba, President Dorticos was again welcomed by the heads of missions of all the diplomatic corps at the airport. All the heads of missions, including the papal legate were present. So was Prime Minister Fidel Castro.

At the general assembly following the arrival, on the balcony of the presidential palace, however, I could see only the heads of missions of friendly and neutral countries.

The general assembly made an unforgettable impression on me. The square in front of the presidential palace, the side-streets leading there, were all black with the immense, unbelievably enthusiastic crowd, which fêted their returning president. Prime Minister Fidel Castro's speech /we have published its essence in a press review/ was such an expression of faith in Soviet-Cuban friendship, the crowd shouting "Never" frenetically, when Fidel Castro asked, "Can we give up friendship with the Soviet Union?", was so deeply sincere, the sight of the two flag-bearers chaired by the crowd, who raised the Soviet and Cuban flags and intertwined them was so moving that whoever saw it - and probably the observers of the Americans were present - could not doubt it for a moment that this crowd, these leaders would rather choose "The Country or Death" proclaimed in their slogan but would never leave the road of alliance with the Soviet Union, the socialist countries.

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to Comrade Foreign minister János Péter
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