

FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM : AMEMBASSY, HABANA

1552

DESP. NO.

March 21, 1952

DATE

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

- 1 Enc

Air Rouch  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
BUREAU OF  
INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS  
MAR 21 1952  
J. P. [Signature]

REF : 000183 Labor Developments

SUBJECT: Mujal Attack on Communists and Statement of Sanchez  
Further Clarify CTC Relations with Government and  
Communists

18  
For Dept.  
Use Only  
R MAR  
E 22  
C  
D

Relations between the Cuban Confederation of Labor, the Communists, and the government of Fulgencio BATISTA are further clarified in the public blast by Eusebio MUJAL, CTC Secretary-General, against Lazaro PEÑA, Communist labor leader, and a conversation of the Embassy's labor reporting officer with Calixto SANCHEZ, Secretary-General of the airport workers' union and active member of the CTC executive board.

Mujal's statement, which was prominently featured in Habana newspapers (translation enclosed), was issued following an attack upon him and other CTC leaders by Peña in the Communist newspaper Hoy (see Embassy despatch 1513 of March 18, 1952). Peña had criticized Mujal for making peace with Batista in order to save his job and those of the other CTC leaders. Mujal charged that the Communists were chagrined because the CTC had avoided a situation on which the Communists thrive, that is, fighting and bloodshed.

Sanchez said that the CTC hastened to reach an "understanding" with Batista because, among other reasons, the union leaders felt there was great danger he would put Peña and the others in charge of their unions. He said that Peña had sent word to Batista to the effect, "Chief, we are ready and experienced. We have worked together before". Sanchez said that as a matter of record Batista got along with the Communists during his previous regime. He said that he felt this time Batista did not want to do business with Peña but that if the CTC had continued its militant opposition Batista might have recognized the Communists. Sanchez said that this fear by CTC leaders was the reason for their demand upon Batista for a common fight against Communism when details of the "understanding" were discussed. Batista agreed to this point. He has subsequently denounced the Communists but says he will not outlaw the party.

For the Ambassador:

Irvin S. Lippe  
Irvin S. Lippe  
Attaché

Enclosure: [Signature]  
Mujal's statement  
ISLippe:rc  
REPORTER (S)

ARA  
INFO  
REP  
DCR  
OLI  
UNA  
EUR/X  
COMM  
FRB  
LAB  
NSRB  
DC/R  
Central  
Files

This Document Must Be returned to  
837.06/3-2152

HH

APR 2 1952

RESTRICTED  
SECURITY INFORMATION  
(Classification)

Translation

IN REPLY TO THE INSOLENT REMARKS  
OF LAZARO PEÑA

In the newspaper Hoy, the pestilent sewer which is against democracy and the chief factor in Russian fifth-column propaganda in Cuba, Lazaro Peña, former Secretary-General of the CTC who was defeated at the Fifth Congress in 1947, has made a series of foolish statements because the CTC, with me at its head, cognizant of the needs of Cuba and of the working classes, called upon the present Chief of State, General Fulgencio Batista y Zaldivar, who, assuming a similar attitude, deemed it useful for the nation that there be an understanding between CTC and the Government, without allowing ourselves to be carried away by passion and also having in mind the extraordinary dangers which we could all prevent the Republic from incurring.

I know that Lazaro Peña and the Communist Party are mad and insolent. They thought that by taking advantage of the opportunity they might be able to repeat in Habana a "Bogotazo"; that an inhuman struggle might take place between the workers and the armed forces, and that seemed the best field for anti-Cuban and anti-American agitation. But he was mistaken. Cuba found the Government headed by General Batista and the CTC in an attitude of nationalistic and revolutionary understanding and rapidly, without giving any time to our common enemy, Communism, our hands were clasped on these three very important bases:

1. The maintenance of all social conquests, broad syndical guarantees and absolute respect for the labor leaders.

2. Broad social justice without falling into extremisms either by the employers - some of whom might adopt reactionary positions - or by some workers, who might be carried away by useless radicalism, mainly provoked by the Communists and which in both cases would be detrimental to the nation.

3. An assurance in our international commitments on the part of the Government as well as of the syndicates. To carry on internally a vigorous struggle against the Stalinist fifth column and bringing social progress to all working centers, to agricultural workers, to peasants, the middle and professional classes, wherein social injustice, without wishing to do so, brings men and women into the Communist circle. To carry on a daily struggle in the syndicates and working centers against

RESTRICTED  
SECURITY INFORMATION

\_\_\_\_\_ of  
\_\_\_\_\_ of  
From \_\_\_\_\_

**RESTRICTED**  
**SECURITY INFORMATION**  
(Classification)

Page 2 of  
Encl. No. 1  
Esp. No. 1552  
From HABANA

Russo-Communist infiltration and sabotage.

We do not care that Lazaro Peña and his crowd say all the imbecilities that their hatred may lead them to, their impotence, their lack of love for Cuba and their brazen delivery into the hands of Moscow. On the contrary, I am glad that they go on doing so because thus the Cubans will be on the alert and know from whence the danger comes.

CTC has fulfilled its duty and all our members and militants who are more than one million, two hundred thousand workers are satisfied that they have correctly interpreted what is convenient for Cuba and for the workers in crucial times when the future destinies of our nation were being considered.

Habana, March 19, 1952.

**RESTRICTED**  
**SECURITY INFORMATION**