

FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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TO : Department of State

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FROM : HABANA 160 January 25 1950

REF :

SUBJECT : EX-CUBAN ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF GENOVEVO PEREZ DAMERA DENIES HE IS CONSPIRING AGAINST THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT.

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The Habana press of January 23, 1950 published the following open letter (in translation) from the former Cuban Army Chief of Staff, Genovevo PEREZ Damera, who is living the life of a "gentleman farmer" in the Province of Camaguey:

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"I request that you publish the following statements defining categorically my position as a man who wishes to work and live in peace:

"I have read with surprise in the newspaper Pueblo of Habana that the Honorable Minister of Defense accuses me of conspiring, his accusation being based on rumors which it is alleged are now circulating with respect to the Army Chief, Major General Ruperto CABRERA, M.M. I wish to state that General Perez has never conspired nor will he conspire in the future. For over a month I have been working on my farm in Camaguey. I am liquidating all that I have in Habana since I have decided to reside in the city of Camaguey. The people and city of Camaguey are familiar with my activities which consist of working on my farm and of arguing with my friends in my moments of leisure. I continue to consider myself a good friend of the Honorable President of the Republic who has treated me with every courtesy since my departure from the Army. I feel great affection for General Cabrera and for the other Army chiefs who I cannot forget were my best assistants while I held the honored position of Chief of the Army. I am aware of their loyalty and of their profound love for Cuba and of their affection for the President. As all Cubans know, I am opposed to breaking the constitutional rhythm in view of my admiration for order and peace. I am sure that the Honorable Minister of Defense has been misinformed and that upon termination of his investigation he will, as a man of honor, do me the justice of exonerating me of

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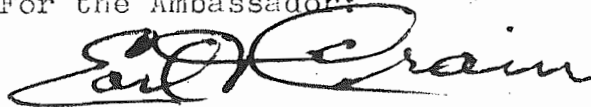
guilt and of permitting me to work in peace in this Camaguey, of which I am so fond.

"Appreciating your courtesy, I remain

"Genovevo Perez Damera."

The foregoing letter from Perez Damera was published following a denial by Minister of Defense CURTI sent from Camaguey on January 19, that the inspection trip which he and General Cabrera were undertaking would involve important changes in the high command of the Army. In his statement, the Minister of Defense indicated that the inspection trip had been made at the request of President PRIO and that it was routine in nature. The Defense Minister gave no indication that the trip might have resulted from rumors of discontent in the Army.

For the Ambassador:



Earl T. Crain
First Secretary of Embassy

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