

ACERVO DIGITAL FUNDAJ

The restoration of national
government in Cuba:
speech of the
Brazilian ambassador, Joaquim
Nabuco, at the
dinner he offered
to the vice-president
of the République
and the members
of the Cuban
Cabinett, at Havana,
on January 21
Fundação Joaquim Nabuco
1909 (translated) www.fundaj.gov.br

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(Translated)

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The Restoration of National Government in Cuba

In the name of Brazil and the other States of Latin America represented here, I salute the Republic of Cuba on the happy restoration of its own government. We all come from Washington, which means that our Governments, while expressing for Cuba their good wishes, as a sister Republic, wish also to honor the loyalty and sincerity with which the United States has fulfilled its word that the intervention had no other purpose than to establish on an unshakable basis the independence of this people. And because we all come from Washington, it is a pleasure for us to congratulate our dear colleague there, Senor Quesada, for seeing rewarded in so complete a manner the noble sacrifice he made of remaining at his post during the period of the intervention in order not to authorize the slightest suspicion that his country could cease for a moment to exist.

During her last struggle for independence, Cuba has sometimes expressed surprise that her cause did not arouse in all Latin America the same enthusiasm it aroused in the United States. I do not know if this is a fact; at least it is not so with regard to Brazil; but if it were correct about any isolated point of Latin America, it could be easily explained. In part it should be attributed to the emotion caused among the nations of Spanish descent by Spain's heroic effort to keep her last plot of land in this New World, which she

discovered and which she peopled with nations taken all from the best of her blood. But the chief explanation of that fact, which would really form an exception to the whole history of the independence of our Continent, would be the fear that Cuba, by winning her independence through the help of the United States, might eventually lose her character as a Latin Nation.

This fear was unfounded. If in our days the patriotic races have nothing to fear for their nationality, even under the yoke of conquerors decided to deprive them of it by any possible means, what could have an American Nation to fear in that respect from another, chief of all from the one which represents the highest degree of freedom ever attained in the world?

I believe the United States' responsibility in creating this Nation and its pride in the help it has given her are the greatest benefit that could have come to the Cuban people. The lesson of the intervention will be for the Republic, in the course of her history, only one of those recollections of childhood which give the right direction to one's whole life. Owing to it the Cuban patriots have acquired the true sentiment of national responsibility, and, as that sentiment is really the only palladium to which can be attached the destiny of a nation, I congratulate Cuba for having acquired it within so short a time from its independence.

I heard Mr. Magoon compare favorably the first ten years of Cuban independence with the first ten years of the United States' independence. Surely a better comparison for Cuba could be drawn with the infancy of all Latin Nations in America.

I drink to President Gomez, with the absolute confidence that the government of Cuba by the Cubans will never more be interrupted in the future of this beauti-

ful island. Making my own the wishes in a letter yesterday received from an eminent colleague of mine in Washington, the Italian Ambassador, I will say with him to free Cuba:

Ad multos annos, ad multa saecula.

