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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

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July 10, 1951

DESP. NO.

DATE

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

PRIORITY

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REF : Habana 2127 April 19, 1951 and 2318 May 22, 1951

For Dept.
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SUBJECT: BATISTA'S POLITICAL CAMPAIGN

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Dr. Manuel PEREZ Pico, a lawyer who works in General Fulgencio BATISTA's PAU office, has informed a member of the Embassy staff that Batista will be the PAU candidate for President in the 1952 elections and that Mayor of Habana Nicolas CASTELLANOS will be the Vice Presidential candidate. According to the informant, the party will run a straight PAU ticket without any coalitions. The informant denied that Carlos SALADRIGAS or Pepe SAN MARTIN would be the PAU candidates.

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Dr. Perez said that Batista feels confident he will win despite the fact that the Administration will pour millions of dollars into the campaign. He said that Batista is now personally campaigning from 10 to 15 hours a day and is receiving "wonderful support". Dr. Perez added that Batista is not soliciting campaign funds but that the entire cost is being paid by Batista and a small group of his friends.

The campaign line being used by Batista is that he handled the Presidency in an efficient manner; that the country was then orderly and prosperous; that the cost of living was low; that gangsterism was under control.

COMMENT

While the foregoing comments are from a person who obviously would paint a favorable picture for Batista, the statements regarding Batista's energetic campaigning and the good reception being accorded him throughout the Island are confirmed by press and other reports received by the Embassy. Undoubtedly, Batista would like to make an arrangement with ALONSO Pujol and Castellanos along the lines outlined by Perez. However, in view of the many discussions and trading still going on between the various political factions, it is doubted that such an accord actually has been reached between Batista and the Partido Nacional Cubano (PNC) leaders, as yet.

For the Chargé d'Affaires ad interim

Henry A. Hoyt
Henry A. Hoyt
Second Secretary of Embassy

HAHoyt:rc

REPORTER(S)

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PREPARATION TIME

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