

AIR MAIL

THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

AMERICAN EMBASSY

Habana, Cuba,
Feb. 6, 1941.

Dear Friend:

I have just received your letter of January 30th with regard to Mr. Van de Maele and Mr. Ehrlich. I have written to the Consul General here with regard to Mr. Van de Maele, and I am sure it is only a question of availability of numbers under the Belgian quota. I will get a report on this matter shortly and will let you know immediately. If a number is available, I am sure that Mr. Van de Maele will not have to stay in Habana more than a few days.

I have also noted what you say with regard to Mr. Ehrlich and his family, and I have written to the Consul General in a preliminary way with regard to them. I would suggest that when Mr. Ehrlich has his documents ready to send to the Consul General for pre-examination, and forwards them, that you let me know so that I can again bring the matter to the attention of the Consul General. It is again only the availability of quota numbers, and you may be sure that these matters will have my attention.

I have been wanting to write you for days, but I have been very much occupied. I am hopeful that we will shortly be able to complete an arrangement for the financing of a considerable quantity of sugar here, as this arrangement will go far towards maintaining the economic situation here. I am also still very much occupied with other negotiations with the Government here on various matters of considerable importance and they keep me busy night as well as day. Everything seems to be going quite nicely, but somewhat slowly. I think it is better to go slowly and soundly rather than rapidly and not in so sound a way.

The last

Daniel Heineman, Esquire,
The Beekman
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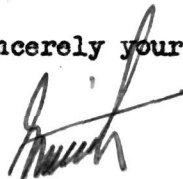
The last week has been rather a hectic one as some of the officers of the Army were endeavoring to impose their will on the President and the civil authorities. The matter has been successfully resolved, and there has been the first revolution in Cuban history without bloodshed. The result of the events of the last days is that, for the first time since Cuba is a Republic, the authority of the civil government over the military, is definitely established. This is a great step forward for it means that the civil government can go ahead unhampered in making certain administrative reforms and changes which are so necessary. The whole procedure has been most satisfactory because it is a step forward in the development of the government of this country in the democratic constitutional tradition.

The fever with which I have been bothered since December 1st is much better and I only have it occasionally. I think the cool weather here is helping me to get rid of it. I got a bad chest cold about two weeks ago which has bothered me a good deal, but I am about free of it.

There is so much that I would like to write you about but I cannot even begin today. I hope this finds you and the family well. We have not given up the hope of seeing you and Mrs. Heineman down here soon.

With all good wishes to you all, in which my wife joins,

Very sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Frank', written in a cursive style.