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FROM : AMEMBASSY, HABANA

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April 3, 1952
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TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BUREAU OF
INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS
APR 11 1952

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REF :

SUBJECT: Mujal to Form New Political Party

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The formation of a new political party was announced on March 31 by Eusebio MUJAL, leader of the CTC, in an interview reported by the press on April 1. The party, according to Mujal, is to include all social classes and to have a socialist, anti-communist orientation.

Mujal said that for him the Autentico party is in liquidation. He added that, after seven years in power, it hardly had a place for its leaders to meet, so that they were unable to get together in time after the March 10 coup to formulate a plan of action. He declared his dissent from the proposal of some Autenticos to form a united fighting front with the Ortodoxos. Instead, he is going ahead with plans to form a new party on the basis of the present situation, to be socialist and anti-communist. He realized, he said, that it would be difficult at first for the party to obtain a large congressional representation and consequently for it to aspire to full power, but he termed the future "full of possibilities" for a party truly identified with the people. The party would represent all the national interests, including those of the military, who, he said, cannot watch without indignation the enrichment of their chiefs.

The party in formation is not to be for or against the BATISTA regime, but will support it when it adopts a positive course and oppose it when it hurts the national interest. The party will not have to think in terms of violent methods, as long as the legal channels remain open, he stated.

He said he was unable to predict how many Autenticos would join. He divided them into the categories of (1) Senators, who, he felt, must align with the PAU or the Ortodoxos because they need a strong political organization to be elected and because in his opinion the PRC (A) was no longer strong enough to accomplish this, and (2) Representatives and Mayors, who have to depend more on their own efforts than do the Senators for election. The second category would, he thought, align in the future according to shifts in the political balance of power because in his estimation the PRIO machine was no longer effective. It is perhaps

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significant that Mujal did not mention another political factor, the voter, which demonstrates his preoccupation with machine politics.

The Embassy's labor reporting officer, Mr. LIPPE, reports the following from a conversation with Francisco AGUIRRE, Secretary-General of the ORIT: Aguirre confirmed that Cuban labor leaders will form a new political party. He said that there was nothing else for them to do, since all other parties, including the PRC (A), had fallen down on the job of protecting the Constitution. He said that the Communists were trying to infiltrate the Ortodoxos and the PAU. When asked about the constitutional provision against class-line parties, he said the new party would include all classes of people but would be dominated by the workers since they are the most numerous. He anticipated no trouble from the Government in organizing the party, saying that in any event they had to try and would try, since that was the only way to protect labor's interests and bring back constitutional government.

Regarding Mujal's intention, Dr. Manuel A. de VARONA, who has assumed leadership of Autentico opposition to the new Government, was quoted in the press as stating that Mujal wanted to form a labor party that would be a "satellite" of Batista. He added that various leaders of the PRC (A) had approached him to say they were not behind Mujal in the formation of a new party. He denied that the PRC (A) is in a state of dissolution, saying that they had not been able to meet or engage in political activities because of the suspension of constitutional guarantees.

COMMENT

It is apparent that the labor leaders are going to make a test of the real attitude of the new Government, judging from the firmness of plans for the party that Aguirre emphasized, and the implied threat of Mujal regarding "violent methods", should they become necessary. This threat, however, is probably an empty one, at least at this time. Labor will have to be careful in the definition of the party to avoid conflict with constitutional provisions against parties based on class, creed, etc., which probably will be carried over into the proposed "Statutes" which are to replace the 1940 Constitution. The move to form a new party points up the division within, and the loss of power of, the Autentico party and indicates that organized labor, while withdrawing from that party, does not find the PAU any more compatible with its interest.

For the Ambassador:



Earl T. Crain

Acting Counselor of Embassy

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