

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE

In the late spring of '33 I went from Bogotá to Washington to take over the job of Assistant Secretary of State, partly to help William Phillips, then Under Secretary, get Secretary Hull's trade treaty business started. I set up a skeleton organization and began negotiations on several of the treaties. The Cuban Treaty I, myself, brought to conclusion after I went to Habana as Ambassador. I had at Washington the able assistance of Edwin Wilson, then Chief of the Latin American Division ~~and~~ ~~recently appointed Minister to Uruguay~~. Also Doc Matthews, who had been with me in Bogotá (until he suffered an accident while on a brief vacation in Westchester County, New York. He was driving home from the Country Club, just missed a

Collision

collision and ran into a telegraph post and suffered a fracture of the skull. Laid flat on his back for six weeks without moving and was completely cured). Also Walter Donnelly, who had been with me as Commercial Attaché in Bogotá, ~~and went with me later to Habana, and~~ ^{and} ~~is here with me now. Also Larry Duggan, who~~ ~~is now Chief of the Division of the American~~ ~~Republics.~~

We had a visit that year from the Panamanian President; and after some discussions we were able to reach various mutually satisfactory ^{having to do with the Canal zone} agreements, which were finally consummated and signed by President Roosevelt and the Panamanian President.

We had a visit also that year from Balbo and a flight of Italian planes; and from an Ethiopian Prince, an uncle of the ex-Negus.

I stayed in Washington for six months, most of the time in a house I rented; and the remainder of the time between 1718 H Street, and the Jimmy Dunns.

I found Rosso, whom I had known at Athens and briefly at Washington as Counselor, Italian Ambassador to the United States. He is now in ~~retirement~~ *Russia in Italy.*

The only vacation I had was a long weekend at Newport over Labor Day, with the Sheldon Whitehouses. The Bob Blisses were staying with them too. I got back to Washington just in time to fall asleep and be awakened by the telephone with the news of Batista's revolution at Habana.

When I was getting ready to leave Washington in December for Habana, the President told me he

wanted

wanted me to get there in a hurry. I asked him if I might stop for a few days at my home in Louisiana. He said, "Yes, but tell Harry Roosevelt (then Assistant Secretary of the Navy) to have a plane stand by for you." I stayed a few days in the country in Louisiana with my family; took a Navy bomber in New Orleans, proceeded by way of Pensacola stopping the night at St. Petersburg; to Miami, where I took the Pan American plane to Habana.