

## TRAVEL TO CUBA FOR JOURNALISTS AND SCHOLARS

Over the past two years, the editor of LARR has received several inquiries from scholars as to the procedures for acquiring permission to travel to Cuba. To his certain knowledge several scholars have made successful trips. For the benefit of those who may not know about the regulations, we are inserting a letter from the State Department to Dr. Howard Cline which he has kindly turned over to LARR and which clearly outlines the procedures to be followed.

Howard F. Cline, Chairman  
Conference of Latin American History  
Library of Congress  
Washington, D. C.

February 7, 1967

Dear Mr. Cline:

I refer to your letter of January 25, 1967, in which you have inquired concerning the procedures and requirements involved in applying for travel to Cuba by American scholars. I understand that you are especially interested in ascertaining what the policies and procedures are in relation to travel by American historians interested in pursuing archival or related research in Cuba. In your letter you have also asked whether or not an official invitation from a Cuban institution is desirable or necessary in making such application.

I am enclosing a statement issued by the Bureau of Security and Consular Affairs, Department of State, entitled, "Procedures for Application by Journalists and Scholars for Permission to Travel to Restricted Areas," which sets forth the procedures to be followed. As you will note, the American scholar applying for travel to Cuba should include in his application full information on the pertinent points listed under Items 1 and 2. If the scholar applying for such travel has a specific invitation from a Cuban sponsor, he should include such correspondence, and related documents, with his application. The application papers

should be mailed to the Passport Office, as indicated in the attached statement.

If the application meets the necessary requirements of the Passport Office, that office in its reply to the applicant will indicate the specific procedure for obtaining the necessary visa. If a passport is issued, or validated, the applicant must request a visa at the Czechoslovakian Embassy, which represents the Cuban government in this country.

These, briefly, are the basic steps and considerations involved in the application by an American scholar for travel to Cuba for research purposes. If you have further questions, I suggest that you write directly to the Passport Office, which is responsible for these matters and which I know will be pleased to answer any further questions you may have.

I hope this information will be helpful to you.

Sincerely,

J. Manuel Espinosa  
Deputy Director  
Office of Inter-American Programs