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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

737.00/5-1552
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FROM *11/12*

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DESP. NO.

May 15, 1952

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

REF :

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	REC'D MAY 16	OTHER	

SUBJECT: Prío Denies Alerta Charges of Counter-Revolutionary Activity

Ramon VASCONCELOS, now a member of the Consultative Council, published a signed article in his newspaper Alerta charging members of the former PRIO administration with engaging in counter-revolutionary activities. This article, published on May 14, stated that a revolutionary movement against General BATISTA was being prepared in Mexico, Guatemala and other Republics of the "Gulf." It said that Prío, as the defeated president, was the head of the movement, but that behind him stood the real leader, Aureliano SANCHEZ Arango. According to Vasconcelos, "Prío and Aureliano are playing with the tranquility of the country." He states that the exiles have invested \$2,000,000 in armaments, including planes and a ship which they acquired in Baltimore. He adds that this ship is going to Belize to pick up this armament which he states is "lying around on the coasts of Yucatan and the Gulf in plain view of the ranchers in those parts." Vasconcelos believes that Batista's best defense would be to commence at once a series of progressive measures to bring about social justice and to justify his seizure of power. Vasconcelos concludes: "When this is done--and it will be done very soon--let Carlos Prío and Aureliano come with their exiles, their military rubbish and their Caribbean expeditions. It would be all Batista needs to consolidate himself on a definitive basis. But that is not what the Cubans demand. They demand tranquility, seriousness, rest and work. Action, action, action! Exactly what the exiles of Mexico and Miami lack."

This morning's press and radio report ex-President Prío's denial of Vasconcelos' charges. An Associated Press report datelined Miami, May 14, published in The Havana Post of May 15, reports Prío's denial that he had spent \$2,000,000 for arms to start a revolution in Cuba. According to this report, Prío characterized these charges as "absurd and a lie" invented as an excuse "to keep Constitutional guarantees suspended." Prío reportedly stated he did not go to the

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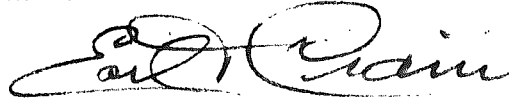
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United States to foment revolution or to buy arms. He said he had no connection with anybody and that he was living a normal life "with all doors open, as everybody knows."

Press clippings of Vasconcelos' article and of this morning's denials by ex-President Prío are enclosed.

For the Ambassador:



Earl T. Crain
Acting Counselor of Embassy

Enclosures *AAA*

- ✓ Clipping from Alerta, May 14
- ✓ Clippings from The Havana Herald,
Diario de la Marina, El Mundo,
The Havana Post--May 15

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ALERTA
MAY 14 1952

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Alerta - 5-14-52 ETC

ENTREACTOS

¿QUE SE TRAEN LOS DE MEXICO?

Por Ramón Vasconcelos

DESDE hace más de un mes se tienen noticias, de fuente digna de crédito, que los fugitivos refugiados en México, en Guatemala y en otras repúblicas del Golfo, preparan un movimiento revolucionario contra el general Batista. Lo encabeza Prío, en su condición de presidente derrocado, pero como siempre detrás del hombre sin voluntad, se mueve el más funesto de sus compañeros de la fracasada Generación del 30: el fanfarrón de pies ligeros y lengua insolente Aureliano Sánchez Arango. Aquel fantoche engreído y petulante, el más odioso de los ministros de todos los tiempos, conspiraba ya en los días de Cayo Confites, cuando con el pretexto de exportar democracia a distintos países del Caribe, preparaba un golpe suyo, al que no eran ajenos algunos militares que le dieron todo género de facilidades para establecer los contactos. Entre ellos, Genovevo Pérez Dámera. Los revoloteos de Aureliano a Centroamérica y las misteriosas actividades de la Legión del Caribe, capitaneada por Eufemio Fernández, que costaban a la República más de \$70,000 mensuales, distribuidos por el mismo Carlos Prío, y de la que eran beneficiarios Juan Bosch, Rómulo Betancourt, Arévalo, Figueres y otros revolucionarios profesionales; todos esos íres y venires, todos esos dares y tomares en nombre de una reciprocidad muy explicable entre aventureros, le dieron a Prío el liderazgo de la Internacional de las Conspiraciones en esta zona de América. Pero preocupado por lo que pasaba en la casa ajena, no se ocupó de lo que podía pasar en la propia. Enviaba armas y pertrechos al exterior, mientras los pandilleros campaban por sus respetos ante un Ejército y una Policía que el mismo Palacio inferiorizaba y humillaba. ¡Oh, el Hitler de pacotilla, en motocicleta, de polainas y espejuelos negros, o disfrazado de aviador, altanero y ridículo! Más de la mitad de las antipatías populares contra Prío, las fomentó la tozudez de su Ministro de Educación ¡sin educación! Prío cayó, "como la piedra en la laguna", todavía bajo los efectos de la bacanal, y el olímpico Aureliano, el omnipotente "Yeyo", en vez de usar las ametralladoras engrasadas y listas que tenía en su casa para dispararla contra sus enemigos, aunque fueran maestros, y mejor si lo fueran, optó por dispararse un tirito en parte blanda de una mano, con toda clase de precauciones, para internarse en la Embajada de México, donde el día siguiente, sin dignidad, sin la menor pesadumbre por el desplome del régimen, jugaba una partida de carambolas con Prío.

Esa partida se ha reanudado en México; pero esta vez el juego envuelve, criminalmente, la paz del país. Prío y Aureliano están jugando con la tranquilidad del país. Tanto las informaciones de la prensa mexicana como las confidencias privadas que se reciben, revelan que los exiliados —o "exiliados", como quiere el pedante Sánchez Arango que se diga— "acaban de invertir \$2,000,000 en armamentos, amén de aviones y un barco que adquirieron en Baltimore y viene vía Belice a recoger dichos armamentos, que se

encuentran tirados en las tupidas malezas de la costa de Yucatán y las del Golfo, a la vista de los rancheros que deambulan por aquellos parajes".

Esa noticia forma parte de una serie, suministradas por agencias y periódicos de México y los Estados Unidos, que las ofrecen dentro de la información general. En dos palabras: los fugitivos del calamitoso Gobierno expulsado del poder el 10 de marzo y que salieron del país rodeados de toda clase de garantías, hasta de consideraciones, y a los cuales no se le ha tocado ni un cabello, por una mal entendida condescendencia, conspiran en el extranjero y destinan parte de los millones que sustrajeron, a comprar armas para ensangrentar el suelo cubano y restablecer una situación de ignominia. No es que se sea más papista que el Papa, sino que a veces el Papa, envuelto en nubes de incienso, no percibe el peligro; en esas circunstancias es un deber de los que tienen conciencia de él, señalarlo para que se salga de los limbos sonrosados de la satisfacción del éxito fácil y se reaccione a tiempo para conjurar la hecatombe.

En la recepción del Consejo Consultivo, ayer tarde, el general Batista declaró que asumía las responsabilidades plenas del hecho consumado. La actitud es valiente y loable; pero el general Batista, que no ha abjurado de su calidad de demócrata y gobierna en nombre de una masa ciudadana considerable, sabe que la primera de las virtudes del gobernante es la previsión, y aplicar métodos que produzcan resultados negativos, comprometiendo los bienes inapreciables de la paz, pero sobre todo la seguridad misma de la vida física, no es aconsejable en una hora de grandes interrogaciones, tanto de orden económico y político como ideológico y humano.

No hay que desconfiar por sistema; pero tampoco hay que confiar demasiado en las apariencias. Las revoluciones no las hicieron nunca arcángeles ni se hicieron para arcángeles. Cada una trae su mensaje histórico; y pretender que las acepten pasivamente los que sufren sus consecuencias, es una candidez. El general Batista es un hombre de fortuna y de acción. No se duda de su buena fe. Es capaz de grandes iniciativas. Pero ha comenzado la roña de las conspiraciones y es preciso cerrarles el paso; no con una movilización defensiva innecesaria, sino con un plan de realizaciones inmediatas, que centren la atención pública en la obra de renovaciones integrales, de justicia social, en fin, de progreso efectivo que tiene el general Batista entre manos y justificará plenamente, lo que de otro modo tendría discutible justificación: el golpe militar del 10 de marzo.

Cuando esto se haga —que se hará, y muy pronto— que vengan Carlos Prío y Aureliano con sus "exiliados", su chatarra militar y sus expediciones del Caribe. Sería todo lo que necesitara Batista para consolidarse definitivamente. Pero no es eso lo que demandan los cubanos. Demandan sosiego, seriedad, reposo, obras, ¡Acción, acción, acción! Exactamente lo que les

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"Alerta" Charges Revolt Planned By Cuban Exiles

Ramon Vasconcelos, publisher of the pro-government morning newspaper "Alerta" charged yesterday in a signed article that Cuban exiles in Mexico, Guatemala and other Caribbean countries are preparing a revolutionary movement against General Fulgencio Batista.

Vasconcelos, a member of the recently constituted Advisory Council which substituted the Congress after Batista's March 10 coup d'etat, said that although ex-President Prio is ostensibly at the head of the counter-revolutionary movement, its actual leader is ex-State Minister Aureliano Sanchez Arango.

Vasconcelos, who has been variously an Autentico, Ortodoxo

and is now a Paupista, said that "confidential reports" and "press advices" from Mexico in the past month indicate that the exiles have invested \$2,000,000 in the purchase of arms, munitions and aircraft. He said the ship was purchased in Baltimore which was sailed to Belize, British Honduras, where it took on a cargo of armaments.

There was no confirmation elsewhere of the Alerta story. Vasconcelos' story appeared based on a letter written him by a Mexican newspaperman, Armando J. Hurtado, a self-described staff member of the newspaper "El Universal" of Mexico City, and a Allan Jones, described as the "head of the press department of the United Nations".

DIARIO DE LA MARINA
MAY 15 1952

Marina - 5-15-52

"No he comprado armas ni proyecto fomentar revoluciones". - C. Prio

MIAMI, Florida, mayo 14. (UP).—El ex Presidente de Cuba, Carlos Prio Socarrás, negó que proyectara una revolución en Cuba como ha publicado el diario "Alerta" de La Habana.

Refiriéndose a lo publicado, lo calificó de "absurdo, mentiroso y absolutamente calumnioso" y agregó que "no he venido a los Estados Unidos a fomentar revolución o comprar armas. Están ideando motivos para seguir con las garantías suspendidas.

"No tengo conexiones con nadie. Estoy viviendo una vida normal y a puertas abiertas como todo el mundo sabe".

EL MUNDO
MAY 15 1952

Afirma Carlos Prio que Vive una Vida Normal

MIAMI, Florida, mayo 14—(UP).—El ex presidente de Cuba, Carlos Prio Socarrás, negó que proyecta una revolución en Cuba como ha publicado el diario "Alerta" de La Habana.

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"No tengo conexiones con nadie. Estoy viviendo una vida normal y a puertas abiertas como todo el mundo sabe".

THE HAVANA POST
MAY 15 1952

Prio Denies Report Of Purchase of Arms To Start Uprising

MIAMI, Fla., May 14. (AP)—Carlos Prio Socarras, exiled President of Cuba, today denied a Havana news paper report that he and his Foreign Minister, Aureliano Sanchez Arango, had spent \$2,000,000 for arms to start a revolution in Cuba.

"Absurd and a lie," Prio said of the charge published in Havana's Alerta. "They are inventing excuses to keep constitutional guarantees suspended.

"I did not come to the United States to foment revolution or to buy arms. I don't have any connections with anybody. I am living a normal life with all doors open as everybody knows."

Prio has been living here since shortly after he was ousted from the presidency by Gen. Fulgencio Batista.

SECRET - SECURITY INFORMATION*Office Memorandum* • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENTTO : MID - Mr. Wellman
ARA - Mr. Miller

DATE: May 15, 1952

FROM : MID - Mr. Topping

SUBJECT: Opposition to Batista Administration in Cuba

Overt opposition to the Batista Administration in Cuba continues to come from the Ortodoxo party, which has refused to recognize the legality of the new Administration in any manner and has stated that it will not cooperate with the Administration nor take part in any elections held under it; the Federation of University Students; the Communist Party; certain elements of the Auténtico party; and two or more special groups which have been organized since March 10, 1952, apparently by the Ortodoxos and Auténticos, for the specific purpose of opposition. These last two groups operate in part clandestinely. There is a conflict now going on behind the scenes in the Ortodoxo party between the group determined to continue the policy of complete non-cooperation and non-participation, and another group which feels that a more "realistic" attitude should be adopted.

While the Cuban labor movement, as organized in the CTC, has cooperated with the present Administration, there are indications that certain important leaders of the movement are not pleased with this development, and would be tempted to openly oppose the Administration if given the opportunity. One of the men mentioned most frequently as feeling this way is Marcos Hirigoyen, of the Transport Workers Union.

All of the above aspects of opposition to his Administration do not at present appear to constitute an immediate threat to Batista, and indications are that he has the situation under good control.

The Department is now receiving information, however, which indicates that there may be considerable covert opposition, and that that opposition may be planning armed revolt. Suggested dates for this revolt are given as May 31-June 1, sometime in June, and on May 20. Habana's despatch no. 1892 of May 9 contains considerable information on this covert opposition. Such organization as now exists seems to be entitled "Junta Revolucionaria Nacional" and to be composed of elements of the Auténtico party and the Communist PSP. Ortodoxo elements who would apparently

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be prepared to join in armed activities are reluctant to do so in combination with the Communist Party. The organizational activities are apparently being headed by Dr. Aureliano Sanchez Arango, Minister of State under the Prío Administration. Information received from several sources indicates that Sanchez Arango has entered Cuba secretly, and probably with the cooperation of one Edward Murphy, a United States citizen who has been engaged in smuggling between Cuba and the United States previously. An important element in the movement would be the "revolutionary groups", including the UIR, USR and the ARG (Acción Revolucionaria Guiterras). The movement apparently counts on some support from members of the armed forces still loyal to Prío.

A portion of the information furnished by the Embassy was obtained from Cuban intelligence sources loyal to the Batista Administration, and it appears that they have at least one informer in the inner circles of the plotting. Also, considerable information was developed by the Cubans from a postal intercept. There is apparently fairly widespread speculation concerning the possibility of such action in Cuba, and the UP informed me yesterday that the newspaper Alerta of Habana carried a report to the effect that Prío and Sanchez Arango had spent \$2,000,000 in purchasing arms for the forthcoming revolution in Baltimore.

Since the plotting, which apparently does exist, is being followed closely by the Batista Administration and seems to be a matter for public comment in Habana, it is doubtful that it would be successful. However, it is a matter which is of considerable interest and concern to us and will be followed closely, especially in view of the fact that one of the dates mentioned is May 20. As you know, we now have a special mission in Habana attending the ceremonies in connection with the celebration of the 50th anniversary of Cuban independence, occurring on that date.

SECRET - SECURITY INFORMATION

ARA:MID:JLTopping:dwm