

UNITED PRESS  
INTERNATIONAL

SEPTEMBER 18, 1963

UPI-140

(PORTER)

CPYRGHT

WASHINGTON--THE STATE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY IT GRANTED FORMER REP. CHARLES O. PORTER (D-ORE.), PERMISSION TO GO TO CUBA AS A JOURNALIST" AND FOR NO OTHER PURPOSE."

"HE HAS A WRITING ASSIGNMENT FOR LOOK MAGAZINE," SAID STATE DEPARTMENT PRESS OFFICER ROBERT MCCLOSKEY. "AND AS YOU KNOW IT IS THE POLICY OF THIS GOVERNMENT TO VALIDATE PASSPORTS FOR TRAVEL TO CUBA FOR JOURNALISTS."

"ANY OTHER ACTIVITIES IN WHICH MR. PORTER MAY ENGAGE WHILE IN CUBA ARE ENTIRELY PRIVATE IN NATURE AND HAVE NO CONNECTION WITH THE U.S. GOVERNMENT," MCCLOSKEY SAID, "ANY IMPLICATION TO THE CONTRARY IS COMPLETELY WITHOUT FOUNDATION."

MCCLOSKEY SAID PORTER WAS "FULLY AWARE" OF THE BASIS FOR VALIDATION OF HIS PASSPORT. HE SAID PORTER HAS TALKED WITH THE STATE DEPARTMENT CUBAN AFFAIRS COORDINATOR, JOHN H. CRIMMINS, "ABOUT THE GENERAL SITUATION IN CUBA AND OTHER POLICY TOWARD CUBA IN CONNECTION WITH HIS JOURNALISTIC ASSIGNMENT."

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