

Civil Militia Plan Studied

West Meets West in Bermuda

Could Double Strength of Cuban Army

By FRANCIS L. McCarthy
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Creation of a civil militia has been suggested to President Batista by some of his advisors, it was learned today. The idea is reported under palace consideration.

Proponents of the plan include Senator Rolando Masferrer, chairman of the armed forces committee of the Senate, and Ramon Vasconcelos, minister of communications.

A Masferrer suggestion that the militia be made up of 100,000 members of the government's political parties would make the civilian force almost twice the size of the Cuban military establishment.

Vasconcelos is represented as feeling that government electoral plans should not interfere with creation of the reserve force. It would mean a budget increase, he admits, "but not as big an expense as a civil war."

Masferrer disclosed that during the March 13 attack on the palace, government youth leaders and members of its political parties got together at the national capitol building to enter the fighting if it spread.

The idea of a civil militia, or reserve force, was believed to be receiving serious consideration because of the recent army admission that trials of Santiago revolutionaries had to be postponed because of lack of adequate guard personnel.

It coincided with reports from Manzanillo, Oriente, that between 100 and 150 civilians from that neighborhood headed into the Sierra Maestra mountains over the week-end to join revolutionary forces in that area.

It also coincided with rebel claims, apparently well founded, of a major attack carried out last week-end against the Buycito outpost of the army's El Macio advance headquarters in Oriente. Revolutionaries claimed to have inflicted 80 casualties on the army in the surprise night attack, and admitted to 23 dead and wounded from their own ranks. (The army, however, has officially denied any such attack took place.)

The suggestions for creation of a civil militia, or form of national guard, was expected however to encounter stiff resistance from within the government.

Some civilian government officials pointed out the danger of losing control over such a reserve force unless it was uniformed or placed on a military reserve basis. It was also assumed that the Cuban military establishment would want some form of control over any "volunteer army."

United Press sources emphasized, however, that the idea was still in its formative stage, and suggested that ample study would be made of the project before it was launched, if indeed it reached that stage.



HANDS ACROSS THE SEA—Prime Minister Harold MacMillan and President Eisenhower shake hands in Bermuda as a symbol of friendship of Great Britain and the United States. Looking on is Bermuda Governor Sir John Woodall. (United Press Radiofoto—see other picture on Page 3.)

Syria, Israel Trade Fire

TEL AVIV, Israel, March 21. — (UP) — Syrian forces opened fire on Israeli positions east of Lake Huleh in Northern Israel yesterday, a military spokesman announced today.

Intermittent fire continued for two hours, the spokesman said. He said there were no Israeli casualties.

Lake Huleh is a small lake on the Jordan River north of the Sea of Galilee in Upper Galilee.

22 Negroes Fined In Ala. Bus Case

By UNITED PRESS

Recorders court judge Ralph Parker found 22 Negroes guilty today of violating bus segregation ordinances in Birmingham, Ala. Parker ordered each of the defendants to pay \$55 in fines and court costs.

The judge said if bus segregation were not enforced, there "would be a state of emergency in Birmingham." (See earlier story "Bus Segregation Ruling Awaited" on Page 2.)

Ike and MacMillan Air Mideast Crisis

TUCKER'S TOWN, Bermuda, March 21. (UP)—President Eisenhower and Prime Minister Harold MacMillan began their formal talks (9:30 a. m. EST) today with the Mideast problem the top item on their agenda. The President and the Prime Minister opened the session with brief general statements on how they viewed world conditions. Then, flanked by their top foreign policy advisers, tackled one of the principal sources of friction between the two nations—the troubled Middle East.

TUCKER'S TOWN, Bermuda, March 21. (UP)—President Eisenhower and Prime Minister Harold MacMillan settled down at the lavishly Mid-ocean Club today to discuss Anglo-American interests in a broad field ranging from the Middle East crisis to aid to Communist Poland.

Their top aides in foreign affairs, Secretary of State John Foster Dulles and British Foreign Secretary Selwyn Lloyd, met before their

chiefs to organize the agenda for the opening "business" meeting.

According to the best available information from both British and American sources, President Eisenhower planned to do most of the listening in the first stage of the conference and let the British take the initiative.

Today's session was the first formal meeting across the polished conference table in the club lounge where Eisenhower met in 1953 in a similar mission with Britain's Winston Churchill and France's Joseph Laniel.

Most of the items that will come up in the three-day conference were touched upon last night by Eisenhower, MacMillan, Dulles and Lloyd at a private dinner.

They broke off the meal early in the evening and adjourned to their own camps to map strategy for today's talks.

There was every indication they had a monumental job to do. In just 72 hours they will try to realign Anglo-American policies on nearly a dozen major world problems on some of which there is known to be considerable divergence of opinion between them.

Gardner Due To Depart?

WASHINGTON, (UP)—H. Freeman Matthews, U. S. ambassador to The Netherlands who will return to the United States June 1, may succeed Ambassador Arthur Gardner, it was learned today.

Gardner, ambassador to Cuba since May 1953, is due for reassignment in June or July, government sources have indicated.

Matthews, 58, and a foreign-service career officer, served at the U. S. Embassy in Havana in 1933. He has spent most of his career in Europe.

Gardner's expected departure is part of a general shake-up in Latin American ambassador posts now underway. President Eisenhower named a new ambassador to Bolivia this week and at the same time accepted the resignation of the U. S. ambassador to Paraguay. Changes in U. S. ambassadors to Haiti, Mexico, Colombia, Nicaragua and the Dominican Republic are expected this year also.

HURRICANE IN AFRICA

BRAZEVILLE, French Equatorial Africa, March 21 (UP)—A hurricane swept through this city last night tearing off roofs from air base hangars at Maya-Maya and causing serious damage to aircraft.