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March 25, 1940. Acknowledged. The Ambassador.  
Further reply 5/3/40 - the Ambassador - dec



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
WASHINGTON

March 9, 1940.

PERSONAL

Hon. George S. Messersmith,  
American Ambassador,  
Habana, Cuba.

Dear Mr. Messersmith:

Pursuant to our conversation some time ago, relative to economic relations between this country and Cuba, there is one thought that occurs to me that I should like to pass along to you.

I believe we discussed a little the question of diversification of crops in Cuba with a view to making the country less dependent upon sugar. Of course, some diversification, especially along the line which would lead to more food production by workers on the sugar plantations, would be all to the good. At the same time, I think that the chief interests of both countries would best be served by our continuing to take at least present quantities of sugar from Cuba, while Cuba continued its rather large takings from the United States of such products as lard, rice, wheat flour and a considerable number of other food items. As you doubtless know, Cuba is much the most important of all of the Latin American countries as a market for our agricultural products.

Sincerely yours,

*HAWALAN*

Secretary.